

Welcome

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Piki mai, kake mai, nau mai, haere mai. Haere mai ki te hautaka o te Ropu Whakaora Hinengaro.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand*, the journal of the New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists (NZAP). It has been a while coming; and the interval has given space for a rethinking of its form and place in the life of our Association. I am most grateful to Keith Tudor and Alayne Hall for their work in bringing this reconception to life. I am also grateful to their ancestors, the editors and editorial teams of *Forum*, without whom *Ata* would not have been possible.

The first issue carries the theme of the Dunedin NZAP Conference, “Home is Where we Start From”. NZAP is our professional home. Like the Journal, NZAP has been undergoing renovations. As a group we are changing: we are growing more diverse, and our needs are developing; we are becoming more of a maturing and blended family, if you will. Our “home” is changing to accommodate our development. Will we continue to recognise our family, and our family home? I hope so. The thing that has always characterised NZAP for me is the aspiration of talking together, sometimes at odds, often in disagreement — but there is strength in our diversity. *Ata* embodies this diversity, this aspiration, and our renewal: rigorous, reflective, diverse, and inclusive. As with NZAP, we may not find ourselves reflected and represented in all of its aspects, but I believe we will each find some moments of contact here, alongside moments of challenge and of indifference. Home can be an uncomfortable as well as a loving place; and as well as being a place to leave, it is a place to return to, as T. S. Eliot put it so well in his (1942) poem “East Coker”:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

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