

## Dear Friends and colleagues: and members of our Association

As President of this Association I keep my eye on the larger stage. I have come to a few conclusions about the work of this association and what the work stands for: How the work is reflected in reports; how the work informs the Executive and the Board; how the work inspires practitioners trainees and clients alike. And the work inspires me.

Two recent pieces of writing I have become familiar with. One is a poem written by leaders of the Hopi tribe in the North America. In this writing they exhort us to know that:

*"The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves!*

*Banish the word "struggle" from your attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.*

*We are the ones we have been waiting for."*

I repeat for effect – "We are the ones we have been waiting for"

Also from Gary Hamel, a leading business consultant in the US where he writes:

*"For the first time in history our heritage is no longer our destiny. Our dreams are no longer fantasies, but possibilities. There isn't a human being who has ever lived who wouldn't want to be alive right now, at this moment so pregnant with promise. Among all your forebears, among the countless generations who had no hope of progress, among all those whose spirits were betrayed by progress, we are the ones who now stand on the threshold of a new age – the age of revolution. We are blessed beyond belief. Don't falter. Don't hesitate. We are given this opportunity for a reason. Find it. Lead the revolution."*

This writing reminds me and informs me that our Association, our associating and our meetings have a sacred human purpose.

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We know that Moreno didn't just have a dream of how the world should be this or that, a single conserve. It was not a single way that all must follow. Rather he had a meta-dream, he had a dream of how to dream, how others could dream and how to ignite the dreams of others.

In a song by Coldplay they use the line "Lights will guide you home and ignite your bones" In this dream of how to dream, this Morenian methods, this psychodrama, this stuff, we have ways to assist living, breathing, human beings to find their lights and to ignite their bones and to ignite the bones of others. This of course includes ourselves. My bones are clearly alight.

Moreno has passed that dream onto us – we don't have one dream that we want the rest of the world to follow - we have a dream of how others can create, and their dreams can come alive – all over the place – the normal people, the regular people – chatting and meeting and being together without fear and anxiety.

And this dream of how to dream – stumps many of us when someone asks us "What's psychodrama".

I believe what psychodrama is, is a dream of how to dream and a promise of being able to dream and bring forth the torrents of creativity that reside within human breasts and can blossom between people and between groups.

With this in mind it is my belief that as an association we continue to consider in a large and coherent manner how we can promote Moreno's dream of dreaming again to the world.

I have concluded that our association has a great many well functioning, well crafted conserves. These conserves are things that make it easier and easier for us as individuals, and collectively to co-relate, to co-create and to be ourselves. These conserves will continue to develop and some will change and some will remain and some will become utterly transformed.

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Moreno firmly established the idea of the conserve side by side and paired with spontaneity. Moreno's canon of creativity – sees spontaneity and the process of conserving as connected. Creator and creation are intimate. As in many cultural stories, myths and beliefs.

This taking a firmer line with the promoting of psychodrama is something Executives and many members have viewed as a struggle, a challenge for some time. This Executive has given up struggling. We are developing a progressive warm up to this transition, to taking up our place on the world stage. Last year we put a discussion paper in our documents on the web and you were alerted to it via ANZPA Inform – I know some read it because I received responses. All were positive of our move and all had different and relevant ideas about proceeding. From changing names through to “Learning to be cunning and ruthless”. Thank you those that responded.

We need to develop a workable conserve and ways of marketing rather than being captured by the negative stereotypes, such as chisellers and sales reps, that we relate to marketing with. Let us continue to create our conserve around marketing psychodrama.

Between born again proselytising and selling used cars there are many creative options, rather than only a limited number of spontaneity denuded ones. These roles may take a while to be born in relation to what I am encouraging. We will discover them over the coming years and wonder why we balked this work.

One form of spontaneity as defined by Moreno, is the capacity to enact a role from one context in another context. This is what I believe we need to be able to do more of. I simply see that chatting with people and asking to see how we can assist them rather than telling how we should assist them; be they organisations, people, groups, communities will bring this method more to others attention.

Of course others are able to ignite bones and free dreams. That they can does not diminish us. However one thing I know –is that we are. We are able to ignite bones, free people to dream again.

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This is our *taonga*, this is our treasure – the igniting of dreams, the giving life to dreams

It is a treasure designed to be shared.

## **Publications**

**Journal** – great isn't it.

This year we are trialling different ways to promote this excellent journal. We are considering listing with Amazon, all the articles. We are also being listed with INFORMIT which is the e-library of the RMIT in Melbourne. This will make the journal buyable and searchable for most of the e-libraries in Universities throughout the world. I was faced with queries from libraries asking how a library can buy the journal and what that would allow them to do with it in this age of multi-linked libraries. They were impressed with the journal and wanted it – they sought us out from a library request.

The area of peer review is an ongoing discussion – not yet acted upon because of the work required and not yet discounted because of the value of peer review both in terms of prestige and learning potential. Stay tuned. It may not be an either or situation and possibly we might trial some other ideas. Rollo, Charmaine and Tony will work up a

Bonna you have clearly taken up your role with elan and I have enjoyed writing with you.

## **Thank you Bona Anna**

Socio was due recently but a snafu with an **isp** means it couldn't happen. Steps are being taken to make sure this doesn't happen again. We have decided that:

Socio will become a password protected document in our membe'rs area of the web site. This is a change to what we did when we first released SOCIO and is in response to expressed concerns. So as an experiment we have changed it and we hope this removes barriers to some of you responding.

Our hope is that the blog nature of SOCIO will encourage more cross talk. How many of you have blogs? How many respond on blogs?

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Gillian wants to get a bit of organisation going with the regions President's and this will be one of the Life of the Association meetings. This may build on Philip Corbett's work from last year as well as the idea of President's communicating parts or all of their reports to one another not only me. Socio is a real place where we can start and develop some discussion around developing presence – marketing – educating – developing new roles of chatting.

### **Thanks Gillian Rose**

### **Web site design and handover**

The original web site has been the child of Rob Brodie who carefully crafted and maintained it for many years 10 I think. It has taken us a long time to put resources into it in such a way that Rob felt able to let it go and that it would be cared for.

### **Thank you Rob**

Diana Jones spent time and resources, love and care to craft a web site that is both up to date and pleasing to visit and aesthetically powerful. Diana orchestrated the transition and it worked well.

### **Thank you Diana**

### **Web site**

Simon Gurnsey is our new webmaster and is getting his teeth into this role. To assist him in certain aspects we are setting up a **Web Design and Development Group** to develop ideas about how to progress the web site. This is a complex process as the web site meets different needs. These are: engagement of members; a professional look and reference point for people checking out psychodrama or our association; a way to get people closer to locals who are using the method and local programs.

Conference registration is on-line this I find this works well and I hope you enjoy using it. We hope to bring membership on line as well through Paypal or similar.

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Members biographies: Members biographies are available for input on the web site. I heartily encourage you to do this. At present there are only a few but you can do your own. Please go online and do it. These profiles are members only. But when we have enough members details on line we would like to develop a "Find a practitioner" process which will be available to the public – it will be your choice to be listed or not. This "Find a practitioner" is not yet public and until we have a few more biographies and details, it wont get much further. You will also be able to find out other members details, which is often requested.

To make the site more secure for member details, passwords are to be updated from the generic ones at present to your own one. If your password is forgotten it is easy enough to get another. We would encourage you to use perhaps your emails and password of your own making. So the "freemaker" password is being phased out in six months.

We are committed to keeping the web site aesthetic and accessible, functional and useful, To make it a tool for many of us and for the Association's work.

Dan has been keeping ANZPA Online groups going for a while and the NZ Institutes are on this service. Perhaps there opportunities for the ANZPA Regional pres's Gillian?

**Thanks Simon Gurnsey**

## **Regions**

**Victoria** – Thanks Philip and crew – for last year, for your report on the conference last year, which was great. It is good to hear that the sociometry of the region is positively influenced by the conference – people came to assist. The Vic Committee is considering the range of needs of local members for 2009 – they have planned presentations by Niel Hucker, a mini-conference looking at working with adolescents drawing on the experience and expertise of the locals and later in the year a professional development program looking at using psychodrama cross culturally. Thanks Philip!

**Sydney** – The Sydney mob are re-developing and building new links with one another. As they do this they are warming up to the 2010 conference. This is encouraging. Thanks Kath! And we will hear more from them before this conference is over.

**Brisbane** – we will get a region going this year. Diz will warm up to the job. Stay tuned. Nevertheless members are active in their own right but as a local association we have been absent. Tim's passing has shocked many. I will say more on that shortly.

**SA** – are running a range of programs for one another and developing in a quiet manner gathering and trialling revalidation processes and enjoying them a lot. Psychodrama is alive and well in SA. Thanks Tony

**Perth** – There is life in Perth where the local association and the Western Institute of Psychodrama get together and present and promote their learning and thinking. Thank you Helen.

**NZ – North.** This region has been in a building phase and they are developing their relationships and getting ready for hosting the 2011 ANZPA conference, the revalidation process is developing well as are processes that bring practitioners and others together throughout the year. Thanks Hamish

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**NZ Central** – Thanks Diana – lots has been happening and many members hang in this area. I loved the reflections at the end of the report. This year they will build on the theme of the conference – social atom repair for ourselves, the community and the country. They are working with ANZPA's strategic and marketing plans and will be taking psychodrama into the wider community. For instance they plan to develop their relationship with NZAC and NZAP.

**Canterbury Westland.** Thanks Ali.

Mike Consedine continues to be missed.

They had a practitioner's workshop with Lorna De Lollo. Walter Logerman has been organising revalidation events with gusto.

They also ran 2 concurrent day workshops, which were Introduction to Psychodrama sessions for professionals. These were full and will be repeated. Well done. This is just great.

**NZ South** – They have been working hard and we are enjoying the fruits of your labours. Also the local group hosted the Ohomairaki group for a Hui where 20 people worked hard to strengthen their relationships, value difference and further one another's capacity for living bi-culturally.

In reading reports these I am heartened to see the strengthening of relationships within regions, the work done in this area and the valuing of outreach – letting other people, other professional groups and organisations know what we are up to. This year I plan to connect with local Presidents and members and assist this to develop further.

**Japan – Tokyo Psychodrama Association.**

Yujiro has sent us a report to let us know how our close neighbour and close colleagues are faring. They are faring well. Numbers are improving (43 ordinary, 5, supervisees, 23 trainees). 'Supervisee' is a status that requires two TEPS to recommend and this makes

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the process more open. Their status is growing and we have complimentary relationship with them.

### **THANK YOU YUJIRO**

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Kevin Franklin and Paul Baarkman have been appointed to the Board of Examiners for a period of three years. Rob will say more. Thank you Kevin and Paul.

## **PACFA**

The Psychotherapists and Counsellors Federation of Australia and the Australian Counselling Association are setting up an independent register for counsellors and psychotherapists in Australia. Many Australian ANZPA members are listed as such PACFA as part of this process.

In Australia the Australian Federation of Training Institutes is currently applying for PACFA accreditation for our psychodrama training programme. This is going to take a while but has already produced results. Tony, Suzanne and Max have produced a document that is a great description, syllabus and curriculum of our training. This process has been supported financially by ANZPA as we conclude that it will benefit all training institutes and be a great document for trainees as well. Watch this space.

**Thanks you to Jenny Hutt and Charmaine McVea for being our PACFA reps and agreeing to hang in a bit longer**

## **Archivist**

Brigid is interested to find someone to succeed her as the archivist. Please talk to her and I if you are interested. We have a job description.

**Thanks Brigid**

## **Research**

Charmaine is going to continue to encourage us to research. Her warm up and action is evident. She will encourage us to write peer reviewed articles for others journals such as the one she and Don did last year.

Charmaine suggests we let someone else do the work of peer reviewing of the authors and by reflection all of us get the value – for example I am currently writing for two overseas journals there are probably others here doing similarly – Charmaine, Tony and Rollo are working on some guidelines for developing ANZPA peer reviewed monographs.

**PBANZ**

The Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand has been created and is developing requirements for registration of psychotherapists in NZ. Currently Psychodramatists qualify. This is very pleasing and a recognition of the value of our training.

**Thanks Sandra, Bev, and especially Marilyn.**

**Life and Death** – Two valued members of our association died since last year. Tim Gartside and Caz Palmer. They will be missed.

I am wanting to be respectful to the people who have died in the past year. This is not the time to open it out. I hope you will take an opportunity during the life of the association to gather with other like minded people to do more.

**Revalidation.**

The revalidation process has been going on for some years and has been in a pilot phase. In response to the Revalidation Guidelines, regions are developing ways of working together. Some regions took a bit longer and some are still developing a warm up process. As an Executive we think it is an ordinary enough expectation that our members are up to date with what is required to be a practitioner in their area of psychodrama, sociodrama, sociometry or role training or group work expertise. And we are committed to encouraging professional development of our practitioners. That we as an Association develop a reputation that ordinary members of ANZPA are relevantly, contextually professional and up to date.

The executive is committed to confirming that professional development is taking place, and to demonstrating (internally and externally) that this is so. We will be linking this process to the issuing of practice certificates from next year.

As a consequence of this the Executive will acting over the next three months to gather responses to the existing guidelines and finalise them.

### **Strategic Plan and strategic issues**

We are considering the value of conferences as a vehicle for alerting local, interested people about our method. Some years ago a strategic decision was taken to have the conferences be a watering hole for members and practitioners - only. This is happening. It strengthened our identity as an association and has assisted many members to develop. It may be possible to have people come to our conferences and still have this for ourselves. It is a strategic decision and we, the Exec, won't be doing this in isolation but will be involving all members.

Presence: I believe that many members are sociometrically connected to a wide range of individuals and groups that may, in fact, be delighted to assist you in your promotion of our methods. Our shyness in this area has had its day. I will see how myself and our executive can warm some of you up to this pragmatic and practical and relationship oriented way of chatting about our method and our desire to ignite dreams in others.

### **Elections**

**There are Elections** this year and we'll put the nomination up late.

At the last election Jenny Hutt concluded her term and I stepped forward. Jenny Hutt is going off the executive after 2 years as immediate past President. She has been a great assist to me as I come into this role. Our Association's process of doing this between presidents has worked for me. Thanks Jenny.

After the elections, which will be after the presentation of certificates, we will be having the life of the association.

**These are my closing remarks**

Thank you for joining me and allowing me to have this place of honour. It effects me. We effect one another.

I will leave you with some words written into song by a group called Mattafix in 2007 to alert people to the tragedy happening in Darfur. The song is great but there are two lines that effect me. First I was alerted to the song because of the words.

*"See the nation through the people's eyes"* Morenian surely, sociodramatic as well.

*"Where others turn and sigh - you shall rise."*

I've *turned and sighed* many times in this life. These methods and you, have assisted me to rise. You haven't turned aside from me when you could easily have "turned and sighed"

And to not turn and sigh. People turn and sigh about Darfur, about Gaza and Israel, about indigenous relations, global warming, politics.

I want to rise, I don't want to turn and sigh. I want to turn and face. And I want others who dream of turning and facing of finding ways to do so. Finding ways to do so with their dreams ignited, with their spontaneity engaged and growing.

Deafness no more. This is the Morenian legacy - to ignite bones, ignite dreams, and I want you to join with me in helping others to dream again.

**"We are the ones we have been waiting for" and this is not the time for lone wolves.**