



REPORT TO APANZ Annual General Meeting (AGM), June 25 2025

Re: Honorary Secretary's Report

From: Vijay Mahantesh, Honorary Secretary

Date: 25 May 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is my pleasure to present the Honorary Secretary's Report for the June 2025 Annual General Meeting of APANZ.

This has been my first year in the role of Honorary Secretary, following the departure of Catriona Cairns from the Council. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Catriona's foundational work, particularly in progressing our constitutional review, which has been invaluable as I have stepped into the role.

We also saw a significant change in our administrative team, with Luisa Maloni moving on from APANZ. Thanks to the swift and thoughtful recruitment led by our President, John O'Connor, we welcomed Carmel Lai to the team. Carmel has brought warmth, professionalism, and precision to her role. As the voice behind the APANZ main phone line and inbox, she has been an incredible representative for our organisation and a real pleasure to work alongside. Earlier this month, the council gathered in person in Tāmaki Makaurau. With most of us now approaching a full year in our roles, there is a noticeable sense of ease and confidence growing within the team. Personally, I now feel much more grounded in the responsibilities of the Secretary role and have found it deeply rewarding to contribute with greater clarity and purpose as time has gone on. This meeting was also a special one, as we took the opportunity to farewell Gabriela Mercado, our esteemed Past-President. It was an emotional moment, with heartfelt words and a few tears shared in appreciation of Gabriela's immense contribution, not only in her leadership roles as President and Past-President, but also through the positive impact she has had on so many of us within the Council. Her guidance, generosity, and wisdom will be sincerely missed.

One of the most important tasks ahead is the constitutional update required under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We are preparing to hold a Special General Meeting in October 2025 to present and vote on these changes. Building on the groundwork laid by Catriona, and with the collaborative effort of John, Luisa, myself, and now Carmel, we are well on track to ensure APANZ is compliant with the legislative requirements.

Since the last AGM, we have also faced moments of reflection and sadness with the passing of several members of our community. We remember and honour the lives and contributions of David Thomson, Richard O'Neill-Dean, Sue MacGibbon, Gary Cocker, and Dr. Peter McGeorge. Their legacy lives on in the work we continue to do.

On a positive note, our membership continues to grow at a steady pace. More importantly, we are witnessing increased engagement across our forums and initiatives such as Mind-fields: Thinking Spaces, reflecting the strength and value of our Association.

Looking ahead, I am personally excited for the upcoming APANZ Conference in 2026. I anticipate it will offer inspiration, connection, and reflection for APANZ and all its members. Thank you all for your continued commitment and support. It has been a privilege to serve as your Honorary Secretary this past year, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

Vijay Mahantesh
Honorary Secretary, APANZ