

# **ACP Committee's Report to the Association of Psychotherapists Aotearoa New Zealand (APANZ) AGM 2026**

**20 May 2026**

**Catriona Cairns**

This 2026 AGM finds the ACP committee in good heart, we have been recently joined by Claudette McDonald from Hawkes Bay and Veronica Watt from Auckland. Both Veronica and Claudette have been busy on initial panels and marking rounds. They each bring a lot of experience as clinicians and supervisors.

The 2025 AGM saw John O'Connor step down as ACP Chair. We farewelled John at our May 2025 meeting, and have continued to be appreciative of his energy, commitment and leadership.

We have continued to build on the good work John initiated and led, in two areas in particular:

- We have begun receiving and marking our first formative assessments, which is a new requirement for candidates as they begin the writing process for their therapeutic studies. We added this requirement in order to better assess candidates' development during the writing process, rather than waiting for assessment to the final written submission. Committee members review and comment on the written work, and it seems so far to have been a very useful process for both the committee (highlighting issues we could attend to generally), and for the candidate. This past year we have received and given feedback on five formative assessments.
- In John's time as Chair, we also began holding a bi-monthly zoom group for ACP supervisors, and this has continued to provide a point of connection for us all, as well as an opportunity to raise issues and seek support from one another. It is becoming a very lively, productive space.

We aim to hold training for ACP candidates and, if relevant, supervisors, at least annually. Last year our session was on the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual, which is now the required assessment tool for the ACP, replacing the DSM. This year we plan to hold a training on understanding what is required in writing for the Work Practice Description.

We have welcomed two new candidates onto the ACP Pathway this past year: Glenn Rockell and Aneta Contractor, both from Auckland.

One candidate passed her final panel interview, and received her ACP, congratulations to Agnès Desombiaux-Sigley.

Our current candidates number 22, located from Northland to Dunedin.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking training supervisors, who dedicate themselves to the development of our candidates, and without whom this pathway would not function.

ACP committee

Helen Florence, Sue Morrison, Diane Zwimpfer (ex-officio), Veronica Watt, Claudette McDonald, Catriona Cairns (chair).