

Interview

This little bag of dreams: An interview with Joy Schmidt about ANZJAT a decade on

In celebration of ANZJAT Volume 10, Toril Pursell interviewed Joy Schmidt, ANZJAT's inaugural editor and in later years, book review editor.

On a brisk and rainy winter evening we sit by the kitchen window in her warm and inviting home, sipping coffee. We glance at a cardboard box full of original ANATA newsletters dating back to the early 1990s and original printers' proofs from ANZJAT 2006. As we talk, Joy shares her experiences and enthusiasm for the journal. She reflects on the lead-up to the publication of the first ANZJAT, how the journal has developed since, and considers future demands, challenges and possibilities.

Keywords

ANZJAT, publication, production, editor, peer review, arts therapy literature.

Toril Pursell: *I found my copy of ANZJAT Volume 1 from 2006 and recalled receiving a copy at my first ANZATA Conference when I had returned to Australia to pursue studies in art therapy. I was so pleased at the time to have a hard copy of the journal that covered work from both Australia and New Zealand, that I read it front to back. Here is an image of my rather worn copy. Looking at it now, what thoughts does it evoke?*

Joy Schmidt: A worn, well-read copy is good. It is wonderful that the journal inspired you at this point. I certainly value my 2006 copy, as I do all the issues. But when I look at that first rather colourful ANZJAT copy, I feel a deep satisfaction that the idea of a journal became a reality. Possibly since the beginning of the organisation there had been notions of a professional journal as distinct from a newsletter, and I think the time was right. I am pleased that I was the person at that time and that the move was supported by the membership. For me this was a worthwhile and important task, and a productive use of time

and energy spent towards supporting the art therapy profession.

I have the printers' proofs of the 2006 ANZJAT, which a printer would normally have thrown out. These proofs could be stored in archives if there were such a place, but the art therapy association is 'gypsy-like' in its lack of a permanent home. We need more than a post box in Glebe – ideally we need a benefactor to bequeath us a house – perhaps in Jolimont or some such place!

I also feel satisfied with the content of the first journal – an eclectic mix – and it was appropriate to have a history of the organisation written by Annette Coulter in this first publication. A number of pioneer art therapists contributed, with a balance of newer practitioners also. Those who agreed to participate as advisors and reviewers reflected the range of art therapists from the beginning of art therapy in Australia to recent graduates, all willing to support the idea of a journal to bring about the realisation of a significant milestone in our association.