

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, APRIL 2021

From the President

In the last four months there has been a lot of activity going on in committees, sub-committees, working groups and portfolios outside of Council. We are a hard working crew in this waka and much of the furious paddling goes unnoticed even by us let alone by the membership at large.

I welcome visiting members John Farnsworth, Claire Miranda and Diane Zwimpfer (who is joining us on Sunday morning).

I wish to thank members of the ACP Committee for their work with Council's sub-committee on the preparation for the PBANZ discussion regarding interim registration. We welcome John O'Connor who is going to take up the position of Chair of the ACP Committee and bid a reluctant farewell to the wise and hardworking Siobhan Collins. Having spoken both with Jaq Hanley and Hamish Brown at PBANZ since our last meeting I am committed to ensure we are well prepared and resourced before we meet with them again. I note that three members of NZAP spoke at the Forum advocating for the ACP and the retention of interim registration. I have valued the advice offered us by Oliver Towle and Siobhan's daughter Rose; also comments by Chris Milton that expanded our focus. I look forward to further giving time to this matter with Diane Zwimpfer, Siobhan Collins, and John Farnsworth present.

The members of the Mental Health and Addictions working group have met monthly to wrestle with the lack of improvements in the mental health system, air frustrations, and generate strategic thinking about the priorities being named by the Ministry of Health. I thank John Farnsworth for his report for Council. The provision of only short term and low skilled interventions for individuals and families with trauma and attachment problems, where careful assessments and longer relational treatments are needed, is no where near adequate.

Gabriela Mercado has been a powerhouse building up teams to do reviews and now it is up to Council to receive, reflect on and ultimately work out the how of implementing the changes that are suggested by the reviewers and accepted by Council. I suggest we taihoa on reviews and focus on implementing the Critical Review report of Council, the Promotion of Psychotherapy review, the TTbAC review, the Complaints process review, and Nikky's paper on branch ownership and member engagement. There is much work ahead but having read most of these reports already, I am hopeful that there are directions pointed out to us that may lead to growth and connectivity within our Association and between us and our allies. Gabriela has also been dreaming up a digital Newsletter and planning for the people and technology involved in this important aspect of the Association's identity, voice for our members and place of sharing.

I am also hopeful that Council members and those standing for Council have the skills, passion and knowledge to move the objectives of the reviews and continue to update the image and refresh the wairua of NZAP. I propose we consider meeting in person for our winter or spring meeting and add a day of strategic planning into our meeting time. This would mean coming to Wellington for three days instead of two. In line with the Association's commitment to reduce carbon I propose that one of our meetings this year (not the strategic planning one) takes place online.

I acknowledge the steady hands, caring heart and good mind of Vicky Blake as she prepares to hand over the finances of the Association. The accounting system has changed for the better under her watch and the Association's finances are in good health. Thank you Vicky.

“Te Ipu Taiao – The Climate Crucible” has been a rewarding and moving experience for the organising committee and hopefully for those who contributed and attended. We have had very good feedback regarding the presentations and the panels. One of the presenters, Sally Weintrobe, was interviewed on RNZ Saturday morning and Sally was thankful about my role in achieving this interview and also about the way the webinar was hosted. John O’Connor wrote a very good introduction to Te Ao Māori for the overseas speakers and this was really valued by three of them and helped them understand the Aotearoa context. It is hard to measure the influence of Haare Williams, Hinewirangi Kohu-Morgan and members of Waka Oranga on the culture of NZAP but values of manaakitanga, tikanga, whanaungatanga, maramatanga, and wairuatanga shine through in the way we meet and be with others, and the care and warmth of our hosting was commented on by a number of presenters. We are yet to see comments from the 162 registrants but we will prepare a survey and share the results.

Thank you Daniel Larsen for your work as Chair of the Ethics and Professional Standards Committee. You have done a fine job of holding us up to the values and ethics of democracy and fairness of the Association. We look forward to meeting the next Chair of the Committee.

Nikky Winchester, our Executive Officer, has weathered many storms this year as Covid-19 and Lockdowns changed and challenged the form of our meetings and stretched our capacity for relatedness and clear communication at times. Thank you Nikky for your attention to detail.

I will miss the calm, intelligence, confidence and kindness of Gerald Maclaurin as we turn towards the future but I feel confident having Gabriela Mercado beside me and the strength, aroha and commitment that Victoria Smith, Margaret Poutu Morice, Anna Fleming, Paul Wilson and Catriona Cairns bring to our mahi.

Kia ora koutou katoa.

Lynne Holdem