

## HISTORY OF POPIG: Early Formation and Beyond

by Kerrie Collings-Silvey (as told to Paula Morelli)

*NB: Please read this as a history document 'in progress.' We apologise for any omissions or misrepresentations. Please forward additions or corrections to: [paula.morelli@cggg.act.edu.au](mailto:paula.morelli@cggg.act.edu.au)*

### 1996

In June 1996, Kerrie Collings-Silvey stood up at the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association of Australasia (PPAA) Conference, "Where Waters Meet," in Leura, NSW, and asked if there was "anyone else in the room who would be interested in forming a psychoanalytically oriented interest group in the APS."

Given that the PPAA is made up of many professions, it was not until this moment that the Psychologists were identified en masse when a resounding response met Kerrie's enquiry. There was much back-slapping and bonhomie when Psychologists from four States met to share contact details.

People spearheading the formation at this time included:

#### West Australia

Noel Howison  
John Carroll  
Lynette Clayton

#### Victoria

Ken Heyward

#### New South Wales

Lewis Rumiz  
Tessa Phillips

#### Queensland

Kerrie Collings-Silvey  
Judy Robinson  
Margot Lynch

What followed was a year of these people corresponding with each other and with the APS in order to fulfill the criteria to form an interest group. 20 members were required. POPIG had four States – each with nearly 20 members. Within two years, POPIG had become APS's second largest interest group.

### 1997

POPIG was given official endorsement at the APS National Conference in October by Heather Gridley of the Directorate of Social Issues. Local sections were established in four States (as above) with the ACT established soon thereafter.

The Queensland section held its first meeting on 14th October at which the APS Guidelines for the formation of the Interest Group were discussed. There was a presentation of the Terms of

Reference and a discussion about the possible activities for members. Following this small meeting a call for nominations was sent out and the next meeting took place on the 25th November when a Queensland committee was elected.

Office Bearers:

Founding National Convener – Kerrie Collings-Silvey

Queensland State Coordinator – Robert King

State Secretary – Judy Robinson

Committee Members: Murray Heath, Eva Vasolyi, Margot Lynch, Kerrie Collings-Silvey

### 1998 and beyond

Over time, the POPIG National Conveners came from across the country:

Kerrie Collings-Silvey 1997 – 1999	Queensland
Robert King 2000 – 2001	Queensland
Ken Heyward 2002	Victoria
Bruce Stevens 2003 – 2005	ACT
Giac Giacomantonio 2006 – 2009	Queensland
Timothy Keogh 2010 – present	New South Wales

### POPIG National Conferences

POPIG National Conferences began in 2004:

#### **March 26 – 28, 2004. Brisbane.**

“Psychoanalysis in the Twenty-First Century”

Committee: Giac Giacomantonio, Robert King, Mary O’Brien, Tom O’Brien

#### **November 10, 2007. Brisbane.**

“Being in your right mind - challenging the virtues of ‘untroublesomeness’: Psychoanalytic Practice, Morality and Complacency”

Committee: Kerrie Collings-Silvey, Robert King, Giac Giacomantonio, Sigrid O’Callaghan, Effie Klimsza

#### **November 7, 2009. Melbourne.**

“Beyond Words: Psychoanalytic explorations of identity and body-mind-language links in multicultural contexts”

Committee: Julie Stainmagen, Cecelia Winkleman, Coral Brown, Else Gingold, Ethel Tillinger

#### **November 13-14, 2010. Sydney.**

“Giving the Shadows Form: Evidence-Based Psychodynamic Treatment”

Committee: Tim Keogh, Ursula Armstrong, Jutta Lennard, Rise Becker, Maria Kourt, Paula Morelli

#### **November 12, 2011. Melbourne.**

“How can psychoanalytic thinking help you in your work?”

Committee: Ethel Tillinger, Coral Brown, Adele Carmady, Sue Dain, Else Gingold, Briony Leo, Liza Ng, Karen Perrin, Julie Stainmagen

Some Notes on the founding National Convener.

Kerrie Collings-Silvey began her interest in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at a young age during visits to her Uncle Paul Terry's Sydney home where psychoanalytic books abounded.

Although there was a less-than-welcoming attitude to psychoanalytic psychotherapy at Australian universities at the time that Kerrie attended, she found collegiality in her first job in Queensland Health's Child Psychiatry clinics. The clinics operated on the British system of child guidance clinics, employing a multi-disciplinary approach to child psychiatry including a child psychotherapist.

Kerrie credits a Tavistock-trained child psychotherapist who was employed by Queensland Health, Mrs Evelyn Maschik (now deceased), for spurring on her interest in the field.

Kerrie has practiced as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist for 26 years, and in addition to being the founder of POPIG, she is a member of the Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association, the APS College of Counselling Psychology, and is registered with PACFA. Her most recent interest is in the use of Balint groups for professional development.