

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This issue of the journal has been a long time emerging. The reasons have partly been to do with getting a critical mass of copy to hand, added to by increasing difficulties of my own in being able to meet editing deadlines. An apology is due to those authors who have had to wait patiently for their work to appear in this format and to you the readers for being delayed in having access to their ideas and experiences. The difficulties in being able to do justice to the competing demands of a role of this kind, my other professional activities and running a university department means that this issue will be the last one under my editorship. For the next journal issue there will be new editors undertaking the task.

The current issue has a range of interesting and worthwhile papers. Ulrike Usler-Furkert gives a very powerful and moving account of challenges associated with her own upbringing in post-war Germany and provides an insightful theoretical critique of these experiences as part of recognising their influence on her as a person and as a developing counsellor. Barri Leslie comprehensively examines the literature on the dynamics of exploitative persuasion in regard to cults and provides valuable information and ideas about exit and recovery counselling needs for those moving away from such an experience. Sue Cornforth from CIT writes about the challenges for counsellor trainees of transferring training commitments around biculturalism into their work contexts. Her work colleague, Fran Parkin, examines counselling clients experiencing sexual difficulties and argues for incorporating social constructionist perspectives into ways of understanding and working with them. The increasing prevalence of counsellors being asked to be witnesses in court hearings is the topic of a research paper by Rachael Feather and Margaret Nelson Agee, and their findings prompt suggested actions within the profession that would lead to making the harrowing witness experience less fraught.

The completion of this period as journal editor represents, for me, the second time that I have arrived at this point. My first stint in the role was as the foundation editor over the period 1976-79, which seems and is such a long time ago. At that point I was a new counsellor educator at the University where I still am and the Association (New Zealand Counselling and Guidance Association at that time) had just over 100 members. A reading of 'Pieces of Silver'<sup>1</sup> (Hermansson, 1999) about that period highlights a number of quite stimulating challenges and the rather close knit community of counsellors that existed at that time. My recollection of the editing task was that it involved receiving typewritten papers, going through them to make hand-written changes and re-working these at length with the author(s) to arrive at a final draft. At that point the work was sent to a production typist and the final copy was completed, painstakingly proof read and then sent to the printer for type setting. Nowadays there is around 2,500 members in NZAC. The task is built around working direct to computer, eventually even printing off camera-ready copy,

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<sup>1</sup> Hermansson, G.L. (1999). *Pieces of silver: Twenty five years of the New Zealand Counselling & Guidance Association/ New Zealand Association of Counsellors*. Hamilton, NZ: NZAC

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which is sent, along with a disk copy to the printer. The technology has changed but many of the demands remain. One cannot help but ponder what the editor and authors will need to do some 20 years from now!

In finishing my second period in this role I would like to thank everyone who has been of assistance over the past few years and to wish the incoming editors all the best as they pick up the duties involved in processing papers to the point of publication.

**Gary Hermansson**  
**Editor**