
Letter to the Editor

Dear Fiona,

I received the November 1997 issue of AEDP a few weeks ago and was very impressed with the content. Congratulations for keeping the journal going and for producing material of relevance to practitioners!

"Volume 14". I said to myself, looking at the unchanged cover design, "Was it really 14 years ago that the inaugural BEDP got the AEDP up and running?" If I remember rightly, the idea was put to us by David Leach. Leafing through this latest issue and well as through a well-preserved copy of the first (May 1984), I wondered what Stephen Meredith (the first editor) and my former colleagues on the first Board would be thinking.

We established the "bulletin" (we weren't allowed to call it a "journal") because we wanted to publish material of relevance to practitioners. It was our hope that practitioners would write about their practice for other practitioners.

At the time, the Australian Psychologist was indistinguishable from the Australian Journal of Psychology. But we had to struggle with the APS "powers that were" for money and legitimacy and deal with the cynicism about our "low standards" in comparison with those of our academic brothers and sisters. It wasn't always easy to create the institutional conditions that would support a higher profile for practicing educational psychologists within the Society and the profession.

After seven years out of Australia, it is hard to judge how things are now for educational psychologists, during times of structural reforms in education. Therefore, I appreciate the small windows into my past, particularly when at the same time I get access to material that I can incorporate into my current work in a somewhat different professional and cultural environment.

Good luck for the future!

With best wishes

Chris Szaday
Zurich, Switzerland