



## Editorial: Take a deep breath and dive in...

Stacey Bush *The MIECAT Institute, Melbourne, ANZJAT Co-Editor*

Deborah Green *Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design, ANZJAT Co-Editor*

Deb Green and I (Stacey Bush) are both new to the editorial team and have both cut our editorial teeth on this twelfth issue of *ANZJAT*. Tasked with writing this editorial, Deb and I embark on a long-distance collaboration, Deb in Christchurch, New Zealand and me in Melbourne, Australia. The idea of writing this as a conversation, of sharing our resonances to the work featured, is our starting point. Separately we immerse ourselves in the rich offerings of this issue and write a response to them. I send my response to Deb, feeling a little uncertain.

*I receive Stacey's creation with held-breath. I've begun my own tentative groping towards editorial musings but am nervous... Stacey's woven words, layered image and spacious poem offer resonant threads... And it emerges that our responses share a similar birthplace in uncertainty and as a result hold a sense of our humanness. I love this.*

I receive Deb's response; her beautifully evocative, warm, soul full, and grounded words fill me with a sense of ease. We find that the two responses sit together well and in their difference complement each other. We have email conversations and Skype conversations, back and forth in a process of finding a place to land this editorial. We offer you here a story of this issue of *ANZJAT*. Take a deep breath.

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Diving in, I begin with looking at the diversity of works that are brought together in this edition. I begin to see some threads, some patterns that connect the writings. There is a thread that speaks of our being together on planet earth,

the importance of relational connection with land, with the natural world, and with each other. Alongside this I see another thread which speaks to the disruption of these relationships, of disconnection, fragmentation and destruction. Yet another thread speaks to the value of making art to explore and make sense of our lived experiencing. These threads work together to explore ways and contexts in which the arts, both in and as therapeutic practice, can work to lead us towards re-connecting and wellness. A poetic response to this body of work begins to bubble forth.

Being in world

*Being with and in*

*What is that space*

*Between*

*The being with and being in*

*Our planet earth*

*Our land*

*Our place*

*Each other*

*I imagine a dynamic and relational space*

*A space which calls for dialogue beyond the purely verbal*

*Holding, helping, honouring*

*Together in multimodal conversations*

*In dance*

*In collage*

*In community painting*

*In research inquiry*

*In groups*

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