

A Decade of Progress

Most anniversaries are an occasion for reflection and aspiration. This is certainly so when the anniversary is of ten years standing; a landmark now been reached by the *Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counselling*. Congratulations to the members and supporters of the Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors!

The publication of the first issue of the journal in 1995 was preceded by a vigorous and determined approach by the executive of the Society to ensure the profession of rehabilitation counselling in Australasia would, in addition to the evident and widespread work of its practitioners, have a vehicle to publish research and best professional practice very much in line with other international publications in the field. The task of establishing the journal was made somewhat easier by the Society's then experience with the *Bulletin of the Society* which had been a publication for some time and presented a mix of learned articles, professional practice concerns, and informed debate. Despite the *Bulletin* having a number of devotees, the need for a refereed scholarly journal was articulated and adopted by the Society. An editor, associate editor, and ASORC liaison manager were appointed (Nick Buys, Herbert Biggs and Michael Hancock respectively), a consulting editorial board engaged, and a host of society members gave their collegiality and support to the venture. The launch of Volume 1, Issue 1, in 1995 was a source of great pride for the Society and a tribute to the hard work of a great number of people. Although many people contributed both then and now to the success of the journal, the effort of the founding editor, Nick Buys, cannot be understated as he set and applied a standard which led to early professional and scholarly recognition of the journal and encouraged the initial and ongoing receipt of quality manuscripts. Your guest editor had the good fortune to succeed Nick as editor of the journal and benefited greatly from his establishment efforts. The present editor, Ross Flett, has not been called upon to note the benefits or otherwise of his preceding editor's efforts which may well be fortunate for the writer. Perhaps Ross will take up the challenge of writing a guest editorial for the 20th anniversary of the journal when the small triumphs of his predecessors can be exaggerated and peccadillos overlooked!

Traditionally a guest editor is allowed a brief comment on an issue of their choice and I'm happy to indulge this custom. I am continually reminded that the rapid and constant change in contemporary workplaces is a challenge for employers and employees alike in several dimensions. The concepts of career and professional development are increasingly 'boundaryless' and are being seen as more the responsibility of the individual and less of the corporate and employer structures. Not only is this applicable to the individual's ability to contribute and gain a reward for so doing, but the individual increasingly has to accept the accident and incident risk associated with engagement in the workforce and play a responsible role in the dialogue. Not only are skills packaged as portable and relocatable, so are the attendant risks. This brings a new dimension to the potential of the rehabilitation counsellor whose specialty has always been at the interface of challenge to the human condition and the potential of the individual to meet and exceed this challenge. Rehabilitation counsellors need skills to understand and expand the workplace potential, interpret and communicate meaningfulness in diverse employment opportunities, and act as honest broker in the

exchange of labour and expertise and employment rewards. The challenge to the profession is immediate and in my view will involve systemic evaluation of the usefulness of previously perceived 'essential' competencies and a significant and ongoing dialogue with participants in the labour exchange markets. Many of the traditional givens of the profession are based on employment and workforce models that are in rapid transition, and a professional update is not only overdue but should outline and adopt a process of ongoing benchmarking for the profession.

Notwithstanding such comment on continuing challenges to the profession, the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the journal is a cause for celebration and congratulations. Those involved with the journal over the years should be justly pleased and quietly proud of their achievements in establishing and growing this quality journal. It has added considerably to the diffusion of research and professional knowledge in rehabilitation counselling, created an awareness in the Australasian environment of the potential of rehabilitation counselling, and given the profession an international credibility that is enhanced by the refereed process of scholarly and professional publication.

Excellent progress to the 10th anniversary; bring on the 20th!

Herbert Biggs PhD, *Guest Editor*