

# Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the DTAA Quarterly, 'Moving On.' After much positive feedback in response to our temporary title, the DTAA committee decided to keep the name 'Moving On.' Originally it was used to reflect the newsletters transitional phase, but now, it seems that it's popular as a more long-term title, depicting the aspirations and goals of the DTAA and the wider Dance Therapy community.

Ironically though, this publication comes to you late at the end of autumn rather than earlier in the season as planned. Things didn't 'Move On' as fast as we hoped, and I was unfortunately landed with a bad case of sinusitis, slowing down the publication of this issue. But I can tell you it's well worth the wait with a diverse range of exciting contributions from Australia and abroad. In the last issue we launched an international section with a contribution from Jenny De Leon from New Zealand. Since then we have received warm feedback from other Dance Therapists abroad and we are pleased to introduce two contributions for this issue: the first from Argentina, by Diana Fischman and the second from Canada by Janet Lemon. Diana captures our international interest in her article when she says, "It's good to know that there are people who share the 'DMT Spirit' so far in this huge and tiny world!"

So what is this 'global DMT spirit' that Diana speaks of? Of course it is something we have all felt but how can it be verbalised and shared? This issue of 'Moving On' addresses this question beautifully as it explores "Creativity and Play," vital ingredients for inducing the Dance Therapy spirit. We have dedicated an entire section to this topic and would like to thank those who contributed. Excerpts from Karen Bond's doctoral thesis provide a good introduction to the theme with some excellent definitions and explanations of creativity and play in Dance Therapy.

Following this Penny Rance, a community dance worker from the UK, shares her experience using the Sherborne Development Movement process to foster a playful dance environment where children learn to "feel at home in their bodies." Richard Coaten, a Dance Movement Therapist also UK based, explores the use of play in his work as a dance artist in residence at the Canterbury Children's Centre. We have another great contribution from Lori Cohen, a dance therapy student who was on field work placement in Australia, now returned to the US, which reveals the impact creativity and play has had on her life and her placement at the Noah's Ark Family Resource and Toy Library for Children with Special Needs.

Reading these contributions leads me to reflect on my own childhood experiences in dance. Sadly, the rigid dance school

that I attended lacked a sense of 'creativity and play' as the teachers obsessed over "getting the steps right." I fully understood my mothers reasoning for ceasing involvement with the school whilst reading over a statement in Samantha Allender's article 'Education or Therapy,' which describes the outcomes of a more positive dance environment:

"Self esteem was improved as children were participating in activities that were fun to do with no expectation of correctness...there is no right or wrong way to dance...each child shared their experience knowing that whatever they created was valid"

Our features section ends with a literature review on dance for the visually impaired as an inspiration for the next edition. We are hoping to receive further contributions on this topic and encourage readers to share experiences in the area.

Our 'regulars' are always worth exploring and in this edition we have information on new alternative health web sites, an industrial relations up date, DTAA library collections and 'What's On' including important diary dates. I hope this edition inspires a greater sense of creativity & play in your work and may the effects ripple out into your life.

Rachael Byrnes

## Apologies:

The DTAA editorial committee would like to make the following apologies for errors in the previous edition:

- \* Apologies to *Cecil Street Studio* for printing 'Celil Street Studio.'
- \* Apologies to *Noah's Ark Family Resource and Toy Library, for Children with Special Needs*, for printing 'Noah's Ark Toy Library'.

