

President's Report March 2022

The last quarter I have been enjoying working more closely with President Elect Gabriela Mercado as she has generously taken up some of the workload of the President's role. Much of this is communicating and liaising with committees, other Council members and ordinary members. Sometimes we end up in two or three zoom meetings a week with each other! I think Gabriela will make a great President when her times comes. She has already made a significant contribution to the outreach and culture of NZAP in the years she has been on Council.

The Ka mua ka muri committee of co-convenor Anna Fleming, Crispin Balfour Gabriela Mercado and Claire Miranda on the Ka mua ka muri conference involves weekly meetings. Working creatively and closely with these colleagues has been a joy despite the disappointment of having to shift the conference to an online event in January due to the predictions that Omicron would reach peak numbers of cases in late March this year. We are about to release the program schedule and I feel proud that we have transitioned smoothly to an online event and that it looks like it will be an interesting lively and interactive conference. It is unfortunate as we all had looked forward to a live face to face event, but such are the times we live in.

In fact, Covid 19 has really controlled and shaped much of Council activity in the two years I have been President, starting from the cancellation of the Wellington Terror in the Transference conference, seeing the postponement of a number of Council meetings that were intended to be face to face ones. Members of Council responded to the crisis by holding Zoom meetings for members (Gabriela and Victoria), researching and responding to questions on ethical issues on in Inform emails to members, through Connect members email group and in newsletters. To be honest I was quite exhausted by the end of last year and glad that I had planned for a longer break than usual.

Our new Administrator, Luisa Maloni, is doing a great job at liaising with members and managing the workload of our organisation and this has made liaison, communication and messaging easy and delightful. Thanks Luisa.

The ACP committee is now providing a regular Supervisor's group which will be useful for the supervisors especially the new ones. I certainly enjoyed attending their first meeting. Our newsletter editor has produced three wonderful newsletters and these are being read and received well by members.

The Mental Health and Addictions team of Victoria Smith, Andrew Jones, Claire Miranda, Veronica Watt, Roy Bowden John Farnsworth (Chair) continues the work of our association in advocacy, liaison with government and the Ministry of Health. This committee works as a Strategy and Communication hub for Public Issues. The mahi is a largely invisible to members but it provides an important Reflection and Strategy space for the work of relating the Association to the outside world, allies, media, powerful stake holders. It has certainly provided a lot of grounding support for me while I've been carrying the President role.

In the months ahead I look forward to further work on the goals that came out of the Strategic meeting we held last year. Also to work with TTBC to strengthen the active commitment of NZAP to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all the areas of our work. I'm also excited to hear about the ideas for the Academy that are being put together by John Farnsworth and his team.

Lynne Holdem