

Editorial

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JOINING THE DOTS: SYNERGY THROUGH CONNECTION

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Connection is fundamental to relationships, for collaboration, learning, and the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Through research we grow increasingly aware of the role of connection as key a driver of health and a protective factor in societal resilience. As social beings, it is through being connected that we feel safe, learn, change, and grow. Opportunities to interact, share and listen enhance learning and un-learning. Connection is both enabled and disabled by the environment (geographical and systems), by technology, and by people.

This edition of *SCOPE (Health and Wellbeing)* Connection provides insights and evidence into the influence of connection in many ways. The photograph on the cover, *Connections, Far and Away* speaks to connection in its many forms – between people, people and the land, people and the animal world, and via technology. The diversity regarding connection in this photograph is replicated in the contributions to this publication through the content of the work and the styles in which perspectives are offered – including reflection, research, poetry, and interviews.

The form of poetry enables three authors to present their work illustrating connection. Rachel van Gorp *Unlocking the Power of Connection* found poetry from her Masters' research emphasising the impact of relationships for the neurodiverse learner's journey. The power of interwoven past-present-future threads calls from Annabelle Forrest's reflective poem *Exposed*, where connection moves from negative repetition to hope. Kerry Davis *The Fob Watch Witness* uncovers the connections between nurses, imbuing a fob-watch with deeply human moments with a humorous and touching series of rhyming couplets whose very rhythm reflects busy nursing routines.

The research of Foster et al. into nursing students experience of working in aged care residences found that a key influence on their clinical experience is the ability to form relationships with residents, illustrating the importance of client connection in clinical efficacy.

Simons and Speirs also present nursing students' experiences through a reflective piece describing a creative collaborative clinical learning opportunity involving child health through partnership with schools and the wider community. Personal reflection is shared by Barclay who describes a hesitant return to football following a significant injury, attributing the pull of re-establishing social connection with the rugby community as a primary motivator.

Synergy that emerges through collaboration enabled by technology is evident in the work of Ross et al. who explore community nursing, community development, research, and education through an international collaboration between four nursing researchers. Their exploration of shared rural health issues across the globe points to connection of humanity itself. Crawley's informative interview with a Canadian nursing academic also focuses on rural nursing and illustrates the places connection can take people in terms of cross-cultural knowledge sharing and the benefits of visiting scholarship.

Brook's fascinating biographical exploration of a family member in the nursing profession post World War I provides a glimpse into nursing training of old, and the influence of connection in the influenza pandemic. The subject is pulled from her nursing training to care for family and her nursing future is through connection rather than formal qualification.

Lansdown's research is placed in our recent COVID19 pandemic and reassuringly found that despite the social disconnection on a global scale, student nurses found their clinical placements during this period to be positive. The COVID-19 pandemic was also the basis for Lasater's contribution, where faith-based healthcare professionals use of health promotion strategies to restore care and connection in a USA environment is described.

Brown's narrative inquiry research explored the benefits of, and conflicts related to connection with animals. Findings include health and wellbeing benefits and the strength of connection akin to animals as whānau.

Autoethnographic research by Olsen et al., explored the research culture within their multidisciplinary inter-institutional research group, using the theme of this SCOPE publication to frame their research. Their conclusions illustrate powerful evidence of the value of connection in terms of synergy and benefits well beyond research outputs.

Joshi and Peiris explore subjective wellbeing in the face of disconnection from several perspectives and conclude that equanimity is the cornerstone of forming connections to whatever nurtures us and is a crucial prerequisite for our day-to-day well-being.

I am grateful to all contributors; this collection provides an insightful and diverse exploration of connection in many of its forms. I trust that you, the reader, will find gems in this publication that influence or inspire you – publication is one way in which connection is formed between now, the past, and the future, and importantly where connection is made between theory and practice.

A thank you is also due to Josie Crawley for her contribution overseeing the publication of the poems with her eloquent eye, and Catherine May for her contribution over the previous three years *Scope (Health & Wellbeing)* journals as Editorial Assistant, we wish her all the best in her new education role.

Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa
Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

Helen Jeffery is a principal lecturer in Te Kura Whakaora Ngangahau\Occupational Therapy School, Te Pūkenga/Otago Polytechnic. She is interested in the use of theory to inform practice, and in the use of adventure and nature-based activities in mental health. Her research interests are professional reasoning, and adventure therapy practices in New Zealand.

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