

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE



As we slide into the cooler weather, and hit the middle of 2024, things have continued to stay warm with ARTA. The Board is taking more bold steps in advocating for our profession.

In May Charlise and Kayla attended the National Aged Care Alliance in Melbourne. they brought conversation focussed on the concerns and feedback from our members to the forefront of this forum.

Charlise, Renee R, Renee S, and Kylie had both face-to-face, and online meet-and-greets with Western Sydney University (WSU) students, who are enrolled in either subjects of Recreational Therapy, or have chosen RT as their Major/ Minor. Bringing awareness about the association, the benefits of student membership and necessary attention to the profession. We have had some great responses and discussions at these catch-ups and aim to continue this engagement throughout the year.

Our Town Halls in May were well attended, thank you to all those to came to the three sessions. Thank you for the feedback and ideas that we can take on board and consider through the growth of ARTA.

Charlise and I met with Leo Di Giorgio from the Allied Health Professions Australia regarding our application for membership. The membership has been submitted and will be discussed at their next board meeting in September. We hope to have further answers for members with regards to the outcomes.

I am happy to announce that Lesley Fox will be assisting the board this year as conference convener. The call for papers for our National Conference is still open. If you would like to present, and have not before, please feel free to reach out to the office with question. We cannot wait to see the abstracts filing in.



**Australian  
Recreational  
Therapy  
Association**

It is that time of year, when memberships are due. Please see an email from the office and if there are any concerns, ensure you get in touch.

We have a vacant position on the board. This is a short term position until the Annual General Meeting in September. If you have ever thought about what it means to be on the ARTA board, and are interested in giving it a trial run, please contact the office. This is a great opportunity for a degree member to gain experience. As a board member, you do hold portfolios and, where needed, develop communities of practice. Our mental health and disability portfolio would be supported by this board position. Please know that all portfolios have overlap and support from all members of the board, you are not alone.

Again, as always, we are only as good as our membership and we are driven by your ideas and feedback. Always feel free to send us through these to the office.

*Renée Smith*  
**ARTA President**



# CALL FOR PAPERS 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## “Choice, Connection, Community”

### Virtual Conference Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Australian Recreational Therapy Association invites abstracts for presentation at our virtual conference. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for recreational therapy professionals, health professionals, academics, researchers and students across Australia and internationally to showcase their work, engage in networking, and critical discussion to encourage growth in clinical practice, research, education, policy and workforce development. Abstracts from a range of practice areas should explore, lead and inform delegates on recreational therapy interventions, service development and current industry trends.

#### Themes

Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract summarising interesting and topical programs, initiatives and research as they align to the conference themes “Choice, Connection or Community”.

**Choice** – a powerful and important component of every interaction, approach and intervention. Recreational Therapists ensure individuals are empowered to have their voice heard, understood, and supported.

**Connection** – supporting individuals to explore, reconnect or maintain opportunities for recreation based on desired needs and abilities.

**Community** – facilitating and curating a sense of meaningful community, unique to individuals.

#### Presentation formats

Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration by the conference committee. Abstracts will be accepted by email until 15th June 2024. Submissions may be accepted after this date with special prior arrangement. As part of the submission process authors are asked to indicate the presentation style they are interested in:

- Paper - oral presentation (45 minutes)
- Leisure bite - introduction of a concept or intervention/program (15 minutes)

Guidelines will be provided to those authors whose abstracts are accepted and these will vary depending on the presentation type.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:  
ARTA Conference Convenor, c/- [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Abstract Submission Details

Abstracts should be a summary of the material that is to be presented at the conference:

- **Microsoft Word** format, Arial 12pt font, **single spaced** type
- Abstract must be clearly written in English and a maximum of **300** words.
- Presentation title
- Preferred presentation format
- Author name/s, qualification, or course of study
- Position and employment details
- Contact details including phone and email address.
- One learning outcome the conference participants will achieve through your presentation

The ARTA Conference Committee encourages submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals, students, researchers and educators, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and community workers.

## Selection and notification

Abstracts will be assessed for originality, quality, relevance and professional interest. The conference committee is keen to ensure that new graduates/early career therapists as well as experienced presenters are included in the conference program.

Receipt of abstracts will be confirmed by an acknowledgement email.

Abstracts will form part of the conference program and distributed to delegates prior to the conference.

## Presenter Registration

Presenters will be required to register for the conference by paying the associated Presenter Fee.

### Key dates

<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	Call for abstracts close.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>	All applicants successful or otherwise will be notified.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2024</b>	Abstract presenters' deadline to register and submit any changes to abstracts
<b>Aug 2024</b>	Full programme available

## Awards

Several awards may be presented during the conference including 'People's Choice' and 'Best first time' or 'Student' presenter. More information to come.

ARTA Award for Excellence will also be announced.

## For more information

Conference Convenor

E: [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au)

[www.recreationaltherapy.au](http://www.recreationaltherapy.au)

Enquiries T: 1300 113 395 or T: 02 9887 2111

Please see below for updated actions over the past month from the Board.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Action:** AHPA application - feedback received indicating recent changes in the organisation. Fees have increased. Pending meeting and notes of changes that need to be applied to our application.

**Action:** Charlise is collaborating with our international counterparts to form an International Knowledge Exchange. This will give us all an opportunity to learn, share and grow our professional knowledge on a larger scale.

**Action:** Website home page revised – ongoing action.

## EDUCATION

### 2024 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

Date: Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September 2024.

Theme: Choice, Connection, Community.

**MEMBER ACTION:** Can't make the date? No problem! The conference will be recorded both days to be watched at your convenience! Register and you will be given access to view the conference up to 30 days after the event.

**MEMBER ACTION:** Please contact the [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) if you are interested in joining the Conference Committee/for more information.

**Action:** Next workshop restrictive practices Judy Greenidge. Please contact the office for more information.

## DISABILITY

**Update:** Assisting Governance portfolio with NDIS.

## MARKETING

**Action:** Keep your eyes out on socials for the release of our conference logo and information to share to your networks!

**Action:** Exploring different merch options for our conference - centred around resource and information building.

**Action:** Sourcing members to be part of the CoP group. Please contact [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) if you would like to join.

**Action:** WSU connection days have been reinstated both face to face and online.

## GOVERNANCE & PROFESSIONAL SCOPE

**Update:** ARTA exploring NDIS eligibility as a profession to support our workers in disability sector.

## CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

**Action:** Charlise and Kayla attending NACA meeting to work on strengthening connection and pushing recognition of our profession.

**Action:** Kayla has completed project on behalf of ARTA with LGBTIQ+ Health Australia. Paper has been completed will be published on ARTA and their website. Keep an eye out on socials and website!

## MENTAL HEALTH

**MEMBER ACTION:** We have an opening on the Board for the Mental Health portfolio. We can be flexible with portfolio leads. This will be until our AGM in September. Please contact the office if you are interested in this interrim position. Great way to gain experience without the commitment of a 3 year term!

## OFFICE NEWS

It will soon be time to renew your ARTA membership! An email with all the renewal details was sent to you at the beginning of May. If you have not received it, please contact the office and we can resend it to you.

See the latest job adverts here: <https://www.recreationaltherapy.au/positions-vacant-wanted/>





AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
NETWORK GROUPS 2024

STATE	GROUP NAME	GROUP LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL	FREQUENCY
ALL	Hospital Interest	Renee Rizzo	02 8738 5557	<a href="mailto:Renee.rizzo@health.nsw.gov.au">Renee.rizzo@health.nsw.gov.au</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2pm
NSW	Sydney Aged Care Interest	Briony Kennedy	0407 972 697	<a href="mailto:artaagedcaresyd@gmail.com">artaagedcaresyd@gmail.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month Hurlstone-Canterbury RSL club
NSW	The Hills	Mary Morris	0404 170 860	<a href="mailto:hillsdiversionaltherapygroup@gmail.com">hillsdiversionaltherapygroup@gmail.com</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month
QLD	Toowoomba	Chris Gauld Lynda White	0428 171 001 0422 789 327	<a href="mailto:Chris.gauld54@yahoo.com">Chris.gauld54@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Lynda_c65@hotmail.com">Lynda_c65@hotmail.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month (5.30pm EST)
SA	Adelaide	Sallie Shippides	08 8389 5030 0419 933 203	<a href="mailto:marsal03@bigpond.com">marsal03@bigpond.com</a>	TBC
SA	Lower North	Lisa Anders	0439 852 523	<a href="mailto:lisa.anders@sa.gov.au">lisa.anders@sa.gov.au</a>	TBC
TAS	Tasmania Network Group	Emma Preston	0452 070 875	<a href="mailto:epreston18@hotmail.com">epreston18@hotmail.com</a>	Online Group
VIC	East Gippsland Remote	Dawn Sulley	0438 560 253	<a href="mailto:dawn.h.sulley@gmail.com">dawn.h.sulley@gmail.com</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Tri-Monthly (Feb - Nov)
ALL	Online Dementia Specific Group	Eira Steane	Zoom meeting	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88358937783?pwd=eDdTRU5lRmNUMjZkTmlBZ3orT1ZNQT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88358937783?pwd=eDdTRU5lRmNUMjZkTmlBZ3orT1ZNQT09</a> Meeting ID: 883 5893 7783 Password: 095285	Zoom Meeting  Second Wed of every month 6.30pm EST
ALL	Associate Member NG	Kim Bromley	Zoom Meeting	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcu2tpzktEtz79RlLeTPy1gk-kMkvTxL">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcu2tpzktEtz79RlLeTPy1gk-kMkvTxL</a> Meeting ID: 862 5459 2788 Passcode: 590414	Zoom meeting  1 <sup>st</sup> Monday every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month 7.00pm EST

Reminder: Cert IV network group recommencing: 1st July. Further meeting dates: 2nd Sept and 4th November.

## Do *YOU* attend your **Network Group?**

*The purpose of networks groups is to foster peer support amongst Diversional Therapist's and recreational activities officers and provide peer level information exchange. Access to ARTA network groups are a membership benefit of Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA). By attending network groups, members are able to use the ideas, skills, knowledge and resources of those members on a regular basis.*

*Only financial members of Australian Recreational Therapy Association are eligible to attend network groups.*

The list of ARTA Network Groups is above – find the closest one to you and get in touch – they will warmly welcome a new member!

(Free with your membership!)