Thank Your Mother for the Rabbits

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Guest Editorial

Thank Your Mother for the Rabbits

David Hains
Former President, Australasian Solution Focused Association

Welcome to Volume 6, No 2 – a bumper issue, and in many ways the culmination of 4 years of work from Sara, myself, and the Editorial Board.

My association with the journal started in 2018 when I took over the role of President of the Australasian Solution Focused Association (ASFA). At the time ASFA was the custodian of the Journal of Solution Focused Brief Therapy. Michael Durrant had done a great job getting the journal started (and the work he did here must be acknowledged – he did a fantastic job) but production had stalled after 4 editions and the journal lay dormant.

When ASFA was established there were 3 core aims of the association and publishing a peer-reviewed journal was one of these, but I was worried that we were now like a table with only 2 legs. (One of the other aims was to hold an annual Solution Focused Conference in Australasia, but no one knew that another of the legs was going to fall off with the impact of COVID19).

It was early 2019 when I reached out to the Editorial Board to see if there was interest in continuing the journal. It turns out there was, with a unanimous reply from the EB. There were going to be 2 challenges: first was to find a new Editor, and second was to establish a new sustainable approach to produce the journal.

It turns out that finding an Editor was the easiest job, and in retrospect perhaps one of my best decisions. While I can’t take credit for her volunteering, I can say that it has been an absolute joy working with her over the last 4 years. Sara is a wealth of knowledge in both SFBT and academia, an amazingly nice person, and an absolute joy to work with. We didn’t always know what to do, but we managed to make it up and it seems to have work.

Sara was instrumental in taking the journal from a small, printed version, and transferring it onto a free to access online open source through the University of Nevada Las Vegas. We now had a vehicle to deliver the journal to the world. UNLV not only provided this for virtually no money, but they also funded an opportunity for a student to join us as Editor’s Assistant. This role was instrumental in building sustainability in the journal production. The JSFP is indebted to UNLV and our 3 assistants Kaitlin Andrewjeski, Rachel Hartshorn, and Rosa Diaz.

The next step for the journal was for ASFA to ‘gift’ it to the rest of the world. This was a project that did not have to be owned by any one association or region, but needed to be considered a product that belonged to the international solution focused community. ASFA invited other organisations, groups, and individuals from around the world to partner with us in both a financial and a management sense. A new International Management Group was established to not only fund the journal but also to oversee its general management and production. By the time of our official re-launch in July 2020 we had both a bank account and a new international collaboration.

The next chapter …

Time does not permit me to tell you about everything that has happened in the last 4 years, but I want to skip forward to the present day. Volume 6 Number 2 is the last Journal that Sara and I will collaborate on. Sara has recently announced that she will be stepping down as Editor, and I announced earlier this year that I will be stepping down as both President of ASFA and as the ‘Manager’ of the JSFP. Sara and I would like to say that we have had a great time producing and building up the journal over the last 4 years, but now the time has come to hand over the reigns to others in the international solution focused community. We wish you all well, and we look forward to seeing the Journal of Solution Focused Practices continue to grow. Our desire has always been to promote the solution focused approach, to publish the evidence base behind the approach, to inspire those who use the approach and those who may in the future, and to unite the international solution focused community. We thank you for helping us on the journey.
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Proud to be a nurse
PS – if you want to listen to a podcast about the JSFP, have a listen to when Sara and I talked to Elfie and Dominik on the Simply Focus Podcast. https://www.sfontour.com/project/sfp-103-staying-up-to-date-the-journal-of-solution-focused-practices-with-prof-sara-jordan-and-david-hains/