



## **DIRECTOR' S CHAIR JULY 2009**

Hi Everybody,

Contrary to the picture in Christine's final email, the Directors Chair at CRU has not had time to sit empty or even to cool down!!

My name is Margaret Rodgers and this is my fifth day as Director. In one sense I am very new to CRU – but in another sense not new at all.

In 1987 I attended the Search conference that generated the birth of CRU and for many years in my work with and for people with disabilities and their families, I have been a grateful recipient and participant in many of the things that CRU has instigated and offered.

I have been a member of the staff twice before - in the late 1990s I worked for four years part time as Co-ordinator of the Leadership Development Program and then in 2003 I returned for another year as a project worker.

Like many of you, I watched with great concern as CRU went through the period of self examination and reflection which led to the year of Transition. I believe this has been a very worthwhile process, and while there is still rebuilding work to be done, CRU is in a better place thanks to the hard work and thoughtfulness of the Management Committee and Christine Douglas, as Transition Director.

I was reading the newsletter from my son's school recently where the Principal wrote about the importance of "Embracing Change yet Honouring Tradition". That sentiment resonates well with me as a timely motto for CRU at this time. Our challenge is to embrace and incorporate the many lessons we have learned and use them as a sound base on which to plan and build for the future.

While this is a full time role, until mid October, I have some other commitments, and therefore will work in a part time capacity until then. From mid October I look forward to being here full time.

I am very conscious that CRU has held meetings in Brisbane to talk through the new Strategic Vision and Goals but has not yet held meetings in the rest of the state. At the moment I am absorbed in the many details of the new role but as soon as possible will start making times to meet with people in regional areas. I don't believe there is an easy answer to how we, as a small group based in Brisbane work statewide. However, as someone who has lived half my life in small towns and regional cities within Queensland I am very committed to keep looking for ways to be useful and relevant to people who live outside the south east corner.

Speaking of creative thinking, I would like to draw your attention to our next workshop, "Creative Thinking" presented by Ric Thompson on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Brisbane (see attached flyer). We are offering this workshop because developing highly individualised support arrangements has become increasingly important to people with disability, families, funders and service providers alike. Often our thinking and response is limited to what existing traditional service options can provide. We can all struggle with imagining different solutions or the strategies to design, create and craft an alternative future. Ric's workshop will provide you with strategies to think "outside the box". To think bigger, better and more broadly. We expect that you will also find the tools of this workshop useful in other parts of your life where you want to develop alternate solutions.

To reiterate Christine's closing words, your continued support and engagement is equally welcomed, appreciated and necessary.

With best wishes

**Margaret Rodgers**