



asle-anz



Association for the Study of Literature & Environment - Australia & New Zealand

Issue #4 2007 ASLE-ANewZletter

<http://www.asle-anz.asn.au/>

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A MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT, August 2007

**Kate Rigby**

Talk about the weather: once largely phatic and generally reassuring, this has now become unavoidable and anxiety-laden. For the moment, though, most of us in my corner of the world are at least able to rejoice in the apparent breaking of the drought, even though it has caused watery havoc in Gippsland. Drought, fire...and now flood: a tricksterish trinity that rules much of Australia, neither holy nor unholy, but always a force to be reckoned with. Listening to the largely cheery locals interviewed on the radio, many of whom observed phlegmatically that being flooded out was a real bugger, but nothing out of the ordinary, I was struck by the irony that rural Australians are increasingly accepting such events as part of the normal way of things here, rather than as some kind of quasi-moral affront, just at a time when the climate is moving into a new period of heightened and humanly engendered instability.

The long-awaited news regarding the second ASLE-ANZ conference is ... still inconclusive! What I can report this winter, however, is that the Executive has decided to shift our bi-annual

conference into an alternate year to the bi-annual Watermark Festival. This means that we will have to content ourselves with a simple AGM again this year. In 2008, though, we have two events in store, as our Association will be participating, probably as co-sponsor, in a major international conference on Arts and Sustainability, which is to be held at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in October next year. I hope that many of you will be able to present papers at this important event, so that the varied literatures of the environment will have a strong presence here, alongside the other arts. In addition, ASLE-ANZ will run a separate symposium of its own, probably in Canberra, earlier in the year. More on that anon! In the meantime, there will of course be another wonderful Watermark Festival this year in October, which I trust will be well attended by ASLE-ANZ members.

Last month, some of our members were also in attendance at the big ASLE 2007 conference at Wofford College in Spartanburg, including CA, our nominee for the ASLE conference travel grant, whose report is included in this newsletter. As I have to travel to North America later in the year, I had decided, after some inner struggle, that my still pathetically puny but growing carbon conscience would not allow me to make a second high greenhouse impact journey in the same twelve-month period. So I was delighted to see that it is possible to at least get a glimpse of the proceedings from the podcast that is available on the conference website: check it out! I guess this is another instance of the dialectic of technology: we're going to need to rely on cyberspace more and more, if we want to

maintain our trans-continental connections and collaborations while reconciling ourselves to less and less air travel. Embodied co-presence is always preferable, but as **George Monbiot** reminds us, those “love miles” are just too costly to the biosphere.

One of the reasons why I was especially disappointed not to be at Spartan-burg was that I was one of the judges for the best ecocritical essay written by a current PhD student, and I would have very much liked to congratulate the winner, **Jill Gatlin**, in person. There were over fifty entries for this prize, mainly from the US, but a smattering from elsewhere as well, including New Zealand. It made for some really fascinating reading, and we were all impressed by the quality and diversity of the essays. If I had ever had any doubts about the future of ecocriticism, this would have dispelled them! Despite the fact that Australian and New Zealand doctoral students, unlike North Americans, generally do not undertake course work as part of their PhD studies, I very much hope that we will see more entrants from this part of the world in this and other ASLE competitions in future.

A rather more modest journey that I did make in the first half of this year was to Canberra, in order to participate in an event orchestrated by the Council for the Humanities Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS). HASS on the Hill, as it was called, is designed to enable academics in this sector to talk with parliamentarians about the nature and significance of their research. I particularly appreciated the training sessions on lobbying and using the media that CHASS provided, and I was delighted to have the opportunity to spread the word about the “ecological humanities” and to seek wider recognition and support for this emergent

area of research, to which the work of ASLE makes an invaluable contribution.

Since my last message, there has been some movement on the ASLE-ANZ Executive, so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Iris Ralph** as our new Secretary-Treasurer and **Stuart Cooke** as our new Postgraduate Representative, replacing **Peter Coleman** recently been awarded his doctorate.

Finally, we were very sad to hear of the passing of one of our “elders”, George Seddon, earlier this year, and include an obituary by Mark Tredinnick, below.

**Kate Rigby**

Monash University

### Vale George Seddon

George Seddon died on 9 May 2007 at the age of 80. He was old, but not old enough.

Coiner of the phrase — “a sense of place”— with which we are all, one way or another, intensely concerned; pioneer thinker and writer in the ecotone between literature and landscape; elder to us all in the practice and the study of literary geography and geographical literature; patron of ASLE-ANZ; author of two of the great Australian books of nature writing (*Searching for the Snowy*, *Landprints*); fly in the ointment of conventional opinion; essayist, gardener, professor of just about everything; loving, if exacting, friend to many of us; George Seddon died tending his garden in Fremantle, just when we needed him most. We will miss him; we miss him already. And if he died too soon, it was not before he had done more work for the world than most of us can ever hope to. He remains with us in his books and essays. But in person, he is gone.

Farewell, George. And thank you.

**TENA KOUTOU KATOA KI INGA  
MEMA O ASLE-ANZ**

ASLE-ANZ Vice-President (New Zealand), **Charles Dawson**

Weather indeed: Our former Prime Minister [now Sir] Geoffrey Palmer observed we were an extremely pluvial nation; of late New Zealand has been wracked by flood in several regions, with Northland and the Coromandel area particularly hard-hit. Those of us lucky enough to sit in dry homes can [read](#) of the latest New Zealand Book Awards where, amongst other delights, a lifetime's work by **Audrey Eagle**, a superb botanical artist, has been honoured.

Outside, ongoing forest restoration work abounds, for winter is planting season and the past 15 years have seen increases in NZers voluntary planting work, and a telling shift in garden centres plant sales: in the early 1990s native New Zealand plants were a small proportion of the sales, whereas now they make up some 70%. Much of the restoration work is backed by local government or Forest & Bird; on any given damp cold weekend on these shaky isles, thousands of volunteers are squelching their way through the countryside to plant saplings and nurture seedlings on public reserve land. Winter foliage growth feeds the 70 million possums in residence here, though some of the marsupials will be eating a nasty carrot soon: a recent review of the 1080 poison used in aerial drops to kill possums has [concluded](#) the toxin is "a necessary evil", to the approval of [Forest and Bird](#) and dismay of [deerstalkers](#) and other hunters.

Recent **interdisciplinary** work in New Zealand has had broad appeal and been widely acclaimed: two examples well worth following up on any side of the Tasman are: a conference on the work of

the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment [featured](#) in a series of radio broadcasts that celebrated the Commission's 20 year anniversary by citing its guardian role in international contexts. The second project is a collaboration between top New Zealand scientists and writers called Are Angels Okay? The book and radio series are [online](#) and come recommended.

The poets of the land are in good cheer after national poetry day, and publishing in general seems to generate an increasingly [diverse](#) range of work, with much in the environmental area snapped up by keen armchair trampers. It's the policy-writing trumper we'll meet soon, as I plan to report on an ASLE members reading at the national Dept of Conservation HQ.

I [read](#) that some of our glaciers are coated with dust blown over from Aussie mining and pollution: we are indeed interconnected, and I for one am grateful ASLE-ANZ provide us with a forum to share words and ideas, not just heavy metals.

**New members**

It's my pleasure to welcome new members **Martin de Jong** and **Hilary Elfick** to the ASLE-ANZ membership. Martin was a student of ASLE member **Dinah Hawken**'s several years ago and has read at our inaugural ASLE gathering in Wellington, NZ.

**Hilary Elfick** has published widely in prose and poetry and recently produced a re-visioning of *The Tempest, An Ordinary Storm*. A former producer for BBC Radio 4 (she has written over 100 scripts for the BBC) Hilary has also worked extensively in the palliative care sector; this work has informed her writing, particularly her novel *The Sleeping Warrior*, but that clarity and

groundedness one sees in those involved in palliative care is evident in much of her poetry. She retains a huge interest in philology and semantics and dialect and is a member of the International Shakespeare Association. Hilary is an accredited guide on Tiritiri Matangi Island (a conservation story to warm the heart, described in the award-winning [book](#) by **Anne Rimmer**), and has lectured in the UK on conservation of NZ birds. She has birded in many parts of the world including Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Trinidad, Tobago, many of the off-islands of Britain including Orkney, Shetland and Scilly, as well as Singapore, Australia, Moorea, the Cook Islands and New Zealand.

Reading Hilary's work, I was moved by this passionate birder's ability to evoke the places in which she alighted. Some of you may recall the late night marine weather forecasts on BBC's Radio 4; I also rather liked the ways the currents were canvassed and graded, waiting for the name 'Scilly Island automatic' to come round. So it was with some delight that I opened early poems set on the Scilly Isles, and her work in the Welsh country side, another place I have had the privilege of visiting. Grounded in the physicality of place, of family, of the skeins of feeling and vision that bind us to certain heartplaces and people, Elfick cultivates a keen eyes and sureness of phrase that keeps the reader and author alert for change in all its forms. And its reveling in the vernacular of each place will ring true to the locals. A case in point is the poetry collection ***Bush Track***, which evokes her experience of bush fires and the Australian landscape, leading **Les Murray** to praise it for its insight and ability to teach him new things about the area, while a local fire officer rated her descriptions highly!

Her travel experiences and residency in New Zealand and the UK are clear in her

remarkable re-visioning of ***The Tempest, An Ordinary Storm***. This is a particularly compelling work for a New Zealander to read: it relocates the *Tempest* linguistically and temporally, shifting the action to the Pacific and gifting Caliban a rich vocabulary of Māori words that provide renewed insight into both those words and Shakespeare's play. Elfick's ability to rework the voices of the characters and renew one's understanding of the play have been widely praised by Shakespeare scholars and the public; the work is also available on DVD and CD via her [website](#).

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#### NEW ZEALAND MEMBER NEWS

**Keith Westwater** received an equal first place and a 'highly commended' for entries in the Australian 'Spirit of Place' poetry competition. The poems ('Canterbury Visit, Winter 1982', and 'National Anthem') were published in the 20th and final edition of ***Yellow Moon***. Dunedin-based writer **Neville Peat**, the author or co-author of more than 30 books, is the recipient of this year's Creative New Zealand Michael King Writers' Fellowship, NZ's largest literary award. The prestigious \$100,000 fellowship is awarded annually to support a writer for two or more years' work.

Neville has two projects in mind, the larger of which is a comprehensive work on the Tasman Sea, the ocean that gives New Zealand its identity, much of its weather and a fair amount of maritime drama. As well as covering the nature, geography and resources of the Tasman, the book will incorporate a description of the towns and small cities on the weather coast of New Zealand, and how they relate to the Tasman Sea. It will also include the Australian perspective. Neville is nominating Lord Howe Island as the northern boundary of the Tasman

Sea, with the southern boundary being a line between the south capes of Stewart Island and Tasmania.

His other work for the fellowship, the research for which has already started, focuses on the nature of southern New Zealand, the third story in a trilogy featuring a character he introduced in two earlier books, *The Falcon and the Lark and Coasting* and *The Sea Lion and the Lark*. "I see the awarding of the 2007 fellowship to me as a powerful nod in the direction of environmental writing. It lifts the profile of authorship on natural history and environmental themes", says Neville.

His 1982 travel classic, *Detours: a journey through small-town New Zealand*, has just been reissued by Otago University Press, Dunedin. A generation ago, Neville rode a 10-speed touring cycle the length of the country in pursuit of stories about the small-town experience. The new work contains a 5,000-word essay on how selected small towns along the route have changed. Visit [www.nevillepeatsnewzealand.com](http://www.nevillepeatsnewzealand.com)

**Review note by Charles Dawson**  
**Whio: Saving New Zealand's Blue Duck. David Young**

Craig Potton Publishers, 2006  
[[www.craigpotton.co.nz](http://www.craigpotton.co.nz)] (\$NZ39.99).

There's plenty for everyone in *Whio*: those engaged in conservation projects directly, ecologists, those working on conservation policy or history, Treaty of Waitangi issues or ornithology will find this book rewarding, while the general reader will marvel at how far New Zealand scientists have come in their understanding of bird life, habitat and care in the last three decades. As in Young's excellent history of conservation *Our Islands, Ourselves*, *Whio* is both accessible and rigorous, moving

from the source material to contextualise, probe and (no easy task) elucidate current conservation practice and policy, and bring stories of achievement and possibility to life. *Whio's* publication points to a rising interest in species recovery; the book was sponsored to catch this and raise the profile of this threatened species (though Young points out his views are his and not the sponsors). In *Whio* he turns our gaze to a species facing extinction by stealth.

This book is about far more than the whio alone. In crafting a 'social history' of the whio, Young has demonstrated how ecological projects require an equally holistic approach across all elements, from management and political support in Wellington, to good relationships with Māori, farmers, hunters, power companies and local government. A lot of collaboration is required. One of the book's strengths is its engagement with the myriad of workers and researchers captivated by whio. We read of translocation efforts and the advances in tracking, monitoring and ecosystem assessment over the last 30 years.

**Paul Jansen** suggests the aim of much of this tireless work should be a level of population that would survive 20 years without any management intervention. (132). There is still a long way to go. This attractive, compelling and sobering study of whio should sit on the bookshelf of anyone interested in that journey.

*The blue duck's call will come to signify entire and intact communities of insects, plants and other birds living as they have always lived in an ecological relationship. For the whio's crisis is emblematic of what ails not only its habitat but also the way we live – blindly and unsustainably – in these islands. (138)*

### ASLE Conference Report

‘Confluence: literature, art, criticism,  
science, activism, politics’,  
Wofford College,  
Spartanburg, South Carolina  
12-16 June 2007

It was Bill from the ‘Coalition to Control Kudzu without Chemicals’ that got me fired up about Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*). An environmental weed from Japan, it seems you can eat it, wear it, construct 3-story buildings out of it, but in order to prevent it from snuffing out whole forests, you have to know its behaviour. Bill, from one of the local landcare groups attending the Opening Reception at the ASLE Seventh Biennial conference, Spartanburg, was there to help us (all four hundred of us) celebrate ‘Confluence’. And so to find, later, **James Dickey**’s poem about the super-invasive qualities of Kudzu seemed, well, ‘confluent’.

Situating ourselves in context — South Carolina — is to experience June temperatures of 28C to 32C; it’s to learn of the Fall Line along which rapids and waterfalls occur and which separates the three major geophysical provinces: the Atlantic Coastal Plain, or the ‘low country’; the Blue Ridge province; and the Piedmont, or the ‘up country’. It’s to learn that Columbia, the State capital, sits on the Fall Line; its state emblems include the Palmetto tree and the Carolina wren; its state motto, *Dum spiro spero* (While I breathe, I hope) allows for musing on its appropriateness for an environmentally themed conference.

Arrival into context takes place after a four-hour delay at Charleston in order to catch the 18-minute flight to Greenville/Spartanburg. From there the night ride continues through the Piedmont — the ‘up country’ — with its tulip trees, white oaks, hickory, shortleaf

pinus, and agricrops of cotton and peaches. I’ve missed The Knights of Columbus shuttle, so I share a half hour taxi ride with delegate **Shinji Iwamasa**, from Shiravuri College, and with an irate Spartanburg taxi driver. She is preparing to throw us out in the street because her passengers (one from Australia the other from Japan) do not know the whereabouts, on the 170-acre campus, of the Wightman Hall check-in point. (See **Richard Kerridge**’s ASLE blog for a different taxi experience). We find Will Prosser in his fifteenth hour of distributing pillows, sheets, and towels to late-arrival delegates, and I make my way to the Village accommodation where big white rocking chairs (Carolina *de rigueur*) squat on verandas.

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a member of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, and has planted nigh enough to 5,000 trees in the last fifteen years. With a student full-time equivalent number of just 1,232 — it is the smallest yet of the ASLE venues. But Wofford will go down as the Conference of Firsts. In keeping with Spartanburg’s claim to having the first radio station in South Carolina (WSPA in 1929), ASLE-Spartanburg is the first conference venue to be held in the Southern states; it is the first to deliver podcasts (for plenary podcasts go to [http://wofford.typepad.com/asle\\_connect/2007/06/index.html](http://wofford.typepad.com/asle_connect/2007/06/index.html)); it is the first to deliver blogs (there was even a session on ‘An Ecocritical Look at Blogging’); it is the first to introduce voluntary carbon offset contributions; and it is the first to offer the ASLE equivalent of literary Oscars. In the interest of brevity and bias I’ll mention only **Gretchen Legler**’s *On the Ice: An Intimate Portrait of Life at McMurdo Station, Antarctica*, winner of the best book of environmental writing published in 2005-2006.

To the conference itself: Spartanburg stamina was the order of the week. Activities generally began with papers from 8am until 6pm, and with some final activities *beginning* at 9:30pm; no morning or afternoon tea/coffee break was scheduled. (This being the Piedmont, those unable to sustain the Spartanburg pace were taken up the Mountain and exposed to the elements.) Day 1 began leisurely with pre-conference workshops, ending at midnight with the International Gathering at the Governor's Suite hosted by the tireless **Wes Berry** and **Karla Armbruster**. Fellow Australian, **Thomas Wilson** (*The Recurrent Green Universe of John Fowles*, 2006) lost the prize for 'Who Travelled the Farthest' to a Tasmanian (who always wins in the Northern Hemisphere).

The Opening Plenary speaker, plane-delayed, flu-struck **Bill McKibben** (on podcast), made heroic efforts to make the evening session only then to have to turn around to catch an international flight. Aware of the ambiguity of living life in the jet-stream while writing about the importance of staying local and consuming local energy (see McKibben's latest book *Deep Economy* (2007)), he advised ASLE delegates that if they were going to travel, that they should 'make it count'.

Helping to 'make it count' were six concurrent sessions showing an overall increase in papers on representation of animals in fiction and film; environmental science fiction; and disability and the environment. There was also an increase in presentations from Independent Scholars. And it was great to see the British Romantics claim their own eco-session. In addition, there were sixteen 'Creative' sessions. (All abstracts are on the web). Of the plenary sessions, good value was to be had in **Nalini Nadkarni's** session (on podcast).

Nadkarni is a Forest Ecology scientist who takes in temperate and tropical canopies with a single bound. As recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship 'to pursue her interests in communication of forest canopy research results to non-scientists with collaborations of artists, musicians, physicians, sports figures, and religious leaders' she embodied the 'Confluence' theme. Line graphs were turned into musical notations; Barbie dolls were reconfigured as canopy scientists. She was nothing short of inspirational. We should bring her to Australia.

Two plenary sessions were devoted to Katrina; two years on, Katrina still looms large in the Southern mind. 'The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina' can be heard on the Q&A podcast (with **John Biguenet**; and **Robert Bullard**, co-author of *In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster and Race After Hurricane Katrina*, 2006). The second session 'Write the Coast or Write It Off' hit close to 'home' given that I'd just come from visiting relatives in Long Beach, Mississippi, which received a direct hit; beach flotsam still includes clothing and cladding, video tapes and bed springs. Remarkably, the 400-year old Friendship Oak still stands. More remarkably perhaps, so does the Waffle House. Among a beach front of concrete slabs, these were all that was left to show the Long Beach turn-off.

But back to Wofford and the theoretical: there was as always joy to be had in the socially stimulating events such as poetry readings by **Di Brandt** and the North Carolina laureate **Fred Chappell**; a Jam Session by ASLE's 'Mongrel Dogs'; the Fiddling Poet from Alaska, **Ken Waldman**; as well as film and field sessions. I can't report on all the happenings (event-fatigue placed me up the metaphoric Mountain suffering from exposure). But I descended in time for

the ASLE Banquet. Intended to be held on luscious grass under canvas, God laughed, and we moved into the cafeteria out of the rain where Stella, an ex-pat Geordie, good humouredly accommodated last-minute diners. And it's the good humanness of people like Stella, and of Linda Powers (who with one phone call caused three microwaves to appear in my apartment) — people we will never again encounter — that facilitates the Good Oil of all conferences. Congratulations to the ASLE Officers; Program Planning Committee; the Wofford and the Spartanburg Communities, and thanks to the ASLE committee for a grant that enabled me to attend this valuable conference. Why, nothing could be finer / than to be in Carolina! Roll on 2009: University of Victoria, British Columbia 16-20 June.

**CA.Cranston**

University of Tasmania

### Watermark Writing Workshop 29 September - 1 October

Laurieton, near Port Macquarie NSW



**Graeme Kinross-Smith**, writer and inspiring teacher, will conduct 2 1/2 day writing workshop preceding the Watermark Literary Muster. Graeme is a

widely published poet, short fiction writer, novelist, writing teacher and photographer. He is an Honorary Fellow in Arts at Deakin University where he teaches creative writing. The workshop cost is \$245 which includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners. Accommodation is extra. Max 15. To reserve a place, call Lyndal Coote on 02 6559 9953 or check

[www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au](http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au)



### WATERMARK LITERARY MUSTER

**Kendall**, near Port Macquarie NSW  
**2 - 6 October**

Expect a packed program of readings, conversations, panel sessions, nature excursions, literary meals, performances, art, book launches, formal and informal discussion.

Featured writers include **Adrian Franklin**, **David Rothenberg** (performing his wonderful music to celebrate birdsong), **Andrew Riemer**, **Dorinda Hafner** (literary dinner address), **Eva Sallis**, **Eric Rolls**, **Jill Morris**, **John Hughes**, **Judith Binney** (Henry Kendall lunch address), **Melissa Lucashenko**, **Nick Jose**, **Pat Torres**, **Sandy McCutcheon**, **Peter Skrzynecki**, **Nathalie Nguyen**.

Passes available from a half-day pass (\$30) to 4 and a half days (\$175). Call Lyndal Coote 02 6559 9953 for a brochure or check out the web site [www.watermarkliterarymuster.asn.au](http://www.watermarkliterarymuster.asn.au)

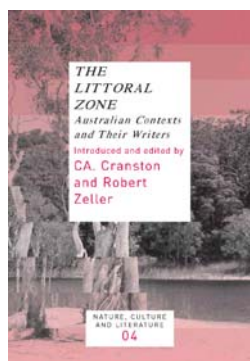
### MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES & PUBLICATIONS, AUSTRALIA

**Bruce Bennett**, 'A Beach Somewhere: The Australian Littoral Imagination at Play' in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).

**Ruth Blair**, 'Hugging the Shore: The Green Mountains of South-East Queensland' in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).

**Veronica Brady**, 'The Poetry of Judith Wright and Ways of Rejoicing in the World' in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).

**CA. Cranston** presented a paper 'Black Politics, Green Behaviour' at the ASLE conference, Spartanburg, South Carolina (June); co-authored 'Setting the Scene: Littoral and Critical Contexts' (with Robert Zeller; and authored 'Islands', in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).



*The Littoral Zone: Australian Contexts and their Writers*  
Intro and Edited by **CA. Cranston** and **Robert Zeller**  
(Rodopi: 2007)

In this, the first collection of eco-critical essays devoted to Australian contexts and their writers, Australian and US scholars explore the transliteration of land and sea through the works of Australian authors and through their own experiences. Contributors include **Bruce Bennett, Veronica Brady, Tony D'Aeth, Tom Lynch, Michell Rolls, Mark Tredinnick, Kate Rigby, Ruth Blair**, and **Elizabeth Leane**.



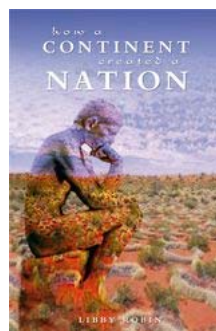
*Fresh Water: New Perspectives on Water in Australia.*

Edited by **Emily Potter, Alison Mackinnon, Stephen McKenzie** and **Jennifer McKay** (MUP: 2007)

*Fresh Water* brings together a range of innovative perspectives from visual arts, history, politics, law, cultural theory, urban planning and science to investigate the single most critical issue Australia is facing today: water. These essays argue

that we need to look beyond a familiar techno-policy approach to water management, and instead gather together diverse knowledges to think through the practices and decisions in Australia's recent past that have compromised the health of water in this land. How can new practices emerge from these insights into the past? In what ways is water imagined and politicised in Australian today, and whose knowledges count when it comes to environmental management? Contributors include **Deborah Bird Rose, Mandy Martin, Jay Arthur** and **Stephen Muecke**.

**Kate Rigby**, 'Ecopoetics of the Limestone Plains' in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).



**Libby Robin** *How a Continent Created a Nation* (NSW: 2007)

In this book Libby Robin explores the links between nature and nation. By looking at some of those who observe the natural world most closely – including scientists, field naturalists and farmers – she tells the story of how we as a nation have come to understand our land. Having left the cultural cringe behind, settler Australians are struggling with the 'strange nature' of this continent. Robin suggests new ways of living in an arid and urbanised continent in times of global change, and gives hope that Australia can move beyond the biological cringe.

**Deborah Rose** 'Justice and longing' in *Fresh Water: New Perspectives on Water in Australia* (2007).

**Mark Tredinnick**, 'Under the Mountains and Beside a Creek: Robert Gray and the Shepherding of Antipodean Being' in *The Littoral Zone* (2007).

**Chris Wallace-Crabbe**, 'Intermesso' in *Antipodes* June 2007, Vol. 21, No. 1

*Please note: we can't include your work if you don't let us know ...*

### PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

#### CALL FOR AUTHORS

*Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*

**Deadline 1 Sept. 2007**

This comprehensive work will cover all aspects of the world environment and related disciplines in the social sciences, including terms and practices, profiles of climate change by country biographies, and descriptions of environmental organisations. Each article, ranging from 550 to 5,000 words, is signed by the contributor.

Contact Maria Siano, Ph.D.,  
[golsonbooks2@hotmail.com](mailto:golsonbooks2@hotmail.com)

The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies

**Deadline 10 Sept. 2007**

Now seeking submissions for a Special Issue on possible intersections between postcolonial studies and ecocriticism. Preferred length is 6,000 and 9,000 words, in MLA format. The author should not identify him/herself in the essay.

Ecocritical topics which could be examined in relation to postcolonial concerns include (but are not limited to): place: nature and economic development in relation to imperialism or current globalisation; (bio)regionalism; 'wilderness'; the lives, representation, or significance of animals, plants, etc.;

(eco)tourism; literary and cultural figuring (including romantic, exotic, spiritual, etc.) of Nature; local environmental traditions and possible oppositional value in imperial or global context.

While the Journal does not presuppose or advocate a particular ideology or specific critical approach, it prefers that considerations of individual authors and texts be placed in the context of a theoretical paradigm — literary, socio-political, or cultural.

Please send the article as an email attachment to:

**Gautam Kundu**  
at [gkundu@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gkundu@georgiasouthern.edu)



Poetry contributions  
**Deadline 15 Sept. 2007**

A.R.A.W.L.I.I is going to be launched in January 2008 and welcomes contributions to the Poetry Journal *Prosopisia* (named after the State-tree of Rajasthan growing on the foothills of the Aravali Ranges).

Visit us at: <http://www.arawlii.com>

Call for Proposals  
for a collection *Writing the Earth:  
Rhetorics and Literacies of Sustainability*  
Peter N. Goggin, editor  
**Deadline 30 Sept. 2007**

'English studies is decades behind other disciplines in recognizing the importance of considering our research and teaching in light of local and global environmental exigencies. There is still a

pervasive [...] belief that much of our work ought to focus on the triad of race / class / gender, whereas “environment” remains a category awkwardly associated with largely “white,” middle-class values and geographies.’ D.Owens.

Essay proposals are invited for a collection titled *Writing the Earth: Rhetorics and Literacies of Sustainability*. This collection invites scholars of literacy and rhetoric (in English studies and elsewhere) to pick up the gauntlet that Owens has thrown down before us and answer the challenge to put sustainability at the forefront of research and teaching in the humanities. Although ‘sustainability’ is generally understood as examining, reassessing, and changing current practices, policies and human endeavours to reduce the potential for harm to future generations, the concept has been constructed in multiple ways by many invested and interested parties to serve multiple agendas and purposes. The range and possibility for topics in this collection is therefore wide open, as long as they address sustainability through lenses of literacy and/or rhetorical theory. Therefore, topics might include, but are certainly not limited to: rhetorics of sustainability; rhetorics of sustainable development; environmental rhetoric; ecocriticism and ecomposition; literacies of sustainability; discourses of sustainability; technology / media and sustainability; teaching writing and sustainability, and rhetorical places and spaces of sustainability. The focus may look broadly at a topic from a conceptual / theoretical perspective, or narrowly and pragmatically at a specific case.

Please send your 250-500-word proposal and a CV as electronic attachments in MSWord format to

Peter Goggin [goggin1@asu.edu](mailto:goggin1@asu.edu)  
Arizona State University

### *Antipodes:*

A North American Journal of  
Australian Literature

Special issue: ‘Protect Australia Fair’  
To be published in **December 2009**

Contributions are sought, devoted to international perspectives on fear and protection in Australian culture, focusing primarily on literature, film, visual arts, literary theory, psychoanalytic approaches and philosophy. Contributors may wish to consider the (abbreviated) topics, or explore challenging new ones:

Population and natural resources fears  
Civil unrest, violence, riots  
Terrorism and counter-terrorism  
Xenophobia, past and present  
Invasion narratives  
Science and technology fears  
Complacency warnings versus ‘Relaxed and comfortable’ lifestyle  
Fear and spirituality  
Fear in city, inner-urban and suburban environments  
Fear in regional and country Australia  
Fear in and of the natural environment  
Affluence, employment and fear of material loss  
Individual and Personal Space Fears  
The threatened body

Suggested length for essays is 4,000 words. Essays should be suitable for an interdisciplinary and international readership. All submissions will be double-blind-refereed by an international panel of distinguished scholars and members of *Antipodes* editorial board. Essays must conform to MLA style (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

Submit enquiry, expression of interest or finished essay to **Nathanael O’Reilly** at  
[Nathanael\\_o@earthlink.net](mailto:Nathanael_o@earthlink.net) org or

**Jean-Francois Vernay**  
[vernayj@yahoo.com](mailto:vernayj@yahoo.com)

## CONFERENCE EVENTS

(submission deadline past)

*Imagining Antarctica*  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
**4-6 September 2008**

Gateway Antarctica and the English program at the University of Canterbury, together with the School of English, Journalism and European Languages at the University of Tasmania, will host a conference examining Antarctica from a cultural perspective. Drawing on the arts, social sciences and humanities, the conference will focus attention on the ways in which we perceive and represent the southernmost continent. This will be followed by a second conference in Hobart, Tas, in 2010.

[http://www.engl.canterbury.ac.nz/extra/imagining\\_antarctica.shtml](http://www.engl.canterbury.ac.nz/extra/imagining_antarctica.shtml)

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University of Exeter, Cornwall  
Campus, Penryn  
**September 13th-15th 2007**  
'Text Landscape Identity'

Keynote speakers: Professor Timothy Fulford, Nottingham Trent University, UK; Professor Donna Landry, University of Kent, UK; Professor Kenneth Olwig, SLU, Sweden

In the last twenty years the notion of landscape has undergone significant theoretical development which has focused attention on discourses, knowledge, power and questions of representation. Geographers have reconfigured the relationship between landscape and identity by drawing on a range of cultural texts. However, their treatment of creative writing has been incomplete, despite cultural geography's engagement with literary

theory. Bosseau (1995) criticised geographers for merely combing novels for relevant spatial elements. Despite a trickle of research on writers' geographical imaginations, the textualisation of mobility, and literature and cultural difference, Sharp (2000) argued that Geography's vision of its relationship with literature remains limited.

Literary Studies, similarly, has engaged with the social or psychological relations of individual authors to landscapes (cf. Fulford 1996), but not fully understood (a) the combined influence of landscapes and their literary constructions on the creative process and (b) the significance of that process as half-conceived and half-written. Although the reciprocal relationship between the literary text and the historical 'reality' of landscapes has long been understood (Landry 2001), most recently through eco-criticism, questions remain about, for example, generic pressures (e.g. how does a writer respond not just to landscape but to conventions of landscape writing?) and the motility of the creative process (e.g. how does the writer's response to landscape shift through the stages of writing?).

Contact **Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra**  
Department of English, University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus, Penryn  
[a.g.johns-putra@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.g.johns-putra@exeter.ac.uk)

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SLSA (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts)  
Portland, Maine (USA)  
**14 Nov. 2007**  
Topic: CODE

Plenary Speakers:  
N. Katherine Hayles, UCLA;  
Brian Massumi, Université de Montréal

Biological and algorithmic, protector of secrets and porthole to mysteries, universal and singular, code is an invitation to thought. Code can be “wet” (genetic, organic, human), “dry” (digital, mathematical, logical), something inbetween, neither, or both (linguistic, symbolic, religious, moral, legal). Code is the meeting ground of strange bedfellows, the cipherer and decipherer, the domain of law and its subversion, communication and privacy. Code is about patterns, sequences, systems, translations, substitutions. It can bind, trick, and free. Modern technologies are affording us more and more keys to unlock nature’s code and more opportunities to manipulate it.

Conference website:  
<http://www.slsa07.com/>

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The Cultural Studies Association of  
 Australasia (CSAA)  
 University of South Australia  
 Adelaide, **6-8 December 2007**

The School of Communication is hosting the CSAA Annual conference and invites attendees to consider what the future holds for cultural research; how can we ensure our own survival and how can we better contribute to the pressing debates of our time about environmental and social sustainability? The conference will address these issues with examples of current work in the field. Some key issues to be considered:

- § sustaining cultural diversity
- § culture and a sustainable environment
- § sustaining healthy societies
- § sources of sustenance
- § planning sustainable spaces
- § social and cultural inclusion and

reconciliation  
 § next generation sustainability  
 § sustaining cultural research

Contact:  
[Susan.Luckman@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Susan.Luckman@unisa.edu.au)  
 ph: 08 8302 4152  
 fax: 08 8302 4745

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MLA 2007  
 Chicago, **27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December**  
 Proposed special session topic:  
 Literary responses to ecological  
 damage

When human activity initiates damage to, or wholesale destruction of, natural environments, literature can serve as a medium for justification, ambivalence, or resistance. This special session seeks to explore contemporary fiction, poetry, and drama grappling with negative, even potentially cataclysmic, human impact on natural spaces. Subjects might include aquifer destruction, freshwater and/or salt-water fisheries destruction, mining, damming, deforestation, nuclear waste, and the impacts of global warming. Papers that address issues of class, race, and poverty are particularly welcome as are papers from non-Western perspectives.

Contact: Katherine Ledford at  
[katnbrian@bakersville.com](mailto:katnbrian@bakersville.com)  
 Mars Hill College and Gardner-Webb  
 University

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Poetic Ecologies: Nature as Text and  
 Text as Nature in English-Language  
 Verse  
 Université Libre de Bruxelles,  
**14-17 May 2008**

In the last fifteen years, the emergence of ecocritical theory has meant a radical challenge to the anthrop-

ocentrism and dualism between Culture and Nature inherited from classical humanism. Likewise, in its attempt to initiate a much more sustained dialogue between literature and the primacy of biological networks posited by Deep Ecology, ecocritical thought has also seriously questioned the very concept of 'nature writing' as traditionally understood in the pastoral and Romantic traditions.

Within the framework of an ecocritical paradigm that is still constructing itself, this international three-day conference to be held in Europe's capital city, wishes to explore the multiple and changing forms of ecological and ecocritical consciousness in English-language verse, past and present. The conference will not privilege any English-speaking poetic tradition in particular, but includes papers from all areas of the Anglophone world, from Canada to the **Antipodes**.

Contact Dr. Franca Bellarsi  
 Université Libre de Bruxelles  
 Depart of Modern Lang and Lit  
[fbellars@ulb.ac.be](mailto:fbellars@ulb.ac.be)

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

6th Annual Hawaii International  
 Conference on Arts & Humanities  
**11-14 January 2008**  
 Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort  
 Honolulu Hawaii, USA

Submission Deadline: **23 August 2007**

Sponsored by: University of Louisville,  
 Center for Sustainable Urban  
 Neighborhoods, The Baylor Journal of  
 Theatre and Performance

The 6th Annual Hawaii International  
 Conference on Arts & Humanities will

be held from 11 January (Friday) to 14 January (Monday), 2008 at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, and the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from arts and humanities related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

Web address:

<http://www.hichumanities.org>

Email address:

<mailto:humanities@hichumanities.org>

Submitting a Proposal:

You may submit your paper / proposal by using our new online submission system. To use the system, and for detailed information about submitting see:

[http://www.hichumanities.org/cfp\\_arts\\_humanities.htm](http://www.hichumanities.org/cfp_arts_humanities.htm)

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Huracán: Environment, Histories, and  
 Cultures of the Caribbean  
 Gulf Basin, and US South  
**7-8 November 2008**

Submission Deadline: **1 October 2007**

Symposium Sponsors: University of  
 South Florida St. Petersburg and the  
**Association for the Study of Literature  
 and the Environment**

High profile storms have redefined regional weather maps. Should weather maps be used to redraw cultural maps? This symposium suggests the figures of hurricanes and their paths to interpret cultures from Africa and the Caribbean to the Gulf Basin and US South. Huracán begins with a basic pre-

supposition: regions hit by similar storm systems may share environmental and historical determinants. What patterns emerge when we examine a broader region across national or linguistic borders?

The topic of the symposium is not necessarily hurricanes. **Papers on individual storms will be considered, but these should situate events within broader contexts looking beyond those storms as solely felt or represented within the United States.** We seek proposals that use storm paths or natural currents to help identify points of connection or difference across time and space. Our goal is to foster dialogue between scholars across historical periods, academic disciplines, languages, and geographic regions. All perspectives and welcome.

Please send abstracts with c.v. and a short cover letter to Martine Fernandes [martinef@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:martinef@stpt.usf.edu) or Thomas Hallock [thallock@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:thallock@stpt.usf.edu)

Conference Website:

<http://www.h-net.org/~swpc>

To submit items to ASLE-ANZ *A New Zletter*

email [CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au](mailto:CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au) (Australia) or [Charles.Dawson@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Charles.Dawson@justice.govt.nz) (NZ)

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Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment  
The 29th Annual Meeting of the SW/TX  
PCA/ACA  
**13-16 February 2008**  
Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

Abstract/Proposals: **1 November 2007**

Panels now forming for presentations and roundtables regarding Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment. Send abstract or paper electronically with your email address and affiliation.

Contact: Ken Hada,  
Department of English and Languages  
East Central University  
1100 E. 14th St. Ada, OK 74820  
[khada@ecok.edu](mailto:khada@ecok.edu)