

# LINKS

An occasional newsletter linking those with an interest  
in Community Psychology

April 2007

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## Welcome.....

**Welcome** to the April issue of **LINKS**, our occasional newsletter for those with an interest in Community Psychology. This issue we publicly welcome Christa Pereira, the anonymous co-editor of **LINKS** since July last year. Thanks to all who provided feedback on the December issue, and also to those who submitted pieces for the current issue.

Feel free to contact **LINKS** with your responses on this issue and suggestions for future issues. General contributions are welcomed and should be forwarded to: [ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au](mailto:ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au)

## A Word from Christa

**Hi** and welcome to the first edition of **LINKS** for 2007. We have another jam-packed issue which takes us deep into the minds of Community Psychologists at work! Brian Bishop and Lauren Breen consider the development of Community Psychology for the future and its relation to the issues we face and our children after us. It also features a thought-provoking speech by Goff Barrett, and a look into emerging Community Psychologists and the light that guides them.

As for me, I'm an Edith Cowan University graduate with a degree in English and Writing. Having completed Cambridge University's *Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults*, I now teach English as a Second Language to students of all ages in Tianjin, China.

After dutifully trying to scrounge up a decent photo of myself, I realized I'm too much of a family girl to be caught on my own by the camera! So I present to you some of the most important people in the world to me in a *very* Australian Christmas setting!



Clockwise from the top left: my sister Bethany, myself, my dad, my brother Jared, sisters Calligan and Amiee-Jade, and my mum. The ball is Wilson.

So enjoy this issue of **LINKS** and be sure to e-mail us with your comments and suggestions so that we can continue to make **LINKS** a newsletter from the community to the community!

## Publishing in the Everyday Media: Am I Naïve and/or Overreacting?

Lauren Breen  
Edith Cowan University

Following on from Anne Sibbel's piece relating to 'off the record' interviewing that appeared in the last edition of LINKS, I thought I would share my experience of writing an article for publication in a state-wide newspaper.

I contacted the newspaper and asked if they would be interested in publishing a piece relating to road safety. I had just submitted my PhD thesis for examination and I thought I'd like to write about some of it in order to 'get it out there'. I then contacted the corporate and media relations section at ECU to make sure it was okay with them to identify myself as an ECU student. They also read the draft and provided suggestions for changes. I submitted the piece to the newspaper and waited excitedly until the anticipated publication date.

To my shock, the published article differed significantly to the one that I submitted. Over 250 words had been removed from the submitted article. The edit altered the overall meaning of the piece. My original article included the following text:

"Generally, the road safety mass media campaigns are a call to road users (primarily drivers) to 'drive responsibly'. However, the focus on individual road user responsibility is increasingly being brought into question both nationally and internationally. You've probably seen the television road safety advertisement featuring Professor Ian Johnston from the Monash University Accident Research Centre. Back in 1992, Professor Johnston claimed in the World Journal of Surgery that, "...the road user population comprises sociopaths, underachievers, the infirm, children – the entire normal distribution of both skills and personalities – that exists in the population at large. If we can indeed convert the road user population to "responsibility" we will have unlocked the secret to curing almost all of society's ills". Accordingly, appealing to road users to act 'responsibly' is likely to have little impact, if any, on changing their behaviour."

All of the above was omitted from the published article, and there were other text alterations as well as changes to the title and my bio, all of which seriously changed the meaning of the piece. I intended the piece

as a critique against the trend for road safety measures to focus on attempts to ask road users to be responsible. Instead, I have wondered whether or not the newspaper omitted any reference to my original intention in order to support their agenda. At the time of publication, the newspaper was encouraging readers to sign an on-line road safety pledge. They included a photo of a smashed up car and information about the pledge alongside my article, as though I was in support of such campaigns and representations, when the original article was actually *critical* of them.

After discussing my concerns with a colleague, Anne Sibbel, I decided to contact ECU Corporate Relations to clarify whether or not I was overreacting about the changes. They replied that, although there were some changes to the submitted article, the published article retained the overall key themes in my original release.

I then contacted the newspaper and outlined my concern that the essence of the article was misrepresented and the authenticity of the article was not retained, which in my mind is unethical. The newspaper assured me that there was no attempt on their part to misrepresent my article.

I have decided not to make a formal complaint through the Australian Press Council, which is the self-regulatory body of the print media. I guess, at the moment anyway, I'm debating whether or not I am 'wrong' because the newspaper and ECU Corporate Relations believe that the meaning was not altered significantly and therefore the newspaper was not acting unethically. I've wondered if I'm being a bit 'precious' about someone changing my words? Perhaps it highlights the differences in ethical standards between differing disciplines?

Incidentally, this is not the first time my words have been altered in the press. A few years ago I did a telephone interview for an article on road safety that was published in a community newspaper. The journalist (unwittingly) changed the phrase 'negligent drivers' to 'negligible drivers', which of course completely altered my point!

Hopefully, my experiences provide some food for thought for those of you thinking of everyday print media as a way of getting your message 'out there'. Perhaps I was naïve, but I thought it reasonable to assume that if I provided something with my name on it, it would be published as submitted, or perhaps with just minor editing for grammar and clarity. I'm keen to hear your opinions on whether or not I am overreacting, as well as your experiences of working with the print media.

## Call to Readers!

Due to an increased interest in the relationship between Community Psychology and the media, **LINKS** invites you to share your thoughts and experiences.

Please send any correspondence to Amiee-Jade Pereira at [ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au](mailto:ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au).

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## Community Psychology Input into Natural Resource Management

**Brian Bishop**

Community psychology's development has been based on some core concepts and ecology is a fundamental one. While we have been looking at social ecology since 1965, we have been relatively unconcerned with physical ecology. One exception has been Geoff Syme and a unit he developed at CSIRO. Geoff has been concerned with water issues well before it was fashionable, and well before social sciences were recognised as having a role to play in Natural Resource Management (NRM). Geoff recalls the day when he was relatively new at CSIRO and when he was asked to stay at home in order to avoid CSIRO having to admit it had employed a psychologist to a visiting federal parliamentary panel. In the following two decades Dr Syme and his team at the Australian Research Centre for Water in Society (ARCWIS) have increased the recognition of community psychology among environmental scientists.

The centrality of human issues is now recognised by planners and scientists in environmental issues. For example, ARCWIS, now run by Blair Nancarrow, is conducting research in Goulbourn on the issue of reusing waste water. Blair has been pointing out to planners and scientists that scientific information about the safety of recycled water does not affect people's behaviour, unless there is trust in government and science. The community psychological aspect of the research has been the emphasis on understanding people's behaviour, rather than concentrating on the safety of the water. By defining the behaviour and looking at community perceptions of risk, trust in authorities, and the emotional reactions to recycled waste water, more effective water management strategies can be developed.

ARCWIS has been at the forefront of investigating community participation, volunteerism, community conceptualisations of catchment management, water demand management, household water use, social impact assessment, and much more. A current research project is being undertaken in partnership with catchment management authorities in NSW. The program is designed to investigate a behavioural model of environmentally sound farming practices. Modelling of behaviour, and the utilisation and dispersion of information, is being undertaken to allow informed policy development.

The nature of ARCWIS's work is due to change now that climate change is no longer uncertain. The climate is changing due to human activity. The Government's rhetoric of sustainable development is revealed as purely rhetoric. Massive behavioural change is required and this requires considerable input. Even relatively small social change requires good research and astute policy implementation. The large changes that the first world faces will require sophisticated appreciation of the social dynamics that oppose change. While it would be simple to assume that the major source of resistance to change is greed, this is not necessarily the case. ARCWIS research has shown that communities do recognise the importance of environmental responsibility, and will often balance personal needs and social good. An important lesson that has been learned is that if you underestimate the community, change will not occur. Planners and politicians are often their own worst enemies as they assume much lower levels of collective willingness to address environmental issues and overestimate the levels of self-interest in the community. It is often the lack of understanding of the dynamics of social life that create declining trust in government and cynicism about political motivation. The best environmental policies will be threatened with failure if there is a lack of research, and transparent participation of policy makers and the community. ARCWIS have demonstrated that good community psychological research is invaluable in providing the understanding of, and equitable dealing with, community.

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## Where Are They Now?

At the request of **LINKS'** avid readers, we would like to hear from past Community Psychology students to find out what they've been up to since graduating. Jot down your tale and forward it to AJ: [ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au](mailto:ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au)

# The 10th Anniversary of the School of Psychology and Farewell to Associate Professor Lisbeth Pike

Amiee-Jade Pereira

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March I had the pleasure of attending the ECU School of Psychology cocktail function. The event was held to celebrate the School's 10 year anniversary, and also to officially farewell Lis Pike who is retiring to the south west of W.A.

It was lovely to see so many guests who had supported the School over the years, coming together to celebrate the accomplishments that have led the school to where it is today.

The Head of School, Associate Professor Craig Speelman, began the evening by welcoming us to the event and discussing the progress of the School of Psychology, particularly in terms of its current status within the university.

Dr Noel Howieson and Dr John Carroll spoke as original members of the staff of Psychology at ECU, during the 1970's to the 1990's, before psychology became a School within the university. I loved hearing about the origins of Psychology at ECU. I can now really appreciate the work of those before me who have gotten the School to where it is today.

Associate Professor Adrienne Kinnear shared some stories on Lis' early career, and Dr Julie Ann Pooley spoke of Lis' career over the last 15 years. It was fascinating to hear about Lis' determination to facilitate change throughout her time at ECU, particularly in terms of her lengthy involvement as head of the union and her key role in demanding equity for women in academia.

The School presented Lis with some special gifts to thank her for her hard work and time at the university. She was given a beautiful jarrah bench and some cushions to help her enjoy her garden in the south west. Lis was also presented with a photo album with many photos and clippings of important events in her career so she can look back and reflect on her time in the School and University.

Thanks to the ECU School of Psychology for organising such a fantastic event!

## Congratulations to Goff Barrett-Lennard!



**LINKS** would like to congratulate Dr. Goff Barrett-Lennard on receiving the "Doctor of the University" honorary degree and uniform from Murdoch University.

Respected around the world in Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe, and America, Dr Barrett-Lennard is dedicated to challenging the parameters of psychology. He considers relationships to be crucial to human well-being and his latest book, *Relationship at the Centre*, delves into the implications of this concept.

Goff was also invited to give the Convocation Address to the students graduating in March this year. He has graciously allowed us to include it for the LINKS community.

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## Convocation Address

Goff Barrett-Lennard

In Australia *most* of us live in the privileged circumstance of a relatively stable and secure world. But over the wider human stage, deprivation, suffering, or acute danger are the lot of many groups and major communities of people. Our world is so intricately inter-connected that what happens remotely can and often does affect us locally. We live in a world of relation; of relationships with close partners, families and friends, of relations within and between groups and organizations of many kinds, between ethnic communities, nations and other big systems, and with other species and the habitat for life. To me, our world is a living multi-layered lacework of interconnection and relation. Coming to understand how



this lacework of systems works is a huge and vital challenge – as crucial, I think, as decoding the intricate working of our planet’s atmosphere or, even, of deciphering the human genome.

Serious tensions and conflict are part of the visible surface of a great ocean of relationship whose dynamic currents we are only beginning to understand. Those of us with the abilities and good fortune to be graduating today have the potential and I think responsibility to be sensitive to the qualities and impact of how people and groups *are* with each other. I expect you’ve felt, as I have, a *special* ‘climate’ here at Murdoch: a climate of inclusiveness, availability, attentiveness, a collaborative attitude – and related qualities you would single out. In your *careers* ahead, you could choose a path of increasingly resourceful contact with how the people around you feel and think and the worlds of circumstance they live in.

To end my remarks: *Think of the best experiences you have had at Murdoch with your teacher-supervisors and fellow-students. - Think of yourself, as you move ahead, not just as a carrier of this “positive infection” but even as deepening and improving on it. - Imagine yourself as a healer of relations (if that doesn’t sound too far out), at least in a modest informal way, and through this and your specialised knowledge, as being a contributor to a humanly sustainable future for your grandchildren and their children – children who inherit the world you will have helped with others to shape and preserve. - Alone, it’s hard to make a difference; connected, what we have together is more than the sum of its parts. - When we join in relationships that illuminate and empower, then making a positive difference already has begun.*



Goff Barrett-Lennard addressing Murdoch University graduates.

## Wisdom of the Future: Chatting to Community Psychology Students

### Being Happy with Not Knowing...

Mandie Shean



Hello readers. My name is Mandie. I am halfway through a Masters/PhD in community psychology and I intend to have my thesis finished by December 2008. While I am not a perpetual student, this is my third degree and my last (and I promise I’ll leave home after this one Mum). The title of my piece is based on my trek through postgraduate studies. You’ll understand as you read on...

The field of community psychology captivated me during my undergraduate degree with its emphasis on prevention, collaboration and respect for diversity (and some inspirational lecturing by Dawn Darlaston-Jones). However, when I arrived in the Masters program of community psychology, the field became less clear, far less definable, and much more uncomfortable for someone who enjoyed control and clear boundaries.

I didn’t know how to explain the field, and I didn’t know what I was going to be when I finished. They told me I could do anything! This was as problematic as it was brilliant. It was brilliant because there was no limit to the opportunities; but it was a problem because the breadth of choices made it even harder to “know” what a community psychologist was. That wasn’t the only thing I didn’t know. I didn’t know how my research was going to turn out. Nor did I know what my practicum evaluation would look like when I had finished. How could I begin something when I didn’t know what I was doing? Lack of certainty plagued me over my bowl of cereal each morning.

What I came to realise (very slowly) over the next three years is that it was okay not to know. It was the not knowing that made me search out the knowing. I also realised that not knowing is often a temporary state and knowing can occur abruptly after months of not knowing. This is how it was with community psychology. I came to the realisation that community psychology is not a simplistic definition but rather a place where the methods and values of community psychology merge with who you are and what you are passionate about. I'm not sure when I realised that.

In my own research I am interviewing resilient adolescents. I don't "know" what they will say, I don't even know how I will write it yet, but I am okay with that. These amazing young people are sharing with me their life story and how they have made it through insurmountable obstacles. I will eventually write up their views and present it as a paper with my name on it, yet the strength of the paper will come from the voices of the young people who provided me with their wisdom and experiences.

In my last practicum I considered the experience of school chaplains. I didn't know the answers to the problems, so I interviewed the school chaplains about their experiences. From their interviews I wrote a report and made recommendations for local churches, schools and the governing body of chaplains. I received praise for my report yet in actual fact I didn't think of a thing. I didn't know anything. It was the chaplains who had the voice and all I did was provide them with a forum.

As I continue my degree I am learning to be happy with not knowing. As with any new trek, I just have to start out and keep going. Knowledge is within the community and it is within me. I just had to get comfortable with not knowing so I had the courage to find out how to know.

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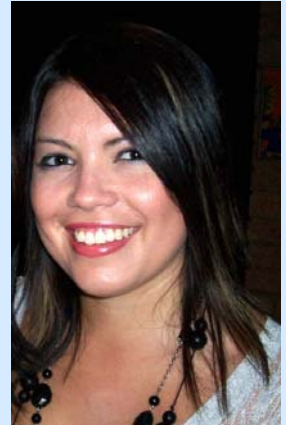
### Asten Paton

My name is Asten Paton and I am a 23yr old student at Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Australia. I am currently in my second year of the Community Psychology Masters program and finally think I can slowly see the light at the end of the study tunnel!

I had actually never heard of Community Psychology, all the way through my four year psychology degree until I attended a Masters of Psychology information

seminar at ECU. My intention for attending the seminar was to find out more about the Clinical and Forensic Psychology program; however I was actually more drawn to the Community Psychology session. From that point on I applied and was a successful candidate in the ECU Community Psychology program.

My current research project is concerned with understanding the experiences of those who are mentors. So much literature exists on how mentees benefit and are otherwise affected by the mentor-mentee relationship, however there is little that documents the mentor experience. This research project is utilising Mindarie Senior College and their innovative mentor program to explore this research question.



I am interested in taking on a more interactive role in my upcoming student practicums, hopefully in the area of minority group advocacy and at risk youth. Ideally I would love to take on some health promotion and preventive education practicums, to broaden my skill sets beyond program evaluations. Previous practicums I have engaged in were with Joondalup Youth Support Services in looking at their mentor program, and also with the Department of Corrective Services based at Banksia Hill Detention Centre where I was lucky to be given many opportunities to learn so many new skills.

Beyond finishing my masters degree I anticipate that I will go abroad and try to apply my skills where they are most needed, such as developing countries where I hope to make valuable and positive contributions. However before I can continue to dream of a role with the United Nations, my priorities lie with completing university this year.

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### Lisa Lemme

I have been a student at ECU now for a little bit over 7 years. I first completed my undergraduate and Honours in psychology and I'm currently in the process of completing my postgraduate studies in Community Psychology. I am grateful that I started my psychology career at ECU, because if I had not, I don't know if I would be where I am today. I remember as an undergraduate student, knowing that I wanted to be a psychologist, but also knowing that 'mainstream' psychology lacked that holistic/systemic approach that I so desired. I naively thought 'there must be something more to psychology than diagnoses and the DSM?' Sure enough, I was introduced to Community Psychology in

my second year of undergraduate studies and thought that this was definitely for me. Everything that Community psychology embodies (i.e. empowerment, social justice, participation, systems approach etc...) are things that I also embody, both personally and professionally.

Now, in my second year of postgraduate studies in community psychology, the initial attraction that I felt towards the field has only intensified. I have been particularly inspired by the prevention work conducted by the late George Albee. I hope to be able to contribute to the enlightening work that has already been done in the field of prevention research.

Currently my research for my thesis concerns children's and parents' experiences following separation. I am examining the exchange of information between children and parents following separation and how this influences their life-worlds. The reason for wanting to research this topic, besides my keen interest in working with children and families, is to hopefully understand how both children and parents can be better supported throughout the process of separation.

The remainder of my postgraduate studies will be focused on finishing my research, completing the rest of my coursework, and my practicums. I am hopeful that the remainder of my postgraduate studies in community psychology will be as enthralling and thought provoking as the 18 months that I have been involved in thus far.

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## A Guiding Light

After chatting to bright and promising young Community Psychology students, [LINKS](#) decided to delve a little deeper into the light that guides them: ECU Community Psychology Postgraduate Program Practicum Co-ordinator Moira O'Connor!

### Moira O'Connor

As a consequence of taking on the role of Practicum Co-ordinator for the ECU community psychology postgraduate programs earlier this year, I have been musing about community psychology placements in general and asking myself - what constitutes a 'good' practicum? I feel that marrying theory and practice is important. I think it is imperative that we provide opportunities for students to develop and refine skills and competencies required by the community college (defined, as clearly as mud, by the college). I think it is important that students work towards social change

and are constantly mindful of issues of equity and social justice.

I consider it essential to try to match each student's interests with the needs of the community organisation or agency. I emphasise awareness of context, whether it be the political, social or cultural context. I value networking (I have been networking like crazy) so that we have a list of placements that students can peruse.

I am prioritising the rewriting of the Practicum Handbook to make it easier for supervisors and students. I am exploring university/workplace contracts and agreements, the need for ethics clearance and risk management issues, as the University is emphasising these aspects of placements. I am trying to ensure that all placements conform to APS requirements. I have discussed with my colleagues, at great length, whether we should consider prior experiences (the consensus was definitely no) and I have tentatively broached the question of whether students should receive payment for practicum placements. Regarding who should get paid, for what and when, there is, needless to say, no clear answer.

However, when community students talk to me about practicum placements they tell me that they prefer to be busy but not with 'busywork' for the sake of it; that they like responsibility but also crave leadership and direction; that they want placements that stretch them but also desire ones where they feel they are making a contribution. Most students want hands-on experiences rather than 'yet more research' and they want to know what it is like to be a community psychologist in the field. The students talk about satisfaction, enjoyment, connection and inspiration.

This discourse, about enjoyment and connection, stands in stark contrast to my orientation and emphasis, and the orientation and emphasis of my stream, on procedures and 'getting it right'. It is also clearly different to the discourse emanating from the college and APS, which appears to emphasise monitoring and regulation.

I ask myself 'Why am I a part of this regulatory discourse?' and I find no reason other than external pressures. I watched a film with my eleven year old daughter the other day. It was called 'Jump In' and was a formulaic, corny film about a young boy choosing double dutch skipping over boxing. It was mush and aimed squarely at the pre-teen, female market. I was, however, struck by one of the messages (please don't leave the page), which was - that enjoyment is important and is often lost in the need to be competitive or 'correct' or indeed in the need to conform in



whatever situation we find ourselves in. I had one of those 'ah ah' moments and mentally planned this piece.

So what can we do to encourage enjoyment and satisfaction (as defined by students not staff) with placements? I think that active engagement with issues that impact on people's lives is a good start. My recent networking has been with people working in local communities and grappling with issues facing these communities. I am also endeavouring to foster links between students from different cohorts. I am organising a series of informal practicum meetings to: exchange networks and contacts, to review placements, for students to give feedback on what works and what doesn't work, to foster a sense of community and, basically, just to share stories and experiences.

I will continue to mull over these issues and to think about the different perspectives we all bring to community psychology. Teaching, once again, has resulted in a great deal of learning.

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## Professional Development and Networking Forum

The Mental Health Association NSW (Inc) and NSW section of the College of Community Psychology are convening a forum for psychologists, mental health workers working in community mental health services, students, and consumers of mental health services.

The focus of the forum will be to provide networking opportunities for professional psychologists working in mental health, students, and community health workers, and to debate contemporary issues in mental health in NSW.

### Background to the Idea

In the 1970s there was a group called "Student Initiatives in Community Health". This group grew out of the need to encourage community health workers to work together. However, professional training and university courses were taught within discipline boundaries so many students found that they knew little or nothing about the skills, ideology and practice of other professional workers. This meant that, in a work situation, there were often problems with workers being unwilling to refer consumers to other professional workers, not knowing what their colleagues could offer. In some cases, professional

rivalry and jealousy severely disadvantaged consumers of the service.

In community mental health settings, consumers need to know that the team can work together to provide an integrated service. Case managers in particular need a range of skills and resources. Social workers, psychologists, nurses, and occupational therapists have specialized skills which can and should be used for specialised programs. A second issue for professional workers is the access to debate and discussion about contemporary social and political issues in mental health. While these issues may be debated at university, many students and professionals find they are cut off from debates outside their workplace.

### Aim of the Forums

To enable workers and consumers of mental health services in community mental health to meet with each other and to discuss and debate contemporary issues in mental health.

### Students

Students in nursing, psychology, occupational therapy, counselling, medicine, and social work may or may not be able to access placements in community mental health. This can mean that new graduates come into mental health services with a limited appreciation of the issues facing people living with mental illness in the community. Community mental health services need to attract good graduates to work in community settings. The forum could be an opportunity for students to learn about issues for people living with mental illness in the community and what resources are available within existing mental health services.

### Professional Development

Psychologists are required to undertake professional development. Getting recognition for professional development for the forums would be one way of making the forums attractive for workers in mental health. Professional workers in mental health have much to offer other professionals, students, and consumers.

### Consumers of Mental Health Services

Consumers have become involved in the planning and delivery of services in mental health. The forums could be an opportunity to share some of the learning from consumer initiatives in mental health services.



The following topics have been suggested so far for monthly forums;

- \* **Medicare for Psychologists: Impact on Mental Health Care in the Community**
- \* **Indigenous Communities and Mental Health Services**
- \* **Internet Support Groups and Use of Telephone Support Networks in Mental Health Care.**
- \* **Consumer Consultants and Advocacy: The Consumer Advocacy Movement**
- \* **Medication and Counselling: Current Drugs Used to Treat Common Mental Health Problems and Implications for Counselling.**

The first meeting was held on 27 March. If you interested in developing the forum idea or giving a presentation, or for more information about future forum topics please contact:

Associate Professor Meg Smith  
Email address: [m.smith@uws.edu.au](mailto:m.smith@uws.edu.au)  
Office phone 02 9772 6299  
President, Mental Health Association NSW

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## Upcoming Conferences

### NATIONAL

*Showcasing and Developing Youth Mental Health Practice: Youth Mental Health Symposium at Technology Park, Bentley, Perth*  
10 May 2007  
Email: Craig Russell at [Craig.Russell@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Craig.Russell@health.wa.gov.au).

*The Women and Depression Conference at Carlton Crest, Sydney*  
23-25 May 2007  
Call for papers is now  
<http://www.womenanddepression.herwill.net/>

*15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australasian Human Development Association at The University of New South Wales in Sydney*  
5-8 July 2007  
<http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/ahda07/>

*Psychology and Indigenous Australians: Teaching, Practice and Theory in Adelaide*

12-13 July 2007  
Email: Kylie Cann at [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com)

*The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Australian Psychology Society Conference: Psychology Making an Impact at the Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre in Queensland*  
25-29 September 2007  
[www.apconference.com.au](http://www.apconference.com.au)

### INTERNATIONAL

*The 2007 Annual Meeting of The Midwestern Psychological Association Division 27: Society for Community Research and Action in Chicago, Illinois*  
4 May 2007  
Email: Debra M. Hernandez Jozefowicz-Simbeni at [debj-s@wayne.edu](mailto:debj-s@wayne.edu)

*Summit on the Practice of Community Psychology at Pasadena Hilton in Pasadena, CA*  
6 June 2007  
Email: Tom Wolff at [tom@tomwolff.com](mailto:tom@tomwolff.com)  
<http://biennial2007.scra27.org/>

*SCRA Biennial at the Hilton Hotel in La Verne, Los Angeles, California*  
7-10 June 2007  
<http://biennial2007.scra27.org/>

*Psychology – Ecology – Sustainability in Portland, Oregon*  
8-10 June 2007  
Submit proposals now.  
Email: Meghan Mix at [Meghan@nwei.org](mailto:Meghan@nwei.org)  
[www.earthleadershipcenter.org/psf/pes](http://www.earthleadershipcenter.org/psf/pes)

*The 19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education in Vancouver, Canada*  
10-15 June 2007  
<http://iuhpeconference.org>

*Nutrition and Nurture in Infancy and Childhood: Bio-Cultural Perspectives in Grange over Sands, Cumbria*  
25-27 June 2007  
Call for papers now  
Email: [ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk)

*Summer Institute on Community-Based Participatory Research at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi*  
26-29 June 2007  
<http://www.hbcufdn.org>  
Email: Gloria Roberts on [network@hbcufdn.org](mailto:network@hbcufdn.org)

*10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Saardhe International Conference: New Horizons for Quality in Higher Education and Training at University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa*

1-4 July 2007  
<http://www.saardhe.ac.za>

*Fifth Biennial Conference of the International Society of Critical Health Psychology* in Boston North Shore  
18-21 July 2007  
Call for papers now  
[www.ischp2007.org](http://www.ischp2007.org)

*National Institute of Mental Health Annual International Research Conference on the Role of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS* at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco, California  
25-27 July 2007  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/scientificmeetings/hivaids2007.cfm>

*European Health Psychology Society Conference: Health Psychology and Society* at Maastricht University, The Netherlands, with satellite events at Hasselt University, Belgium  
15-18 August 2007  
<http://www.ehps2007.com>

*An Interim Conference: "Paradigms and Paradoxes" Issues in Primary and Secondary Trauma* at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, UK  
6-7 September 2007  
Email: Liz Kelly at [ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk)  
<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/healthconf>

*Community Psychology UK Annual Conference: Sharing Spaces and Places* at York St John University in York, UK  
13-14 September 2007  
Call for papers now  
Email: Dr Jacqui Akhurst on [j.akhurst@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:j.akhurst@yorks.ac.uk)  
[http://www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page-\\_ID=4116](http://www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page-_ID=4116)

*Integrating New Migrants in the New Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology* in Sevilla, Spain  
19-21 September 2007  
<http://www.migrantintegration.org/seminar/>

*The 2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference* in Chicago, Illinois  
5-9 March 2008  
Email: Linda Forrest on [forrestl@uoregon.edu](mailto:forrestl@uoregon.edu) or Laura Palmer on [palmerla@shu.edu](mailto:palmerla@shu.edu)

*2nd International Conference on Community Psychology: Building Participative, Empowering and Diverse Communities (Visioning Community Psychology in a World-Wide Perspective)* in Lisbon.  
4-6 June 2008  
Email: Associate Professor José Ornelas on [jornelas@ispa.pt](mailto:jornelas@ispa.pt)

Thanks to everybody who forwarded the information on the conferences above. Please continue to send in information on conferences and events for inclusion in [LINKS](#).

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## APS College of Community Psychologists NEWS AND UPDATES

**Dawn Darlaston-Jones**  
Chair, WA Branch APS College of Community Psychologists

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### HBF Wellness Benefit

Recently, HBF announced that it intended to offer members access to specialist psychology services under its new *Wellness* scheme. This means that if you are a registered psychologist with a *Specialist Title* in W.A. you can register as a provider with HBF. Clients with the appropriate level of cover will be entitled to claim a rebate for their fees.

Currently there is no specialist title for community psychology in W.A. and, therefore, practitioners are prevented from applying for provider status with HBF under this new initiative. The W.A. branch (with the support of the national college committee) will lodge an application for specialist title with the State Registration Board at their next meeting in April. If you are a community practitioner providing services at individual or group level stay tuned for developments on this issue.

### New National Chair

Heather Gridley, who has occupied the role of Chair for the National Committee for the past 3 years, recently accepted a part time position with the APS as Manager of Social Issues (this is in addition to her academic role at Victoria University). As a result it was necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of the National Committee to elect a new interim Chair. I am pleased to say that Grace Pretty was elected unopposed and will hold the position until the scheduled election in October this year.

### College Membership Subsidies Available to W.A. Postgraduate Students

One of the primary barriers to student membership of the College that I hear about is the cost associated with joining the APS. As most of you know, student membership to any APS College is free but the catch is that you need to first be a student member of the APS at a cost of \$108.75. For some, this cost is prohibitive and therefore prevents many students

from joining their College.

In order to address this, the W.A. branch held a fund-raising event last year at a local watering hole. Neil Drew and his fantastic blues band volunteered to play a few sets and the Claremont Hotel provided the venue free of charge, which enabled us to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of excellent music, social interaction, and to raise money in the process. These funds are available to support W.A. postgraduate Community Psychology students to join the APS and therefore become members of the College.

To access these subsidies, students must complete the application forms for APS and College membership, and submit these along with a covering letter asking for the subsidy to the W.A. committee. There is no means testing and no criteria for obtaining these funds. In keeping with the principles of CP, we do not believe it is appropriate to ask students personal details about their financial situation. This subsidy is available to whomever asks on the basis that if the need did not exist then the person would not request assistance. Obviously we have limited money available at this time but essentially we intend to share it among everyone who asks. So if you have wanted to join the College but couldn't then now is your chance to do so.

Please send the forms to me at:

School of Arts & Sciences  
University of Notre Dame  
PO Box 1225  
FREMANTLE 6959

**OR** hand them to your Postgrad student rep AJ Pereira. The committee intends to continue raising funds for initiatives such as this and encourages students and staff to support these events. Hopefully we can twist Neil's arm and have the band play for us again – they are really good and well worth hearing live! Alternatively, if anyone else has ideas for fundraising events please contact any of the committee members.

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## Useful Contact Details

### WA Community College Committee Contacts

**Chair:**

Dawn Darlaston-Jones - ddarlaston-jones@nd.edu.au

**Co-secretary:**

Anne Sibbel - asibbel@westnet.com.au

Neil Drew - ndrew1@nd.edu.au

**Co-treasurer:**

Sharon Van Der Graaf -

Sharon@creatingcommunities.com.au

Diane Broderick - d\_broderick@westnet.com.au

**General Committee Members:**

Goff Barratt-Lennard - gt\_barrett-lennard@inet.net.au

Di Costello - dcostello@nd.edu.au

Lynne Cohen - l.cohen@ecu.edu.au

Marian Cook - scook6@bigpond.net.au

**ECU Postgraduate Student Representative:**

Amiee-Jade Pereira - ajpsychlists@westnet.com.au

### APS College of Community Psychologist website:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/units/colleges/community/>

### CommPsych: Australian Based Community Psychology e-discussion List

To Subscribe/Unsubscribe to/from the CommPsych List:

Visit this website and follow the instructions:

<https://lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/commpsy>

Email the Commpsy mailing list:

[Commpsy@lists.curtin.edu.au](mailto:Commpsy@lists.curtin.edu.au)

### COMMUNITYPSYCHUK: UK Based Community Psychology e-discussion List

To unsubscribe or to change your details visit the website:

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/>

COMMUNITYPSYCHUK.HTML

For any problems or queries, contact the list moderator

[rebekah.pratt@ed.ac.uk](mailto:rebekah.pratt@ed.ac.uk)