



From the Chair

Dear colleagues,

Now that you are actually holding the new **ELT News** in your hands, I am delighted to welcome you to our new concept of the TEA publication and to have the chance to bring you up-to-date on what is happening with TEA. As many of you know, Pat Häusler-Greenfield had to step down due to health reasons and we therefore had to rethink the **ELT News** completely. We were able to produce the 50th issue using much of the material that Pat had painstakingly gathered and edited, but we decided that as long as we had a new team that we would go for a new look and a slightly different concept as well. So here we are; Issue 51 with a different look, two new coordinators, some familiar sections and some totally new ones.

During the past year several board members decided to stand down due to a variety of reasons. Eva Rasmussen left the board as she had too many responsibilities elsewhere, Helena Hirsch began a full-time job in Linz and Ulrike Matiegka and Alma Semmler both felt that they needed to step down as well. We were very sorry to lose such committed and energetic board members but due to our call for help we are able to welcome Grete Nezbeda, Margarete Lazar, Sally Kowanda and Axel Zafoschnig. You can read all about them in our article called "Meet the Committee".

There will also be a change in the office as Julia Häusler, who has done a wonderful job of organising the every day details of the office, will be leaving us in November. She has already begun training her replacement, Doris Strauss. If you want to reach us, please contact Doris at the TEA office by using the office email address: office@tea-austria.org

We have also re-launched our website which you can find at www.tea-austria.org. Here we will inform you of events and TEA news. We also plan to publish some articles from the **ELT News** as well as the deadlines for upcoming issues and the guidelines for contributors, provide you with useful "Webwatcher"

links, let you know about discounts at bookshops, etc. for TEA members, and give you a way to keep in touch with us.

As far as events go, we had a very successful 11th Summer School last August in Murau. This was the last one organised by Uli Matiegka. The 12th Summer School will be organised by Grete Nezbeda who has already set the date for 20 – 25 August, 2005. Mark your calendars so that you can keep these dates free. You can read the reports on this year's event in this magazine and start making plans to attend the one next summer. We will keep you informed as to the location and the trainers.

TEA is also going to be present at the BESIG conference in Vienna, which is taking place from November 12 – 14. This is the largest of the SIG (Special Interest Group) conferences organised by IATEFL and Becky Chapman and Charlie LaFond, the organisers in Vienna, are expecting more than 400 people to attend. It will be held at the PIB at Grenzackerstraße, a venue many of you are familiar with from PI seminars or TEA conferences.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the autumn event planned in Innsbruck. This would have been the third "ConneXion" but due to the small number of registrations we were unable to hold this conference. Our apologies again to those who planned to attend and were disappointed by the news of the cancellation. We at TEA as well as our colleagues at the PA in Innsbruck worked very hard to get this conference off the ground, but felt we had to make the decision to cancel it when the deadline for registrations passed and too few people had signed up.

Looking forward to the future, there will be workshops planned in different locations in Austria. We also invite members who would like to offer workshops to send information to the TEA office. Just write up what you can offer and include some biographical information and your contact details. We are trying to set up a pool of trainers and are grateful for your



contributions. We hope to hold a conference next year in the Vienna area and will let you know about it when the details have been straightened out.

The main event coming up now is the BGM which will be held at the new offices of the British Council. This will include a tour of the facilities of the British Council as well as the chance to meet the incoming board. After the official part of the evening is over, we will go to a restaurant nearby to relax and socialise. The exact date of the BGM will be announced by an extra mailing and will be posted on the website.

A number of you have joined our Yahoo mailing list and have been keeping up with TEA and other EFL events by email. If you are not yet on the list but would like to be included, please send an email to the TEA office.

As incoming Chair, I am delighted to have the chance to get to know more of our members and to continue to work for TEA. I am looking forward to seeing a number of you at events, workshops, social occasions and conferences.

With my very best wishes for a successful school year,

Marjorie Rosenberg