

# Australasian Personal Construct Newsletter No.35

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**1. NOT YET IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.**

Sorry this is so late everyone, but as some of you know and hopefully the rest of you will understand, life has been rather hectic.

I'll leave other people to give those of you who missed out a more extensive account of the Townsville Congress. I'm not sure I'm yet at the point where I can say it was worth it, but the wonderful letters I've received in thanks from all over the world have helped distance the pain.

Let me tell you a couple of the positive things. Firstly there was general agreement that all the plenary sessions were first class. Indeed three of them I would place in the top ten papers I've heard presented. Here there are three people to thank, aside from the presenters. They selected the papers from the abstracts without being aware of who the authors were. From all of us, thanks to Linda Viney, Nadia Crittenden and Bronwyn Seaborn for doing such a good, risky (and difficult) job.

The opportunities to see the spectacular reef and rainforest areas provided many with experiences they described as some of the best of their lives. We were grateful to North Queensland Conference Travel, and their employees Raewyn Dooley and Hazel Furlong, who provided caring, helpful support to everyone at the congress and the means for many of us to visit some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

The range of workshops offered as part of the congress programme was diverse and of top quality. Usually you pay big money for such stimulation and experience. Myself I only got to go to Tom Ravenette's workshop, the two hours of which flew by in a flash. But I heard positive comments about all of the others, including the pre-congress ones.

Perhaps most of all there was the comradeship as the national barriers that seemed in the past to be fairly pronounced to me at pcp congresses seem to be breaking down entirely. I can only comment on the situation for those of us at University Hall, but certainly the singalongs on the balcony overlooking the lovely garden are some of the experiences I'll remember. I've also got this amazing picture in my mind of Dorothy Rowe cuddling the delightful aboriginal dancer (who can't have been more than 3), as he ran his fingers through her hair. Bill Warren must take a great deal of the credit for creating an atmosphere conducive to this. Thanks from all of us, Bill.

A final word of thanks from me to those friends, colleagues and students who provided me with enormous support in the period prior to the congress, as well as during it. In many cases they had to put up with my blunted sensitivity to their needs, and (much to my surprise) without exception our friendships seem to have survived. This is a tribute to their awareness and tolerance - and I'm very grateful. Particular thanks to Devorah, Nadia, Bronwyn, Malcolm, Toni, the Chris's, Nina, Nicola, Graham, the Barbara's and mum, as well as to those members of the organising committee who got on with their responsibilities with gusto and without fuss.

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## **2. REPORT ON CONGRESS**

"The Xth International Congress on Personal Construct Psychology was held in Townsville, Australia, in early July, 1993. This was the first International Conference I had attended and I was presenting a paper at an International Conference for the first time. This was only the third Personal Construct Conference which I had attended. I was

very excited about attending this conference, and for at least one month beforehand I had positive anticipations of this future event.

I flew into Townsville on the Saturday, to warm weather and immediately met other conference participants. The positive, exciting conference atmosphere, which I had anticipated, commenced immediately, and continued throughout.

On the first Sunday, many people went on a tour to the Barrier Reef, and had an enjoyable day. With 3 others, I attended a wonderful Chamber Music Concert in St. James' Cathedral.

I was presenting my paper at 2pm on Monday, the first day of the Conference. I must confess that I was not 100% attentive to the papers presented before mine, however, after 2.30pm I was all ears! The diversity of papers and workshops was excellent. In fact there were too many interesting papers that I was not able to attend. I am eagerly awaiting the Conference Proceedings. I was pleased to be able to learn so much more about Personal Construct Theory and its applications.

All of the Plenary Sessions were interesting and stimulating. They included the paper some of us thought was going to be all in German, and the last session when the slide projector appeared to have a mind of its own.

The venue at the University was excellent, even though there was some debate about the quality of the food. The restaurants in town were close and enjoyable.

Finally, the exciting presentation of Barcelona, Spain, the venue for the next International Congress, presented a challenge which I shall not be able to resist. All of my anticipations of this conference were validated. I am already thinking of ideas for my next paper.

I would like to thank all of the organizers of this conference for all of the hard work which they put into making it the wonderful success it was.

Thank-you. "

*Julie Ellis, BENDIGO, VIC..*

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### **3. REPORT ON AUSTRALASIAN PERSONAL CONSTRUCT NETWORK MEETING**

The meeting was chaired by Richard Bell.

1. In 1994 no conference as such will be convened. Instead, in conjunction with the **Australian Psychological Society Conference** being held in Wollongong, two one-day symposia will be organised on consecutive days, one on Qualitative Approaches (chaired by Linda Viney) and one on PCP (chaired by Beverly Walker). A meeting will be held on these two days and a social event arranged for the intervening evening.

2. The main item of business was the consideration of the **proposed constitution** for the Australasian Association, which had been revised at the 1992 Sydney meeting. Some comments on the constitution had been distributed for consideration prior to the meeting. None of the proposers of the proposal attended and some further difficulties with it were discussed. It was decided that it would be put to the vote at the next meeting in Wollongong, irrespective of whether the proposers were present to justify the need for such a structure. It would be considered alongside a counter proposal elaborating on the current structure which Beverly would take responsibility for drafting after discussion with interested others.

3. It was decided to apply to the Australian Psychological Society to form a **Special Interest Group on Personal Construct Psychology**. This would mean we would receive funds based on membership, and we could have non-psychologist associates as do other interest groups such as the Woman and Psychology and Psychologists for the Prevention of War groups. We do however need those of you who are full members, associate or student members of the APS to please fill in the enclosed sheet as we need as many signatories as possible to convince the APS Council of the amount of interest in its formation.

**PLEASE SEND BY SEPTEMBER 10 TO:**

DR RICHARD BELL, School of Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE,  
PARKVILLE, VIC., 3052.

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**4. CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS.**

The organising committee of the congress decided that in view of the impossibility of compiling over 1200 pages of congress proceedings we would start negotiations for an edited book, containing selected papers. Will let you know more as negotiations continue.

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**5. DATES TO REMEMBER.**

**5-6 November, 1993**

**First Italian Congress of Personal Construct Psychology**

Verona, Italy

**Theme:**

L'UOMO COME SCIENZIATO?

**Contact Person:**

Bianca de Bernardi,

Instituto di Psicologia, Universita degli Studi di Verona, Verona.

**19-22 April, 1994**

**2nd European Personal Construct Conference**

Germany

Contacts:

Jörn Scheer

Dept of Medical Psychology

University of Giessen,

Friedrich Strasse 36

D-6300 Giessen

or Ana Catina

Centre for Psychotherapy Research'

Christian-Belser Str 79a

7000 Stuttgart 70

**20-24 July, 1994**

**6th Biennial Conference of North American Personal Construct Network**

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

**Theme:**

CONSTRUCTIVISM: BOUNDARIES AND FRONTIERS

**Contact Persons:**

Reid Klion & David Pfenninger,

Psychology Service (116B)

VAMC

1481 West Tenth St

Indianapolis, Indiana 46202, USA

Email - IDU01@INDYCMS.BITNET

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## **6. REFERENCES IN PERSONAL CONSTRUCT PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY - 2ND EDITION**

Gabrielle Chiari has done us all a major service in putting together some 1800 of the scattered PCP references into a volume which he sells for basically cost. He is in the process of revising this for the second edition.

If you have published anything since 1989, or if you know of something that was not included last time or if you are not sure whether it was included or not, please send him the details as soon as possible.

His address is:

Centro di Psicologia e Psicoterapia Costruttivista,  
Via Germanico 197  
00192 Roma  
Italy.

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## **7. "KWALITAN 3.1": THE COMPUTERISED RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS**

From the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, comes the computer program Kwalitan. This program is able to accomplish the many menial tasks of analysing qualitative data, with enormous speed even when the raw data comprises hundreds of pages of text. This enables qualitative researchers to spend their time being scientists instead of searching, counting, copying, cutting and pasting, organising and finding material within files which contain the data being analysed. Kwalitan leaves all the thinking involved in data analysis in the researcher's control but is an extremely efficient and dependable office organiser and filing slave.

Unlike other Qualitative analysis programs, Kwalitan is interactive within all its functions. This means you no longer need to work on paper before computerising your thinking.

It is also very user friendly. Most screens have clear instructions at the bottom and on board help screens are extensive. The pull down menu structure of the program makes Kwalitan very easy to follow and minimises the number of commands that need to be learned. Analysis in Kwalitan is based on researcher determined segments of text which can be any length. This means you don't have to code every line in your text.

Lastly, Kwalitan is very flexible and its functions can be tailored to any of the various models of qualitative research.

### **SOME OF WHAT IT CAN DO**

A researcher could ask Kwalitan to automatically retrieve, display, edit and print all segments of an in depth interview which contain specified word strings.

Kwalitan also allows the researcher to edit raw and analysed data, make referenced summaries of each data segment, attach labels which denote the content of each, and print out all segments which have been labelled as containing particular sorts of content. The methods for selecting segments of data allow total flexibility.

For example, the researcher can use Boolean operators to select segments which have been tagged with one label but not others, or segments selected according to research variables such as demographics. The researcher can also easily alternate between working on the content of data segments and writing memos on methodology, theoretical ideas, each of the subjects in the study, and each of the summary labels that denote the concepts present in the text.

## **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

Kwalitan is written for I.B.M. XT, AT, or OS/2 compatible computer systems with at least 380 Kb of Random Access Memory and a hard disk with enough space to store all your Kwalitan work.

Kwalitan also operates well on any Macintosh other than the Mac plus and SE, provided you use the "SOFT PC" program (universal) to enable your Mac to operate like an IBM system. You will also need an extended keyboard, a hard disk and a 1.4mg floppy disk drive.

## **USER REQUIREMENTS**

Kwalitan itself is very easy to use. Simply follow the instructions for Version 3.1 as outlined in the manuals. Like most IBM programs potential problems are more likely to occur from a lack of knowledge about the IBM Disk Operating System (DOS). For this reason Kwalitan's Australasian Distributor is able to supply the shareware DOS tutorial, TUTORDOS, to complement Kwalitan purchases. Your Kwalitan distributor can also supply PKZIP & PKUNZIP which are shareware programs that allow you to condense and easily backup Kwalitan workfiles if they become too big to back-up onto a single floppy disk.

## **AVAILABILITY**

Until recently researchers have had to import and rely on technical support for Kwalitan from The Netherlands. However, J.D.C and Associates are now the exclusive distributor for Australasian and Asian users. This means both easy purchasing and accessible technical support. This distributorship was negotiated by Julene Denne, a clinical psychologist and experienced qualitative researcher working on a PHD at Macquarie University. Julene has been working intensively with Kwalitan and her decision to offer qualitative research consultancy services and make Kwalitan more available was a direct response to demand from colleagues. As well as negotiating a low Kwalitan price for Australasian users, Julene has recorded her accumulated working knowledge of the program in an extra booklet that is included in the price.





PKZIP, PKUNZIP & NOTES re KWALITAN

POSTAGE (\$10)

TOTAL COST

NOTE: Programs will be sent on three and a half inch double density floppy disks.

Please circle the letter of your appropriate disk drive.

A: B: Other...

NAME.....

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION.....

MAILING ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

FAX:.....

PHONE.....

EMAIL ADDRESS.....

NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF USER REGISTRATION OF EACH COPY.  
THIS INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO CREATE YOUR PROGRAM DISK.

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**Personal Construct Special Interest Group  
sent to:  
and Australasian Personal Construct Group**  
Walker  
School of Psychology,  
University of Wollongong,  
Northfields Ave.  
[b.walker@uow.edu.au](mailto:b.walker@uow.edu.au)  
WOLLONGONG  
NSW, 2522

**Correspondence to be**  
Assoc. Prof. Beverly  
PHONE NO: 042 213653  
FAX NO: 042 214163  
EMAIL: