

## Editorial

This year's edition of the Journal again demonstrates the variety of professional issues that are of interest to our members. Contributions cover: historical topics such as the origins of aspects of our profession in South Australia and Queensland, as outlined in the papers by Shute and Arthy respectively; classroom topics related to selective mutism (Kirkby), behavioural interactions of children in work groups (Gillies and Ashman), the impact of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy versus Rational Emotive Education on children's self-talk, self-esteem and irrational beliefs (Burnett), and the effectiveness of teaching decision making in schools (Drent and Frydenberg); off-campus educational programs (Muirhead), and school program implementation issues (Hewson, Nielsen and Powell); issues relating to guidance training (Franklin, Gissing and Holubinskyj), selection (Beavers), and practice (Dickinson); and counselling issues relating to authenticity (Sanggaran) and suicide (Cantor).

The growing willingness of people to submit papers for publication is a healthy sign for the future of the profession and the incoming editor, Dr Ivan Watson from Victoria, will bring fresh ideas to take the Journal to the next stage of its life. Ivan has already experienced the joys of editing as a previous editor of the AGCA Newsletter, and is looking forward to the support of the membership to assist in the continuing advancement of the Journal as our professional voice.

You will notice in another part of this Journal that we are calling for papers for a special edition of the Journal in the first half of 1996 dealing with the topic "Teaching prosocial behaviours to adolescents". This Journal will follow on from the tremendous work done in the name of the AGCA by Kate Prescott, Immediate Past President of the AGCA, and the National Steering Committee for the project funded by DEET. This will lay the platform for biannual editions of the Journal, further enhancing the reputation of the Journal and the standing of the profession.

I can't let my final edition pass without registering again my gratitude for the contributions made by the following people: Cliff Eames, the graphic artist who produces the high quality product and organises printing; Gabrielle Elich, Greg Field and Robynne Moore who provide the critiques of each article and help me make the decisions regarding which articles are to be published; and Keith Watson, who unbegrudgingly (I think) packages and mails the Journal each year. The Journal would suffer greatly but for their involvement.

I also wish to thank the executives of the AGCA over the years I have been Editor for their non-interference in editorial matters – their confidence in my judgment has been appreciated (however, some may say misguided?). In particular I wish to publicly congratulate a number of retiring executive members who have given long and outstanding service to AGCA both at state and national level – Mardie Whittle from Victoria, Sue Pamment from New South Wales, and Lorraine Wallis from Queensland – well done!

Welcome to the new executive – I trust that they receive the support enjoyed by the previous executive, and that in particular, members continue to support the Journal and Ivan Watson as the new editor. Their wealth of experience and enthusiasm – together with the continuing presence of some "old heads" such as our newly conferred life member, Keith Watson (congratulations), Kate Prescott, Treasurer Royce Herbert, Newsletter Editor Robyn Gillies and WA representative Grant Walsh – augurs well for the immediate future of the AGCA.

Have an enjoyable and restful Christmas.

John Carroll