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a newsletter from



music therapy  
new zealand  
Te Roopu Puoro Whakaora o Aotearoa

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## From the Chair

by [Judy Field](#)

Kia Ora Tatou

Suddenly the end of 2008 is in sight and with all of you I wonder where it has gone. This year has not been one of the better years personally and I have been unable to attend to duties of the Chair. It has been when things are not going well that I have seen what caring people make up our music therapy family. The nature of the profession attracts unique people and I sincerely thank Council members for covering my work in recent months. Special thanks to Daphne, Morva, Catherine, Heather and to Claire with the Registration Board.

It was with much regret that Council accepted Catherine Gibbs' resignation during the year.

Catherine works in an area of high demand and her five year contribution to music therapy as Chair and Council member has been highly valued. Catherine has provided valuable support and her forward thinking and great wisdom will be missed.

At the end of last year a strategic plan was formulated. Some very positive work throughout 2008 has been done on the steady implementation of that plan. Linda Wilson, our original facilitator, keeps Council right on task and progress is checked at each Council meeting. Also thanks must go to Linda for her reviewing and reminding – so important to keep us

moving forward slowly but steadily. It is positive seeing steps being completed.

Music therapy is a unique profession and a growing profession in New Zealand. We need to work together to generate financial support and to grow membership to strengthen our society. If you know anyone who may like to become a member please encourage them and get them to contact our Administrator for more information.

Council members are always interested in members' opinions so if you have any matters you would like the Council to consider please contact the Administrator prior to the meeting dates. As Chair I will keep members informed through this column of meeting or teleconference dates for Council and the Registration Board. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

The end of the year is the time to be with families and renew friendships. I hope 2008 was kind to you and that 2009 is also a very good year.

Judy Field

## 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

### “SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AROUND THE WORLD”

by [Daphne Rickson](#)

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In June this year I was fortunate to be able to attend and present a paper at the above conference which was hosted by Anadolu University. The conference was held in the once beautiful Divan Mares Hotel, in the still extremely beautiful seaside resort of Marmaris on the Mediterranean coast.

Many readers will know Barbara Lewis, a previous administrator for New Zealand Society for Music Therapy and now living in

London, who was able to join me in Marmaris for the time I was there. We had a few days before conference to enjoy the Turkish Bath House, shop for Turkish delight, take trips to the Isle of Rhodes or around the bays to lie on or dive off the sides of boats. The weather was gorgeous, and the bougainvillea around the hotel was stunning. When we weren't out on a tourist trip, our spare time was easily spent swimming in the sea, or eating delicious food outside at the plentiful cafes in the village. I was able though to tear myself away from the fun and frolicking to attend conference, and was of course pleased that I did.

Keynote speakers included James Kauffman (University of Virginia), Alan Dyson (University of Manchester), and Patricia Krantz, (Princeton Child Development Institute). Kauffman attempted to address big questions about special education, asking “how would we know if it is getting better?” He posited that we need to be clearer and more precise in our descriptions of students; to improve the way we identify those who need special education; and ensure expectations of student achievement are reasonable – not too high, or too low. He argued that we need more reliable research showing that students are better off getting special education than when they do not. However he also pointed out that well-informed parents continue to choose special education for their children because they see more advantages than disadvantages for them in that setting. While Kauffman expressed a resolve to make special education better – not to just to criticise or discard it – Dyson's ‘social justice’ argument claimed that both special education and inclusive education are limited because of their focus on learners who are identified as ‘special’ or ‘disabled’. He believes that these systems reproduce, rather than overcome, the inequities of regular education structures. In contrast,

Krantz's presentation was supported by the Tohum Autism Foundation. She reviewed three recent investigations which resulted in generalised improvement in joint attention skills, a critical deficit displayed by young children with autism.

In addition to the keynotes and workshops, there were over 100 papers presented concurrently, five or six at a time. The number of conference participants was small – about 300 I think – and many of the participants took opportunities to go on organised or impromptu tours even while conference was on. This meant that there were very small numbers of people attending some very good papers, which at times felt quite embarrassing. Speakers had come from diverse cultures and their understandings and experiences differed widely – the full spectrum of philosophies was adopted to describe aspects of work – and all the ones I attended were worth the effort. However, the papers certainly highlighted for me how well we were doing in New Zealand – more than once I noticed that ideas that we had been working with for some time were being hailed as innovations at this conference. My paper, which focused on an aspect my PhD work and entitled 'Music therapists as consultants to children who have special education needs – findings from four case studies' was scheduled for the last day. I was delighted at the numbers who attended, and pleased to exchange contacts with participants who were keen to learn more about my work and to engage with me in an ongoing way.

I was most grateful I had the opportunity to attend this conference. I am not sure if there will be another – there is no international body to run them, so it is up to individual universities to take up the challenge of organising the event. But if there is, it would be wonderful to be there!

Daphne Rickson

## Tribute to Matewai McCudden

by Morva Croxson

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An early supporter of music therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand passed away in November.

Matewai McCudden, Ngati Kahangunu, Porirua, was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Society for Music Therapy from 1990 to 1996. Together with Puoho Katene, Ngati Toa, she was co-opted to Council so that music therapy had the wisdom and advice of tangata whenua to support its development.

At that time Matewai worked in Wellington where she was a Special Education Officer with the Department of Education. It was from that base that we made connection with her, and she in turn became very supportive of music therapy. One can recall her saying that the experiences within music therapy had the closest relationship to Maori beliefs and practices in the non-Maori world, and we treasured that statement.

Matewai was fun to be with; she had a warmth and gentle sense of humour that put everyone at ease; she loved music and it was a strong part of her personal and cultural life. We enjoyed her company when she was able to attend meetings and conference proceedings and missed her when she left employment in Wellington to take up a post in the Waikato.

In retirement she came back to Porirua. Her husband, responding to our message of sympathy, wrote "Loving Matewai was when my life began. Now that has ended, her gift to us will go on through our five children and fifteen grandchildren". The family message had a printed verse which fits this tribute perfectly. It reads "You can turn your back on tomorrow and live only for yesterday or, you can be happy for

tomorrow because of what happened between us yesterday.”

Matewai, music therapy salutes your gifts to us in the past; they helped us shape our future.

Morva Croxson

## World Federation for Music Therapy

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Music Therapy New Zealand is a member of World Federation for Music Therapy (WFMT), an international organisation that brings together music therapists and individuals interested in developing and promoting music therapy as a health profession worldwide. Anja Tait, an Australian music therapist, has been invited by the Federation to take up the role of Australia/New Zealand regional liaison – a new role in the WFMT. She will hold the post for three years, will be the contact and network person for this geographical area, will distribute information to us, and provide information on specific topics to WFMT on our behalf. Anja is keen to build strong communication with Music Therapy NZ and music therapists in this country, and has invited us to share highlights from our music therapy research, education and clinical practice. Some of that information would then be downloaded onto the newly designed WFMT website. Anja is attempting to raise funds to visit New Zealand early next year, and would be delighted to meet as many members of MThNZ as she is able to, while she is here.

## World Congress 2011

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The ‘13<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Music Therapy: Practice and Research, Exploring Tone, Timbre, and Time’, will be held in Toronto, Canada, from July 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Contact: Dr Heidi Ahonen–Eerikainen at [worldcongress@wfmt.info](mailto:worldcongress@wfmt.info).