

# DTAA's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration and Dance Therapy Collections Number Three Book Launch

*Kim Dunphy*

The dance therapy community in Australia celebrated several big milestones at a dinner



**Margot Schofield - keynote speaker**

dance in November 2009; our 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, the launch of our newest book *Dance Therapy Collections Number Three*, the admission of two new Professional Members and the awarding of the Hanny Exiner Annual Achievement Award to Denis Kelynack.

The book launch provided the impetus for this special event. The gestation of Collections Number Three was a lengthy process, being the final development of 22 papers first presented at our 2007 conference 'Weaving The Threads'. The book features articles on research, and very diverse practice and professional issues, by authors from Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Its 205 pages make it a very significant development from our previous editions of Collections published in 1992 and 1999.

We were privileged to have as guest speaker for the night, Margot Schofield, Professor of Counselling and Psychotherapy, (Australia's first) in the School of Public Health, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus, and Director of Research for the Psychotherapy and Counselling

Federation of Australia (PACFA), the peak professional body for the counselling and psychotherapy profession. Margot made an excellent keynote speaker, congratulating the contributing authors on their achievements and encouraging us to continue writing and researching to develop the expertise of our profession of dance movement therapy. Editors, myself, Jane Guthrie and Elizabeth Loughlin were very pleased to have our 'baby' finally out in the world!

Denis Kelynack was honoured with the Hanny Exiner Memorial Foundation (HEMF) Annual Achievement Award in recognition of his very significant contribution to the field of dmt over many years. See *Australian Moves* p.41 and report in *HEMF News* on p.65.

The impact Denis made on the lives and professional practice of dance therapy colleagues was demonstrated in a series of wonderful movement improvisations that people made to acknowledge him.

This movement ritual was designed for the night by Linda Murrow and led by her. Honouring Denis was a major part of the evening's ceremonies.



**Honouring Denis Kelynack**

It took place just prior to honouring the achievements of new Professional Members Bouthaina Mayall and Maeve Larkin, and Rob Baum (in absentia).

These therapists were presented with their certificates by dmt elders Mary Builth and Denis

Kelynack, and then invited by DTAA's President Jane Guthrie to travel through the 'archway of dance therapy' where they took their place amongst the many assembled Professional Members.



**Maeve Larkin – travelling through the archway**

Perhaps this will become an annual ritual and a way of encouraging and inspiring those who have yet to push themselves through the processes of achieving Professional Membership!

President of the DTAA, prior to Denis, Associate Professor Karen Bond, now of Temple University, Philadelphia, sent this message of good wishes:

*Dear friends of Australian dance therapy, It's hard to believe that it's been almost ten years since I left Melbourne, simultaneously vacating my role as president of the DTAA. I've watched with great interest and pride as the organization has gone from strength to strength over the past decade. I send 15th anniversary greetings to all of you and heartfelt congratulations to the authors and editors of Dance Therapy Collections Number Three.*

**Karen Bond**

We also received a letter of congratulations and good wishes from the HEMF committee.

*To the Dance Therapy Association of Australia – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009*

*Those of us from the Hanny Exiner Memorial Foundation, who are unable to attend tonight's*

*dinner, send their congratulations to the Association as it celebrates fifteen years of fostering the development of dance-movement therapy in Australia.*

*The members of your committee have been tireless in providing wide-ranging support and mentoring for the community of dance-movement therapists in this country.*

*The achievements of the Association in such a large country with such a small population are noteworthy.*

*We wish you, and all the members who are yet to join you, many more years of growth, consolidation and success.*

*Naomi Aitchison, Dianne Albiston, Ron Exiner, Jill Groom, Doctor John Lloyd and Phyll Lloyd.*

This significant event took place at Mama Vittoria's restaurant in Collingwood, where we enjoyed traditional handmade pasta and Italian sweets, some dancing and much socialising over glasses of wine. Thank you to all who attended and made DTAA's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday a night to remember!



**Some dancing and socialising**

**Kim Dunphy**, Grad Dip Movement/ Dance, M.Ed (Dance), former lecturer in RMIT's dance therapy program, has worked as a dance therapist and educator of people with intellectual disabilities and children with special needs. Kim is Vice-President of the DTAA and author of 'Freedom to Move', a book she co-authored with Jenny Scott in 2003.