

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2019

Te Tau Ihu/ Top of the South branch

Te Tau Ihu regional group continues to be active with a little under 20 members from throughout the upper South Island area – Blenheim/Marlborough, Golden Bay, the West Coast and Nelson/Tasman.

The group recognises the different demands of rural practice with travel constraints being a major factor for practitioners in providing service to clients and maintaining collegial connections.

The group has two meetings on an adjacent evening and morning, on a four-weekly basis. One meeting is the professional forum, and alternates between presentations from members on a range of topics and a Balint-style supervision group. The other is called Cultural Supervision, but transcends this title in its function to provide rich support and wisdom.

Both meetings are in Nelson, being closer to where the majority of members live, as well as more central in the region. It requires significant commitment for members from other areas to travel to these meetings. The meetings are nonetheless well attended.

In the absence of any training for psychotherapy in the region, and no-one having progressed through the grandparenting pathway for training in some time, the region is reliant on new members moving from other areas to sustain its base. Many of the cohort are approaching retirement, and two or three resigned their membership due to retirement in the last year.

Kirsty Robertson received a Distinguished Service Award at the 2018 Conference for her long-standing services to the Association.

Wayne Frecklington
Convenor