Editorial

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This is likely to be my last editorial for The Australian Community Psychologist. I’ve been Editor since 2008 and during this time have overseen the production of 10 issues, including 7 special issues/sections showcasing community psychology research and action on topics including Emerging Indigenous Researchers on Indigenous Psychologies, Fly-in/Fly-out Employment, Proceedings of the 11th Trans-Tasman Community Psychology Conference, Innovation in Undergraduate Curriculum, Resilience, Showcasing Student Research, and Poverty Reduction (which was part of a global special issue on the topic). It has been a privilege to work with the guest editors, authors, and reviewers during this period.

I’m very pleased to introduce the second issue of 2013, which includes two articles, two research reports, one practice issues interview, and three book reviews. First, Joyce Doyle, Bradley Firebrace, Rachel Reilly, Tui Crumpen, and Kevin Rowley discuss the role of Rumbalara Football and Netball Club in promoting Indigenous wellbeing and show that the club is about far more than ‘just’ sport. Instead, they show that sporting clubs can also be a vehicle for bolstering cultural identity, building relationships between mainstream and Indigenous Australians, and the promotion of health and community engagement. In the second article, Lisa Hartley, Anne Pedersen, Caroline Fleay, and Sue Hoffman reflect upon their roles as academics engaging in social action pertaining to asylum seekers. Their discussion focuses on one example of collection action – an open letter – and outlines the ongoing debate about whether or not academics can and should engage politically in times of social injustice.

The first research report, by Alex McConville and Shiloh Groot, follows thematically from Hartley and colleagues’ work as it is also concerned with scholar-activist engagement. In this case, however, the social injustice is the nexus between food insecurity and urban poverty. They provide a qualitative meta-analysis drawing on the literature and interviews with two key informants to provide in-depth knowledge on the complex policies and practices that work to generate and sustain food poverty. The second research report, by Kate Maassen, Julie Ann Pooley, and Myra Taylor, provides an analysis of homeless teenagers’ experiences of residing in crisis accommodation. The authors interpret the findings in light of constructs such as resilience, sense of belonging, and needs.

These papers are followed by the Practice Issues section, which features an interview of Niki Harré by Nicholas Carr. Harré argues that community psychology has so far failed to integrate climate change and its effects into its theories and practices and describes her vision for a community psychology that embraces the connection between climate change and social justice. The interview is followed by three book reviews. Lyn O’Grady reviews Judith Dwyer, Zhanming Liang, Valerie Thiessen and Angelita Martini’s Project Management in Health and Community Services: Getting Good Ideas to Work, Merryn Smith reviews Jon Stratton’s Uncertain Lives: Culture, Race and Neoliberalism in Australia, and Susie Burke reviews Niki Harré’s Psychology for a Better World: Strategies to Inspire Sustainability.

The first issue of 2014 will be a special issue devoted to work, community, and citizenship, guest edited by Charlotte Brownlow (University of Southern Queensland, Australia) Hanna Bertilsdotter Rosqvist (University of Umeå, Sweden) and Lindsay O’Dell (The Open University, United Kingdom). The guest editors invite empirical and theoretical contributions from researchers and community activists around the globe. The deadline for submissions is Friday 10th January 2014. Further details, including instructions for authors, can be found at http://

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Finally, I’d like to acknowledge and thank everyone who works towards making this journal great – the journal’s editorial board (Charlotte Browlow, Carol Tutchener, Shiloh Groot, Anne Sibbel, Meg Smith, and Tahereh Ziaian); the production editor (Anne Sibbel); all the authors who chose to publish their work in ACP; and all the many manuscript reviewers who volunteer their time to ensure the journal’s quality.

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