



Citation for

Jane Guthrie Honorary Life Member Award 16 December 2015

The Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australasia
makes this award to Jane Guthrie
in recognition of her services
to the dance movement therapy profession and the DTAA.

Jane's service to the dance movement therapy profession through involvement with the Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australasia.

For more than 30 years Jane has been a stalwart in promoting and growing the profession of dance movement therapy in Australasia, through her own work as a dance movement therapist in a physiotherapy context, through her work in dance movement therapy education and through the multiple roles she has taken on within the DTAA community. It is hard to know where to begin to acknowledge and honour such a dedicated and hard working member of the Association.

The practitioner

Jane in her profession as a physiotherapist and physiotherapy manager was able to integrate her twin professional expertises of physiotherapy and dance movement therapy in a way which extended possibilities in both these areas of professional practice. She was a pioneer in developing this work with people with an acquired brain injury, and was instrumental in setting up a specialised multi-disciplinary unit to work with these patients. She has been a visionary in seeing the possibilities for extending the use of dance movement into many different areas – in the ABI area of course - but also in preventative health in the community and with children with multiple disabilities. Anyone who has encountered Jane as colleague or client would attest to the fact that she maintains the highest standards of professional integrity and displays total commitment to the wellbeing of her clients.

Educator

Jane's experience as a practitioner has been invaluable for her role as educator and mentor. In addition to her work at the DTAA in setting professional training standards and developing opportunities for professional development, she has been very involved in attempts to establish a formal program of dance movement therapy training at tertiary institutions. She spent years working to develop and teach first the RMIT program in the early 2000s and then the program at the Phoenix Institute (2013/14). Her students have greatly benefited from her teaching, absorbing not just the teaching material but the high ethical standards Jane sets in all she does.

Lifelong learner

Jane has continued to learn, with the aim always of contributing further to the development of our profession. Jane's M. Ed documented and evaluated the clinical application of dance movement therapy in a physiotherapy service for patients with acquired brain injury. She travelled several times over two years to Canada in order to become a certified movement analyst. She has completed the Cert IV qualification to enable TAFE teaching, and attended numerous professional development workshops, particularly embracing the work of Penny Best.

Serving the DTAA

Jane's roles for the DTAA have been many and varied, with her often juggling several roles at once. She has spent a significant amount of her time and energy to the work of the DTAA.

She was part of the committee that set up the DTAA in 1994. She has served as Secretary, as Vice-President and for the last eight years as President, while at the same time serving on the HEMF Research Committee and as editor of the DTAA journal, an incredibly time-consuming endeavour.

Jane's vision has always been an inclusive one, reaching out to all dance movement therapists in our community, both here and in the wider Australasian region, particularly New Zealand.

A significant amount of her time has also been spent on developing and sustaining relationships with the dance movement therapy profession internationally, ensuring that Australian professionals remain abreast of international developments in the field. She has fostered regular visits from overseas presenters (including offering hospitality in her own home) so that local DM therapists can benefit from their expertise.

Her role as President has been marked by the integrity of her vision and her sense of inclusivity – reaching out to all in the DMT community. She has worked tirelessly to create a strong and viable Association, fuelled by her commitment to the profession and to the need for high standards of professional conduct in professionals who work with often vulnerable populations.

CONCLUSION

For those of us who have worked with Jane, her most striking characteristics are her stamina and persistence, her vision and ability to navigate and steer through uncharted waters, and above all her humanity, kindness and integrity. Through her commitment to the field and above all to the clients/patients she works with, she provides a role model for her students and colleagues, and she also inspires and convinces all who meet her of the boundless possibilities for the role of Dance Movement Therapy as a path to healing and health. She is an exemplary professional and a most admirable human being and the Association is blessed to have her. Jane's contribution to the profession is remarkable, long standing and selfless.

Messages from members

Dear Jane,

Sorry I couldn't be in Melbourne to thank you personally for the incredible contribution you have made to the dance/movement therapy profession here in Australia. Quietly, consistently and persistently you have supported and at times, pushed me to stay involved and contribute to the development of our community here in NSW. I have enjoyed working with you on our professional development events, dancing with you at various gatherings, reading and learning from Moving On, and witnessing your passion. I look forward to seeing you again soon and hope you might now take a little time for yourself.

Thank you so much,

Kind regards,

Robyn Price

Dance/Movement Therapist, **Inspired Characters**

What an inspiration! - As a student at RMIT and subsequent professional development days I have always so much loved Janes' presence - and even though I have had limited involvement in DTAA I have sensed the enormous force she has been in keeping this entity alive and strong. words that come to mind - calm, clear, gentle, respectful, - an amazing leader.

Thank you Jane.

Mary Rose Nicol

I would like to thank Jane for her incredible and endless support and commitment to Dance Therapy in Australia and to us all. I have found her to be a wonderful, gentle and attuned human, whilst also incredibly effective and strong in relation to championing Dance Therapy across many realms. Perhaps the archetypal dance therapist, applying her skills across many realms of her life.

Thanks and regards,

Alex Jordan

Dance Therapist and NT Liason.

THANKYOU - THANKYOU - THANKYOU

for your huge contribution to the world of Dance Therapy in Australia, that includes ALL the effort, time and love including and beyond the role as president.

Hope you will have more time for dancing now...

Love

Debbie Hunt (Scarfe)