



AMTA-QLD

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# AMTA-QLD

Issue 13

March 2009

## Chairperson's Report

Hello from the Chair's desk (here's hoping yours is not as cluttered)! I would like to begin by presenting two survey reports on the Counselling workshop and RMT Retreat in 2008, then highlight some feedback from our membership revealing professional development needs before passing on some wonderful news including a professional development opportunity.

### RMT Retreat held at Binnaburra on 4-6 July 2008: Survey Findings & Recommendations

- ♫ Total attendance 12 RMTs or 21% of RMTs maintaining registered status during 2008
- ♫ Surveys sent to all (n=56) RMT's, yielding a state-wide response rate of 25% (n=14). Noted also that responses were difficult to achieve across all areas given that only 50% of attendees (n=6) returned a survey (12 email & 2 Australia Post).
- ♫ 9 respondents indicated reasons for non-attendance. These included other engagements (78%), accommodation (11%) and travel distance (11%)
- ♫ Attendance records indicate that 100% (12 RMT/s) attended the professional development day whilst 50% (n=6) stayed at least 1 night
- ♫ 11 respondents (78%) indicated interest in attending a retreat if offered in 2009. Of these, 64% (n=7) were 'very interested' whilst 36% were 'slightly interested'. 2 respondents remained neutral, whilst 1 respondent left this section blank
- ♫ 12 respondents indicated their likelihood of attending various portions of the event in 2009. 58% (n=7) indicated they would stay for 1 night. 25% (n=3) indicated they would stay for 2 nights, whilst 17% (n=2) would attend only the day session.
- ♫ Travel assistance was extended to 3 remote RMT's in 2008. Responses were sought regarding the level of impact of reduction or discontinuation of financial assistance on their attendance in 2009. Whilst reduction of assistance would have a slight impact for 1 respondent, responses indicated discontinuation would have a major impact for 2 respondents
- ♫ Favourable responses were received from responding attendees regarding venue, catering, promotion, registration, value for money, social aspects, professional development component and overall experience.

### Recommendations

- ♫ As 78% of respondents have indicated interest in attending an RMT Retreat in 2009, AMTA-QLD should consider planning for this event.
- ♫ A one day and night event should be considered

- ♫ Partial travel assistance (one-way) should be offered to remote RMTs. Host RMT's could make themselves available to assist with associated accommodation and transfers.

*\*Watch this space for information regarding RMT Retreat for 2009*

### Report on Counselling Skills Workshop held at UQ on 19th July 2008

(\*Responses are indicated according to 5 point scales)

- ♫ Total attendance 25, including 15 RMT's and 10 students
- ♫ Surveys sent to all (n=25) RMT's, yielding a poor response rate of 48% (n=12).
- ♫ Respondents rated content & relevance as excellent (42%), very good (42%) and OK (16%)
- ♫ Respondents rated the presenter's knowledge as Excellent (58%) & very good (33%) one respondent left this section blank
- ♫ The presenter's ability to deliver quality programs was rated as excellent (42%), very good (50%) and good (8%)
- ♫ Variance was noted in participant experience given that respondents reported the content's pitch being well above (25%), above (25%), equivalent (25%), below (17%) and well below (8%)
- ♫ Participants rated their level of participation as very high (17%), high (58%) and good (25%)
- ♫ This presentation was provided at a cost of 25\$ (RMT's) and \$20 (students). Participants rated the workshop in terms of value for money, being excellent (50%), very good (33%), good (0) and OK (8%)
- ♫ Positive comments were received overall in terms of the venue, catering and registration process
- ♫ Some disparity was noted with regard to how the workshop matched its advertised description. Raters and comments included exactly (17%), very well (58%), well (8%), fairly well (8%) and poor (8%)
- ♫ In overall quality, the respondents rated the workshop as excellent (42%), very good (42%), good (8%) and OK (8%)

### Recommendations

- ♫ As the presenters were rated highly in terms of knowledge and ability to deliver quality programs, they should be kept in mind for future presentations
- ♫ Professional development should bear the quality of raising skill levels. As 50% of respondents reported that the content was at or below their level of expertise and has been relayed in the form of further comments and suggestion, further training from these presenters at a higher level may address the needs

## Chairperson's Report continued...

of more experienced RMT's. As workshop fees were acceptable, a further session for advanced practitioners with one presenter may facilitate this need

From the above reports and resounded in our feedback forms is an indication of what you would like to see in terms of professional development. Members have asked for:

- ♫ More PD focussed on the MT with advanced skills & expertise
- ♫ More Counselling
- ♫ Workshops given by other therapists (dance, drama, movement, voice...)
- ♫ Music skills continuing development, Practical guitar skills
- ♫ Grant application writing
- ♫ Research i.e. Barbara Wheeler
- ♫ Breakfast Meetings

### Guitar Workshop with Professor Robert Krout

I will be presenting these reports to our committee meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 and will hopefully be able to share news on its development in the near future. In the mean-time, I am pleased to advise that Professor Robert Krout who is currently teaching students at the University of Queensland will be teaching an evening workshop in guitar and improvisation for RMT's on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Please watch your email for more information.

### The Richard Thompson Award

I have the honour to report that on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 Tania Bailil-Lozoya (Assistant Chair) and myself travelled to Sippy Downs on Queensland's Sunshine Coast to present the first 'Richard Thompson Award for Peer Excellence in Music Therapy'. Inaugurally presented to Richard himself, this award serves to recognise Richard's outstanding service to the profession. Until his retirement in 2007 following pro-

gression of motor neurone disease Richard has maintained the profile of a prolific and valuable writer/presenter and exponent of music therapy, covering a wide range of topics at both National conference and World Congress forums. His work has been widely disseminated in a range of forms including the Australian Journal of Music Therapy and various Nordoff-Robbins publications. Those having attended the World Congress in Brisbane will have been delighted with his piano skills and more recently, we have Richard to thank for our magnificent 4 page colour aged care brochure released at the National Conference in 2008.

With Richard's permission and demonstrated service benchmark, AMTA-QLD will be able to perpetuate this award to recognise other individual RMT's from time to time.

Before I finish, I would like to thank the members of our AMTA-QLD, who work behind the scenes to ensure you as the member receive local AMTA support. In order to serve you best, we rely on you to read and reply if asked, to mail-outs/ surveys / emails received. Whilst we endeavour to serve all, we can only hear the needs of those who speak out and hope that these generalise to the full membership.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the recent establishment of a State Branch in South Australia, and congratulate Carolyn Hart (Chair) and Alison Vawser (Secretary) of AMTA-SA. I wish them well and offer any help required as they develop their Branch and profession in South Australia.

Warm regards,

Rob McGrigor  
Chair AMTA-QLD



## How do you feel about your counselling skills?

The call is out for those interested in attending an advanced, day-long counselling workshop **especially designed for experienced RMT's...**

If you consider yourself an experienced RMT and you are interested in such a workshop, please contact Rob McGrigor via

Email: [robmcgrigor@bigpond.com](mailto:robmcgrigor@bigpond.com)

**OR**

Post: Rob McGrigor, Chair AMTA-QLD  
PO Box 18053  
Clifford Gardens Q 4350

*Please include your name, years of experience as a RMT, and specific topics or skills you would like to see covered in such a workshop...*

## Inaugural Presentation of the 'Richard Thompson Award for Peer Excellence in Music Therapy'

It is an honour indeed to report, something like this:  
On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 Rob McGrigor (Chair) & Tania Balil-Lozoya (Assistant Chair) travelled to Sippy Downs on Queensland's Sunshine Coast to present the first 'Richard Thompson Award for Peer Excellence in Music Therapy'. Inaugurally presented to Richard himself, this award serves to recognise Richard's outstanding service to the profession.

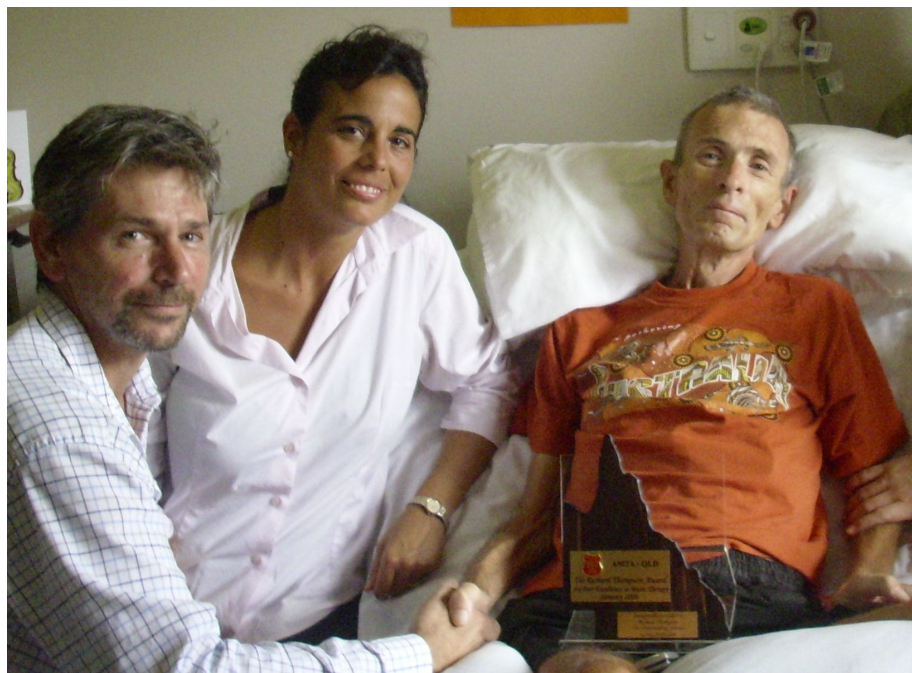
Originally from Darwin in the Northern Territory, Richard's academic achievements include a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Psychology (ANU 1979), Graduate Diploma in Music Therapy (Victoria College, Melbourne 1982) and Master of Music Therapy (Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre - London City University 1997). Having worked in the fields of both psychology and music therapy, Richard (who retired in 2007 following progression of motor neurone disease) relates a vast clinical experience of 25 years benefiting those experiencing or requiring aged and frail-aged care, dementia, autism, children with emotional and or learning difficulties, hearing and speech impairment, head injuries, rehabilitation, oncology and mental health issues.

Not limiting himself to clinical work, Richard has worked as a part-time lecturer/adviser for the Music Therapy Department at the University of Queensland and taken active roles within the AMTA as past Chair of Government Relations Committee AMTA (2005); Member of National Council; Vice President of QLD branch of AMTA (1993-1995); Chair of AMTA National Ethics Committee (1991-1992) and Secretary QLD branch of AMTA (1987-1991)

Throughout his extensive career Richard has maintained the profile of a prolific and valuable writer / presenter and exponent of music therapy, covering a wide range of topics at both National conference and World Congress forums. His work has been widely disseminated in a range of forms including the Australian Journal of Music Therapy and various Nordoff-Robbins publications. Those having attended the World Congress in Brisbane will have been delighted with his piano skills and more recently, we have Richard to thank for our magnificent 4 page colour aged care brochure released at the National Conference in 2008.

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Rob McGrigor  
Chair, AMTA-QLD



Richard Thompson being presented with the first 'Richard Thompson Award for Peer Excellence in Music Therapy' by Rob McGrigor & Tania Balil-Lozoya on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.





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We're on the web!  
[www.austmta.org.au](http://www.austmta.org.au)

## An opportunity for music therapists and their friends to relax, de-stress and enjoy music...

I have just recently set up in private practice & have a room in the Urban Retreat in Latrobe Terrace, Paddington. I am currently doing the Grad Dip GIM at Melb Uni & am looking for interested people to participate in a series of GIM sessions at heavily reduced rates (to be subjects for my assignments). Please note, the identity of participants would remain private and naturally the sessions are to benefit the happy volunteer first and foremost, not me.

If you are interested or know of anyone who may be, please phone me on 0421 704 338 as soon as possible.

Regards Meran McKenzie (RMT)



### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are in the process of compiling a registry of Queensland RMTs with details about different group programs you may run, volunteers for supervision opportunities etc.

Stay tuned for more details!

### **Special Education SIG**

If anyone is interested in being in the special education interest group please email Karen Finter at [kfinter@internode.on.net](mailto:kfinter@internode.on.net) to register your interest (even if you think you are on the list already)!

Our first meeting of the year will be in the beginning of term 2... sorry for the late start!!!

**Next Issue Due :** end of May 2009

**Please email contributions to either:**

Vanessa Solomon: [vanessagsolomon@gmail.com](mailto:vanessagsolomon@gmail.com) **OR**

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