



Creative Therapies Association of Aotearoa

March 2006 Newsletter

Dear CTAA Members,

After a long, summer break that hopefully has been DELICIOUS for all of you, the steering committee has swung back into action, making sure that your Creative Therapies Organisation continues to grow and blossom.

Conference - Past



Looking back over last year, the highlight for us most certainly was the one day conference that we hosted at AUT in Auckland. The theme: "Travelling Light- How to enable ourselves and our clients to let go of unnecessary luggage from the past" set the stage for a most fruitful, rewarding day.

Here are short impressions from Beth St Claire:

I am probably like many other modern professionals in that I have my fingers 'in many pies', so am linked in to a number of professional organisations. This means I

have the opportunity to attend many different types of conferences... but I never feel as 'well fed' as I do at a Creative Therapies conference.

I think this is mainly due to the type of people who are attracted to a group like CTAA. We seem to be a particularly colourful and diverse crowd with many cultures and rich and varied life experiences feeding in. The workshops and presentations do so much more than stimulating my mind... they inspire, delight and challenge me both personally and professionally.

Our very title gives a constant invitation to be creative, and this comes out in so many ways... from the little details like fabulous feathered and be-jewelled name tags and delightful 'goody-bags', to the bigger frames such as this year's image of travelling light as a feather or the previous evocative 'braided rivers' themes.

I was so pleased to, again, be involved in a CTAA conference and took away a 'goody bag' of wonderful ideas and images, lovely connections with lovely people, and pride and gratitude at being part of such an excellent organisation.

Other participants' comments include:

"The day was encouraging, inspiring and challenging, inviting me to keep going, there's so much beauty in all of us"...

On a "what to do differently" note: several people commented on a desire for more Maori input...We will take the feedback into account for the next conference...

For a longer, more in-depth review of the conference (written by Connor Kelly) and gorgeous photos!!!, please have a look under "Conference" on our new website (<http://www.ctaa.org.nz>)

Conference - Future.



The Steering Committee is currently setting the next conference date. One possible option is to meet again in Auckland, have a one day conference, followed by one-day workshop options on the Sunday. In this way, we hope to cater for different professional development needs.

We are currently looking to do this early next year.

The Website itself!!!

Our most current big project for 2006 is the update of our website for the 21st century. Please visit our redesigned site at <http://www.ctaa.org.nz>.

The new website allows us to advertise about upcoming events!!! So, please, email us information about workshops, lectures, courses and anything else that may be of interest to others so that we can publish them.

As a CTAA member, we also encourage you to join the Forum on the site. Doing this is easy and has the added bonus that visitors to the forum will be able to access a list of our members. It also allows you to post details about upcoming events on the Forum notice board. To access the Forum, simply click on the "Forum" button on the Left Hand side of the webpage.

More information about how to post information to the forum can be found by clicking on the “FAQ” link at the top of the Forum page. If you are planning to use the forum to advertise your event or workshop, it is probably easiest to simply type your advert in as plain text.

General News

We are also currently in the process of publishing another newsletter, so that we can include yummy photos. If you have items for this newsletter, please send them to us as soon as possible.

On a different note, I would like to thank Barbara Eber for all the work she has done for CTAA over the last years! Barbara has been extremely enthusiastic, reliable and “down to earth, let’s get the job done”. I, and we, as a Steering Committee have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and wish her and her family well! - Her husband has accepted a position in Britain where they are currently experiencing a really cold, snowy European winter!

I would like to conclude this newsletter by inviting you to be ACTIVELY involved with CTAA: Let us know what you want and what is happening.... Make use of what is offered (workshops, library, other events...) I and we look forward to hearing from you!

May your year be filled with love and joy, and may the creative spirit move you abundantly!



Brigitte Puls

(Chairperson CTAA)