

**MINUTES OF THE APANZ COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT PARNELL HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, GLADSTONE
ROAD, PARNELL, AUCKLAND
ON 12 OCTOBER 2024 9.00AM – 5.00PM
AND 13 OCTOBER 2024 9.00AM – 12.30PM**

Present: John O'Connor (President), Gabriela Mercado (Past President), Jane Tuson (Honorary Treasurer), Vijay Mahantesh (Honorary Secretary), Anna Fleming (Waka Oranga) Claire Miranda (Digital Communications Committee), Mihili Alexander, Susan Horne (Whakaoho Aroha/TTBC Rep), Kate Dent Rennie (Ethics Committee Chair), Jo McKenzie, Kathryn MacKenzie, Luisa Maloni (Administrator).

1. WELCOME

The meeting opened at 9am with a karakia from John and check ins.

2. APOLOGIES

Verity Armstrong is overseas.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Jo McKenzie is also a member of the Rainbow Rōpu- but is no longer attending their meetings while this discussion is taking place with Council.

-Two council members acknowledged dual relationships with people attending the Zoom in the afternoon.

-Vijay is also a member of the Auckland branch convenor group.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Council discussed the correspondence received from the Rainbow Rōpu and individual members, in preparation for the Zoom meeting with Abby, Juliet, Helen and Lenka later in the afternoon. The discussion involved the nature of Council's role as governing body of the association, and its role in relation to matters directly affecting members of Rainbow communities. Council discussed what consultation could look like with the Rainbow members, and most likely needing to meet ongoingly with the Rōpu, and ways to support student members entering the association.

Council will deliver its finalised response to the SOGICE report to the membership by 15 November.

5. RATIFICATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES

John moved: That the minutes from the September 2024 Council meeting be ratified.

—carried unanimously

6. REPORTS

John moved that all reports be approved as received.

–carried unanimously

Hon Secretary — Vijay reported verbally that he had eased into the role slowly so far and that he had, as part of his role as Honorary secretary, approved two members moving to retired status and sent flowers to a member who was ill.

Digital Communications — *see discussion on Sunday*

President — Further to his report, John was excited about the initiatives outlined in the digital communications space.

Ethics — Further to her report, Kate also discussed the implications of Artificial Intelligence for psychology- e.g. safe practice when using AI to transcribe notes. She has emailed Lucy Zwimpfer at PBANZ to see if they have done any work in that area. Council also discussed the scenario where APANZ has been asked (e.g. by potential employers) to verify that members have had no complaints laid against them.

Action: Luisa to ask Nikky Winchester about the process of verifying that no complaints have been made against a member. **Claire** to also check this with Lynne Holdem and John Farnsworth.

John thanked Kate for taking on the role of Ethics Chair.

ACP — Further to the report John noted that it was nice to have the PBANZ accreditation application done. The committee is currently looking for more supervisors while getting lots of enquiries and good candidates.

Whakaoho Aroha/TTBC — Susan asked council members to shoulder tap anyone they think will be appropriate for the committee as they need a group to move forward. There has been some interest but they are looking for 1-2 more people.

Susan is interested in a group running workshops on how to deal with racism in confronting situations and thought it could be useful for the newly formed committee or as an event to attract interest in the committee.

Public issues — There is currently no chair for this committee but John and Gabriela have found some people interested in the chair position and to be a part of the committee.

Nexus (Academy) – *see discussion on Sunday*

Ata — The next issue is due for publication over the next month or so. There are two people interested in the editorial role and John will meet with them again.

Newsletter editor — There is currently no Newsletter editor and so Gabriela is stepping into this role for the next issue until a new editor can be found. A call for interest has gone out to members. Jo said she would be interested in helping with this next issue.

John thanked Gabriela for picking up this issue and for Jo's interest in helping with this.

Administrator — Vijay asked about the potential use of Microsoft teams as a better system for Council/APANZ.

Action: Claire and Vijay to look into Microsoft Teams for APANZ files, archives and communications.

7. MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE RAINBOW RŌPU

Abby Driver, Juliet Perano, Helen Roberts and Lenka Rochford joined the meeting via Zoom at 2pm

Council and Rainbow Rōpu members introduced themselves. Council thanked the Rōpu members for coming to the meeting and Rōpu members thanked Council for their time.

Members of the Rainbow Rōpu shared their concerns about the safety of APANZ for their members in the Rōpu, in particular regarding the advertising of the David Bell seminar. They believe that David Bell promotes harmful and inflammatory views towards members of trans communities, without real engagement with trans communities, and were concerned that he was provided a platform by APANZ through the advertising of this seminar. They were particularly concerned with the idea of debating whether trans gender identities are valid, or exist at all. The Rōpu felt that Council's response to the SOGICE report is encouraging, but wondered how it would be actioned and upheld, and noted that the advertising of the seminar seemed to contradict what is outlined in the response to the SOGICE report. Members of the Rōpu called on the Council to take leadership on this issue as the decision making body of APANZ. They requested that if someone wants to advertise workshops or material relating to gender, that Council would first run it past the Rōpu as a way to consult. They are happy to help in this way. Members of the Rōpu were also more widely concerned that clients could go to see therapists who could be deeply damaging to that client.

Council voiced their commitment to making APANZ a good home for members of diverse communities, particularly rainbow communities, realising that they are not there yet and recognising the generosity of the Rōpu to help with this. They hoped that the stance of Council is clear in their response to the SOGICE report with regards to trans identities. Council was wary of telling people what to think but was supportive of educative opportunities. Council also acknowledged the presence of privileged positions when entering into debates like these e.g. ideological vs lived daily experiences of trans people. They were interested in having representatives from the Rōpu on Council as a way to bolster better consultation and communication. Council grappled with the issue of how to make a safe space for everybody and making an inherently unsafe place e.g. large group situations, safe enough.

Various Council members explored a range of questions with Abby and her colleagues in relation to the matters they raised. John said that he was personally determined and committed to working with the Rōpu to create an environment where they feel part of and can engage with the association. He was interested in how to support all members of the association with this issue.

Abby shared that she is comfortable with people asking her genuine questions, but that other members of the trans community may find this too painful. She asked Council if there were any questions they would like to ask her and some council members took this opportunity to ask questions e.g. around puberty blockers.

Council and Rōpu members thanked each other for their time, appreciating the openness and courage in both groups to share and ask/answer questions, and their desire for further dialogue.

Members of the Rainbow Rōpu were farewelled at 3:30pm.

Council shared their thoughts about the conversation and noted the value of the face-to-face conversation. They discussed the idea of having a member or members of the Rōpu on Council and the need for action alongside the SOGICE response and statement.

The meeting finished at 5pm and recommenced at 9am Sunday.

8. DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Claire shared the updated APANZ website on the screen.

Name change

Claire asked if anyone on Council had energy for putting a press release out about the name change and sharing the news with our affiliates and stakeholders e.g. ACC, WINZ, AHANZ, training providers.

Blog

We now have a members blog area where newsletter articles and inform messages can be posted and hopefully news about what is happening in the branches.

Claire asked: could we move from a newsletter editor to a blog editor or a group in charge of blogs, so that news can be shared more frequently? This could be public or private to members only. It could include a weekly roundup of news. We could include Council reports so that they are more accessible to members and as a way to decentralise our power. This could run adjacent to the newsletter as a trial. Council acknowledged that many members love the newsletter but liked the idea of real-time messages.

Colloquium

The trial by Council worked well. We may be able to add more discussion topics and people may feel more confident in smaller groups.

Connect

Safety measures could be included in a disputes process where people may ultimately be removed from Connect if they breach community standards. It was discussed that members and groups or individuals on behalf of members (to support minority groups for example), could place complaints against members not following the community standards.

Ideas for process:

- Any member can initiate disputes process
- A small moderating group can initiate contact with a member if standards are breached, to address the breach of standards

Motion: that Council agree that a person can be removed from Connect if they breach community standards.

Claire/Jo

–carried unanimously

A sub-community was formed to design a process for the implementation of the above motion.

Action: John, Kate, Claire, Anna, Kathryn and Jo to meet and draft something to send to the membership about a disputes process for Connect.

John thanked Claire for her broad vision of how we use communication to associate. Council shared their appreciation with a round of applause.

9. NEXUS

Gabriela showed Council the new Nexus website on the big screen.

Gabriela noted that her brief was to take the Academy to the finish line. John Farnsworth began this work two years ago and created a team including Veronica Watt, John O'Connor, Claire Miranda, Lynne Holdem, Matt Bird and Victoria Smith. They encountered issues with the design of the website at which time Brock at Catchlight stepped in. John Farnsworth needed to stand down due to health reasons. Gabriela wanted to acknowledge all of that time and effort and wanted to ensure that his idea came to fruition.

The website was already created and Gabriela had recently been working with Luisa on the final touches e.g. Gabriela contacted members' groups and trainings to populate the website with new content, and refined the look and design of the pages.

John and Gabriela came up with the new name 'Nexus' after receiving feedback on the name and wanting something more connecting and dynamic. The plan is to launch the website on Tuesday 12 November at 7pm, via Zoom. Gabriela will send messages out to membership in the coming weeks. We will start advertising with members courses, workshops, groups and resources but it is a public site. There will be a link from the APANZ website to the Nexus website.

John O'Connor moved a *Motion of Thanks* to John Farnsworth:

Motion: that Council express their profound thanks to John Farnsworth for his initiative and very hard work to generate the Academy/Nexus website.

Seconded: Gabriela

—carried unanimously

John thanked Gabriela for picking this project up with her usual verve and ethos of hard work Gabriela acknowledged all those involved over the past two years as mentioned above.

10. RAINBOW RŌPU FEEDBACK TO COUNCIL'S DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE SOGICE REPORT

The Rainbow Rōpu have provided feedback to the Council's response to the SOGICE report.

Regarding the Code of ethics:

1.2 Practise non-discrimination. Psychotherapists shall be sensitive to diversity and shall not discriminate on the grounds of colour, creed, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, social class, religion or political belief.

The Rōpu have asked for the inclusion of ‘gender expression’ and ‘gender identity’ in the above statement and that psychotherapists will not exercise sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts.

Council is happy to add the footnote link to the updated SOGICE Statement and John and Kate will talk further about the inclusion of the above requests.

Regarding the SOGICE statement points 5 and 6

(Point 5 is regarding supervision and point 6 regarding the psychotherapeutic environment). The Rōpu felt that these sections watered down the overall statement and needed a stronger, clearer stance.

However Council consider that the entire statement from points 1-6 provide a clear statement of Council’s stance in regard to SOGICE and that points 5 and 6 are important aspects of this stance.

Abby has asked for a clear statement about trans identities being valid. Council intends to provide a statement with the finalised SOGICE response, when it is sent out to the membership on 15 November.

John will write to Abby and those that supported her to thank them for joining us.

Council discussed further dates for meeting with the Rōpu and will meet together as Council on Tuesday 5 November to ratify the finalised response to the SOGICE report.

Council discussed the possibility of writing to students regarding how we assist students that are new to the association.

11. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

John moved that the following members be ratified:

Motion: That the following applicant be ratified as a continuing Student Member of APANZ, having completed all requirements:

MYLES REILLY, Dunedin (Transactional Analysis-final stages of certification)

Motion: That the following applicants be ratified as new Student Members of APANZ, having completed all requirements:

MATHEW PROCTER, Wellington (Transactional Analysis)

FABIENNE USSHER, Wellington (Transactional Analysis)

Retired: none this period

Resigned: none this period

Passed Away: none this period

—carried unanimously

12. MEMBERS TO THANK AND RECOGNISE

Council would like to thank John Farnsworth for his work on Nexus.

Action: John and Gabriela to write a thank you card to John Farnsworth for his work on Nexus.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

Waka Oranga request

Verity has an invoice give to council, related to training that happened with Waka Oranga the previous year with Margaret and Jonathan. Historically, APANZ has given two payments to Waka Oranga: one koha and another that had to be accounted for. Now we pay one payment as a donation with no accounting needed. This invoice relates to that time of two payments and last year they didn't draw on those funds. With this in mind, Jane would like to pay that invoice as a one off payment as well as the \$10,000 koha for this year.

Motion: that in addition to the koha of \$10,000 previously agreed to Waka Oranga, we will also pay a fund to Waka Oranga for payment of the invoice for Margaret and Johnathan's training in 2023.

John/Jo

—carried unanimously

14. CONFERENCE

John reported that a team has not been finalised for the 2025 conference, but with our commitment to yearly conferences, another call will go out to members for a conference team for 2025. There is a committee set up for a 2026 conference in Wellington.

15. RELATIONSHIP WITH WAKA ORANGA AND APANZ

John was glad to have Anna back to the Council table, especially regarding ethical issues.

Anna acknowledged the generosity and understanding of Council over the last couple of years, and being alongside Waka Oranga in their absence from the table, so that they could focus their energy and mahi on bolstering Waka Oranga, especially after the loss of Hinewirangi and Toni. Waka Oranga is growing and membership is stepping up. Michelle Amopiu is the secretary now and has a lot of energy to promote Māori mental health. Margaret and Alayne have sat at the table for many years and their roles are now shifting, acting in tuakana roles for Waka Oranga. Anna appreciated the flexibility in the relationship with APANZ moving forward.

Council agreed that Waka Oranga was missed in their absence but that it was important that they found a way that works for both members of the partnership. Council appreciated the times Waka Oranga (and also Mihili) have generously and gently reminded us about privilege and about some of our blind spots, acknowledging that this takes energy.

Council discussed the difference in structure for some organisations e.g. NZAC has an ahi kai (similar to a Māori president) sitting within NZAC. Anna felt that our structure as tiriti partners means we can have our own tino rangatiratanga and authority. She liked that John and Gabriela come to the AGM, and reciprocally Verity and herself come to council meetings, sharing power and partnership. Anna felt grateful to the people who set this structure up.

Council discussed this idea of partnership as a good model for our relationships with other groups e.g. Pasifika. Council discussed the possibility of future meetings on the Marae.

We have an opportunity to create something different in Aotearoa - a psychotherapy that is from this place.

The meeting finished at 12:30pm with a karakia and waiata- He ara i te mea