

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOTHERAPISTS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND (INC.)
HELD AT 7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2025 ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT

John O'Connor (President Elect), Gabriela Mercado (Past President), Vijay Mahantesh (Honorary Secretary), Jane Tuson (Treasurer), Anna Hinehou Fleming (Waka Oranga) Kathryn MacKenzie, Verity Armstrong (Waka Oranga), Rick Williment (Public Issues), Claire Miranda (Digital Communications), Susan Horne (Whakaoho aroha/TTBC), Kate Dent Rennie (Ethics), Abby Driver, Catriona Cairns, Patricia Ford, Marianna Ackerman, Penny Kennett, Claudette McDonald, Steffi Richter, Clare Vivian Neal, Evelyn Shackley, Liadan Cotter, Paula O'Boyle, Sue Morrison, Juliet Perano, Eric Medcalf, Gavin Stansfield, Kirsty Robertson, Donny Riki, Bogusia Loska, Lucy Gamlen, Genevieve Scase, Zoë Triggs, Delia Crozier, Carlyne Jamieson, Ann Nation, Lynne Holdem, Bede Maclaurin, Beth St Claire, Helen Florence, Marianne Quinn, Kate Brady Kean, Ines Ferrer, Lenka Rochford, Phoebe Laura Hunter, Isabella Van Hoye, Paul Wilson, Clare Vivian Neal, Robert Shaw, Julian Wilson and Carmel Lai.

APOLOGIES

Brenda Levien, Catherine Gilberd, Louise Player-Bishop, Brenda Scarr, Barbara Bassett, Mark Crozier Murphy, Mary Walker Cockburn, Louise de Lambert, Siobhan Collins, Charlotte Daellenbach, Griffin Nichol Madill, John Evans, Katherine Steward, Diane Clare, Sandra Buchanan, Linda Bain, Michael Trott, Eileen Birch, Ros Lewis, Avrael Semple, Andrew Jones, Kiersten Bowen, Lenka Rochford.

PROXIES

2 proxy votes were received for Alenka Rochford John Savage

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

John O'Connor welcomed everybody to the meeting with a karakia and some opening remarks on the state of the Association, noting current challenges and opportunities and recent achievements.

NOTICES

Conference 2026 will be held in Wellington 19-22 February 2026. Dr Joyce Slochower is the Keynote Speaker. The Conference 2026 Organising Committee members are; Catriona Cairns, Sue Morrison, Eric Medcalf, Helen Florence, Diane Zwimpher. Committee members spoke about a number of the anticipated highlights of the conference and encouraged members to send in abstracts for presentations and workshops.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the Conference 2026 Committee.

This is Gabriela's last meeting as a Council member.

Abby Driver, who is seeking to be elected as an Ordinary Member of Council, gave an introduction.

MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motion: That the minutes of the 2024 AGM, which have been published on the APANZ website, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: John O'Connor

Seconded: Catriona Cairns

-Carried unanimously

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

COUNCIL POSITIONS

Voting was completed using online polling.

The following positions were elected:

- **Honorary Treasurer** – Jane Tuson was elected.
- **Honorary Secretary** – Vijay Mahantesh was elected.
- **Ordinary Member** – Claire Miranda was elected.
- **Ordinary Member** – Abby Driver was elected.

John O'C advised that the role of President Elect is vacant, and that there have not been any candidates put forward to date. Membership is encouraged to put forward any people that they believe may be suitable for the role, or to provide any members' names for Council to shoulder-tap.

John O'C announced that prior to the AGM, the Council Members had elected:

Chair of Ethics – Kate Dent Rennie

Chair of ACP – Catriona Cairns

NOTICES OF MOTION

There is one remit to consider.

Vijay advised that there is a requirement to update our constitution in line with the Incorporated Societies Act, there are changes that need to be made, including the

establishment of an internal disputes process. Council will work on it in July, to present to the Association in October.

Remit 1:

That a Special General Meeting (SGM) of APANZ be held on Monday 13th October, 2025, 7:00 pm at which constitutional changes will be moved in keeping with amendments to the Constitution required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Moved: Vijay Mahantesh

Seconded: Gabriela Mercado

-Two abstentions

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: John O'Connor, the President, moved that his report be accepted.

Seconded: Jo McKenzie

-Carried unanimously

HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: Vijay Mahantesh, the Honorary Secretary, moved that his report be accepted.

Seconded: Gavin Stansfield

-Carried unanimously

Vijay noted that he has not received any nominations for Life Members or DSA's and requested that members consider who may be worthy candidates.

HONORARY TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT/STATEMENT

Motion: Jane Tuson, the Honorary Treasurer, moved that her report/statement be accepted.

Seconded: Kate Dent Rennie

-Carried unanimously

ACP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: John O'Connor, Chair of the ACP Committee, moved that his report be accepted.

Seconded: Sue Morrison

-Carried unanimously

Catriona Cairns, incoming chair of the ACP Committee thanked John for the enormous amount of work he has done in this role and for his leadership and thoughtfulness, and noted that his are huge shoes to fill.

HE ARA MAORI PATHWAY

Motion: Verity Armstrong, He Ara Maori Pathway, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Jane Tuson

-Carried unanimously

Verity advised that they are getting closer to completing the work of preparing He Ara for accreditation with PBANZ. Several members acknowledged the long journey and sustained vision Verity, Anna and others before them have invested into this mahi.

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: Kate Dent Rennie, Chair of the Ethics and Professional Standards Committee, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Penny Kennett

-Carried unanimously

PUBLIC ISSUES PORTFOLIO ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: Rick Williment, Chair of the Public Issues Portfolio, moved that his report be accepted.

Seconded: Claire Miranda

-Carried unanimously

WAKA ORANGA KORERO

Anna Fleming, Representative of Waka Oranga, presented an oral report

He Pūrongo nā Waka Oranga - Hune 2025

*E tu kahikatea
Hei whakapae ururoa
Awhi mai awhi atu
Tatou tatou e*

*E tu kahikatoa
Kare kau e hinga
Awhi mai Awhi atu
Tatou tatou e*

*E tu Puriri
Toha ra o peka
Awhi mai Awhi atu
Tatou tatou e*

Tēnā koutou katoa. This opening waiata brings forth several different whakaaro that feel appropriate for this time. It acknowledges oncoming storms, asserting that we will not fall but throughout, encourages us to reach out, connect and find strength in each other and our relationships.

Waka Oranga continues to paddle forth and was further buoyed this month by the formal offering and acceptance of Te Kawenata o Hinetuawhoanga. Led by Tā Matua Haare Williams, and a number of Waka Oranga and APANZ members, the document outlines several values that Waka Oranga choose to align ourselves with in our decision making and direction. Particularly concerned with the wellbeing and protection of the environment, tamariki and wāhine, Matua reminds us of many of our shared values as we continue to journey forward.

The last year has seen our mahi continue in several different ways. He Ara Māori continues to be a point of focus, as the development of an indigenous pathway to psychotherapist registration remains integral to the ongoing development of a more equitable psychotherapy workforce in Aotearoa. We were fortunate to have founding member, Margaret Poutu Morice alongside her hoa rangatira, and psychotherapy rangatira, Jonathan Fay, both work on this document through 2024 and offer their draft copy to te rūnanga in 2024. Margaret and Jonathan's work has been instrumental in progressing He Ara, and alongside the foundational mahi already offered by Dr Alayne Mikahere-Hall, our intention is to present He Ara Māori for accreditation with PBANZ by the end of this year. This work has been a significant kaupapa for Waka Oranga and the development of Māori psychotherapy in Aotearoa for many years, and we appreciate the minds, hands, and the energy of many that has gone into laying the foundations for this pathway.

We continue to remain in partnership with our tiriti partner APANZ and have appreciated the ongoing relationship and leadership particularly of John O'Connor and Gabriela Mercado over this last year. We also recognise that the last few years have seen our Waka Oranga representatives reckoning with how to hold their mahi with both organisations and are grateful for the support and understanding of our treaty partner as we navigate this. We are also pleased to announce that WO rūnanga member Gina O'Neill will be taking up one of our Waka Oranga seats this year and look forward to the contribution she will be making to this space. We are also pleased to see Whakaoho Aroha Te Tiriti Bicultural Committee reforming and believe that their critical lens and energy for this mahi will be of great support to both our organisations.

Michelle Amopiu continues her mahi on the Psychotherapists' Board and this year we unequivocally supported and celebrated her appointment as one of the Board's first Manukura - Co-Chairs. This is a significant undertaking for PBANZ, becoming only the 2nd board to take on co-governance in this way. Alongside the board, we also held the 2nd Tangata Whenua Psychotherapists Hui over two days in February 2025, where Dr Alayne Mikahere-Hall offered a presentation, and where we also engaged in much appreciated whanaungatanga with tangata whenua psychotherapists from around the motu.

In April 2025, Verity Armstrong and Anna Fleming represented Waka Oranga by presenting at the 5th International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development Conference in New Mexico, USA. Presenting their paper, Aro-Ha: Reclaiming Indigenous

gender and sexuality concepts in indigenous psychotherapy in Aotearoa New Zealand, Verity and Anna spoke to much of the research already undertaken in this area by Verity, and spoke to the intentions of their kaupapa Māori founded clinic, Awatea, in bringing a more indigenous psychotherapy to tangata whaiora.

As we look forward to the coming year, we acknowledge the significant challenges currently facing the world - political tensions, war, climate change, genocide, famine. However, as we are continuously reminded by Tā Matua Haare, each day presents us with a new opportunity, a new dawn to set our intentions to think about how we will take our place with each new sunrise, and I encourage us to do this for ourselves, and each other and every day.

Mauri ora ki a koutou katoa,

*Anna Fleming (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Tūhoe)
Tumuaki, Waka Oranga*

Hune 2025 | June 2025

Motion: Anna Fleming, Representative of Waka Oranga, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Susan Horne

-Carried unanimously

Vote of thanks to Verity and Anna for the huge amount of ongoing mahi they put into the Waka Oranga kaupapa

TI TIRITI BICULTURAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WHAKAOHO AROHA/TI TIRITI BICULTURAL COMMITTEE) REPORT

Motion: Susan Horne, Representative of the TTBAC, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Jo McKenzie

-Carried unanimously

Vote of thanks to Susan for her generous ongoing work.

ATA JOURNAL OF PSYCHOTHERAPY AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL REPORT

Motion: John O'Connor, Editor of the Ata Journal, moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded: Claire Miranda

-Carried unanimously

Vote of thanks to John and Wiremu for their work on producing Ata.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Motion: Claire Miranda, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Lynne Holdem
-Carried unanimously

Vote of thanks to Claire for her and the committee's mahi.

NEXUS REPORT

Motion: Gabriela Mercado, moved that her report be accepted.

Seconded: Helen Florence
-Carried unanimously

Vote of thanks to Gabriela for launching Nexus.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Auckland – Paul Wilson. There has been a really encouraging surge in people who are attending, getting into the spirit of the association.

Otago Southland - Juliet Perano. People are attending and the branch is in good health.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Gabriela's massive contribution to Council and to the Association was acknowledged with heartfelt gratitude by many of the members present. Gabriela's warmth, inclusiveness, grace, intelligence, passion, creativity, heart, zest, bravery, respectfulness, humour, energy, dedication, smile, love, kindness, and loyalty that she brought to her work and her leadership of the Association were noted and have been deeply appreciated. Thank you Gabriela.

John O'Connor closed the meeting with a karakia.

Meeting closed 9:24pm