



asle-anz



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

Issue #5 2008 ASLE-ANewZletter

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT, February 2008

**Kate Rigby**

The German Romantic writer Novalis (**Friedrich von Hardenberg**) is famed for having written a work entitled 'Hymns to the Night' (*Hymnen an die Nacht*), inspired, so he claimed, by an ecstatic experience by his child fiancée's grave. I have not been hanging around in any graveyards recently (although there are a few I'd like to visit, if I had the time). Even still, I too have been pondering the blessings of the night. One of the things that drove me from the city to the bush as a primary place of abode is the absence of true dark in the relentlessly illuminated urban environment. Up here in the post-pastoral paradise of The Patch, most nights are gloriously free of light, apart from that which spills down from the moody moon and scattered stars. Unless, of course, the outlandishly bright, seemingly movement-sensitive floodlight attached to our neighbours' garage has been tripped by a passing fox or wombat or one of the kids sneaking home way too late. In the absence of that rude intrusion, though, I love to lie in the

comfy, cosy safety of my bed (for which I never cease to give thanks), and surrender myself entirely to the beneficent blackness. Here, I am offered refuge from the endless demands of daylight: the timelines and deadlines, hustle and bustle, meetings and missives.... Like most people, I don't always take up that offer, allowing thoughts of the madness of the day to play upon my mind and snatch away the blessings of the night. But still the lovely dark is there, waiting to enfold me.

The accelerating pace and growing busyness that many people are experiencing in their workaday lives today, which has moved me to pen my own little 'hymn to the night', is one of the salient features of the (post)modern, (late) capitalist condition as analysed by contemporary social theorists such as **Paul Virilio** and, here in Australia, **Clive Hamilton**. It is also my rather pathetic excuse for the lateness of this newsletter! Still, here it is at last, with oodles of news of ASLE activities, at home and abroad. Most of the news is exciting, but some is very sad: namely, that of the passing of yet another of our 'elders', **Eric Rolls**, who did so much invaluable writing about Australian environments himself, as well as supporting and promoting the work of new 'nature writers' through *Watermark*. So **Mark Tredinnick**, who has such a wondrous way with words, even in situations when words fail, as fail they do, has once again been called upon to contribute an obituary for the ASLE-ANewZletter.

My own news mainly concerns the journey that I made to North America in September to speak at Drew, Harvard and Vassar College, en route to the

Nature Matters conference in Toronto. Hosted by the Canada Research Chair in Sustainability and Culture (time we had one or two of those in this region!), currently held by the marvellous **Cate Mortimer-Sandilands**, this conference was devoted to exploring ‘materiality and the more-than-human in cultural studies of the environment’. With something in the order of 180 participants, it was a well-attended and admirably well-run gathering, which I especially relished for the high standard and disciplinary diversity of the presentations that I heard. The keynote speakers were all excellent, and carefully chosen to represent a range of perspectives and approaches. Among them were cultural theorist, **Bruce Braun**, who drew on **Deleuze** and **Spinoza** to explore our fatal attraction to the automobile; anthropologist **Julie Cruikshank**, who spoke of indigenous knowledge and shrinking glaciers in the Arctic; philosopher **Mick Smith**, who probed **Heidegger** and **Agamben** in defence of the case for ‘saving the (natural) world’; sociologist **Giovanna Di Chiro**, who brought inspiring stories from the field of environmental justice activism; ecocritic **Patrick Murphy**, who showed how variously human ecological interanimation is configured in contemporary fiction; and the aptly named animal philosopher, **Cary Wolfe**, who demonstrated persuasively why **Derrida** matters to animal ethics. **Stacy Alaimo**, sadly, had broken her leg and was unable to attend: a sobering reminder of the mattering of our own corporeal vulnerability.

One of the things that I was on the lookout for on this trip was examples of environmental studies programs, in which the humanities featured significantly. I found that this is certainly the case at Vassar and York (where Cate holds her Chair), and I would encourage

you to check out their websites (<http://environmentalstudies.vassar.edu/> and <http://www.yorku.ca/fes/index.asp>, respectively).

The Harvard Centre for the Environment (<http://environment.harvard.edu/index.htm>), which co-hosted my visit (along with Australian Studies) has a relatively recently established postdoctoral program, for which more applicants in the humanities are being sought: some of you doctoral students and postdoctoral hopefuls might want to bear that in mind for the future. The importance of humanities research to sustainability studies and eco-social change is eloquently argued by ASLE-ANZ member **Tom Griffiths** in his ‘Classic Essay’ in the most recent Ecological Humanities Corner (<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive/Issue-December-2007/EcoHumanities/EcoGriffiths.html>), as well as by fellow members **Libby Robin** and **Debbie Rose** and a whole host of others in their article, ‘Mind the Sustainability Gap’, which appeared last year in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 22.12. I’m very much hoping that our new government in Australia might be persuaded to sit up and take notice of this and send more support our way.

Promoting the eco-social significance of the humanities, as well as the arts, will be one of the objectives of the RMIT/ASLE-ANZ conference on ‘Cultures of Sustainability’, which, I can now happily confirm, will be held in Melbourne in late September this year, in association with an exhibition entitled ‘Heat’ (with apologies to **George Monbiot**). More information on this, along with a call for papers, will be posted on our website in due course.

Meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer: may fire and flood stay far from your

doors, and may you too find respite from the light!

**Kate Rigby**

Monash University

### Vale Eric Rolls 1923-2007

The writer **Eric Rolls**, author of *A Million Wild Acres* and known to many of us, died after a short illness on 31 October 2007. Eric Rolls was a pioneering Australian nature writer; he was a poet, farmer, essayist, lover of life, advocate of the wild. I got to know him well only five or six years ago when he and his second wife Elaine van Kempen involved me in setting up the **Watermark Nature Writing Festival**, which runs every other year (the next in 2009) at Camden Haven on the New South Wales north coast — and with the associated Watermark Literary Foundation. Eric wrote and talked pretty much to the end.

Elaine held a funeral service on Saturday 10 November in the Kendall School of Arts (site of Watermark) to celebrate Eric's long, blessed, productive life, and to mourn his death. Along with Tom **Griffiths** and nine others, I read a little from Eric's work and spoke a few words of thanks and farewell.

Farewell Eric. We miss you, but you changed us, and your work surrounds us.

On the Publishing Front:

I was thrilled when my poem 'Eclogues', from which I read at Eric's farewell, won the prestigious **Newcastle Poetry Prize** at the end of November 2007. Members may be interested in the anthology in which my poem appears, *Eclogues*, available from the Hunter Writers Centre ([www.hwcentre.com](http://www.hwcentre.com)).

My essay 'A Storm and a Teacup' jointly won the **2008 Calibre Essay Prize**. The essay appears in the February issue of *Australian Book Review*.

And while I have the talking stick, a number of my poems will publish in *Mascara* ([www.mascarapoetry.com](http://www.mascarapoetry.com)) in March; in the same month my essay 'The Art of Losing' appears in *isotope*, a US journal of literary nature and science writing.

Members will be aware, I guess, that *PAN* 4, published online in October, includes a lot of fine new Antipodean eco-prose, -poetry and -criticism, much of it first presented at the inaugural ASLE-ANZ conference. My poetic collaboration with photographer **Lucia Rossi**, 'We Are Not Finished at the Skin', also appears in that collection.

**Mark Tredennick**

Vice President, Australia

### TENA KOUTOU KATO A KI NGA MEMA O ASLE-ANZ!

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

*Kua hinga te Totara i te Wao-nui-a-Tāne*

*A mighty totara tree has fallen in the great forest of the Māori deity Tāne.*

This traditional Māori saying rang out at the passing of two giants in the literary/environmental arena in early 2008, as the nation paused to mark the passing of [Edmund Hillary](#) and [Hone Tuwhare](#), and reflect on the many seedlings these greats have nourished.

The (excellent) [NZHistory.net](http://NZHistory.net) site notes **Sir Ed's** adventuring catapulted him to global fame, but:

‘Of greater significance, perhaps, was his humanitarian contribution to the Sherpa people of the Himalayas. For decades from the 1960s Hillary and supporters raised funds and built schools, hospitals and other facilities in the mountains. He also enjoyed a successful spell as New Zealand’s High Commissioner to India in the 1980s. Despite his remarkable achievements, and moments of personal tragedy, Ed Hillary is also remembered for his humility and generosity. The quiet Auckland bee-keeper who had stood on ‘the roof of the world’, as well as the North and South poles, seemed to be the quintessential down-to-earth Kiwi.

Sir Edmund Hillary died in Auckland on 11 January 2008, aged 88. He was farewelled at a state funeral – an unprecedented honour for a private citizen – on 22 January.’

Sir Ed’s [last interview](#) reveals his concerns about climate change, and his abiding love for the people and land of Nepal.

The *Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature* described [Hone Tuwhare](#) as ‘New Zealand’s most distinguished Maori poet writing in English’. Dubbed ‘the peoples’ poet’ in the obituaries and tributes that flowed after his death in January 2008, Tuwhare wrote passionately of love, land and the pleasures of the senses. His publisher said the 2005 book *Oooooo...!!!* ‘presented ‘diverse new poems alongside earlier unpublished work. It is a wild, unpredictable expression of exuberance for words, love, and social justice. The poems are about the act of writing; about Hone’s beloved Shirley Grace; about his hunger for the bounty of Tangaroa, music and sex. They reflect with humour and raw candour the challenges of aging while having an unquenchable lust for life.’ Hone Tuwhare won two Montana

NZ Book Awards, had been Te Mata Poet Laureate, and held two honorary doctorates in literature.

There’s a lovely example of Tuwhare’s interest in land, Māori culture and the word in his [online reading](#) of his poem, ‘Māori’.

### **Other news**

The geological emergence and development of New Zealand has recently come into question, with some arguing the landmass was submerged until 23 million years ago.

The state of New Zealand’s environment received its most comprehensive technical assessment in a decade with the release of the Ministry for the Environment’s [Environment 2007](#) report, ‘a ‘one stop shop’ of accessible, relevant environmental information which can be used as a basis for decision-making.’ Although [Green Party](#) criticism circulated regarding editing of an earlier draft version (the deleted chapter was subsequently released [online](#)), the overall picture remains sobering; the report’s comments on the nation’s worrying [freshwater](#) quality. There is also a new [sustainability](#) govt site. There has been a notable increase in climate change stories in the media, tying in with a raft of policy decisions on sustainability.

### **Browsing**

The rather fine *NZHistory.net* site also has features on the beginnings of [scenery preservation](#) in New Zealand, [Pre-1840 contact](#) and a feature on the [Treaty of Waitangi](#), while the site’s sassy sibling [Te Ara](#), the online encyclopaedia of New Zealand, continues to add new material.

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## NEW ZEALAND MEMBER NEWS

### Successful ASLE members reading

On a sunny February afternoon, ASLE members [Hilary Elfick](#) (who was in town for the day and sparked the time slot), David Young, [Lynn Davidson](#), [Dinah Hawken](#) and Keith Westwater were joined by poets [Jenny Bornholdt](#) (Te Mata Poet Laureate 2005, recent K Mansfield Menton Fellow) & [Hinemoana Baker](#) (whose first book was published by Viggo Mortensen's Percival Press) in an ASLE-initiated event at the [Karori Wildlife Sanctuary](#) (check out their 500-year vision). The weather was perfect, the audience attentive, and the work of a high standard. The writers read beneath a bush-clad hill as a backdrop and hear the words reverberate around this valley with its special predator-proof fence (this 'mainland island' helps [native birds](#) flourish).

### Charles Dawson

Vice President, New Zealand

## REPORT FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA

A brief, three-month stint as a TESOL lecturer for a postgraduate program for Korean EFL/ESL teachers administered under Incheon's Metropolitan Office of Education, brought me to this sprawling industrial city (one of the nine main cities in South Korea, population 49 million). It sits on the west coast, about 100 kilometres from the disastrous oil spill off the coast of Taean province, and close to the international airport plumped in the Yellow Sea.

The Incheon government is well underway in establishing the much lauded IFEZ (Incheon Free Economic

Trade Zone), a massive development project that under the 'corporate friendly ideology' of the newly elected president Lee Myung-bak promises lucrative trade agreements for international and South Korean-owned multi-national businesses. As part of the development, both in Incheon and also underway in the neighboring city of Busan, the port of Incheon is being expanded to staggering proportions. Already it is the largest port in Northeast Asia, the sixth-largest in the world. I took a bus trip around the port—miles and miles of sea are being dredged to prepare for the new corporate IT city of Songdo ('New Town'). The environmental consequences of this goliathan project have scarcely been considered. An illustration of this is the plummeting native bird populations and the loss of coastland habitats, which I learned about from a British-Nigerian teacher I met in a local bar for expatriates, 'Goose Goose', at Bupyeong subway station, not far from where I live near Sinyeonsu subway station. He is painstakingly collecting data on these species and spoke to me at lugubrious length about the less than salutary efforts by the South Korean government to address this particular environmental concern. At this moment South Korea ranks 42 out of 133 countries in the 2005 Yale Environmental Performance Index, behind Cuba, Russia, and Brazil, and it is among the top 10 leading global emitters of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Beckett wrote, "The sun shone having no alternative on the nothing new (*Murphy*, Chapter One). Somewhere else I can't remember he said "try, fail; try again, fail harder." Oddly, happily, Beckett's language makes me want to continue. A recent article in *The Korea Times* (by John Feffer, 8 January, 2008) comments, the new president-elect Lee Myung-bak has "a golden opportunity" to put the country on the green map. He is an enormously popular figure (he is also

rather steeped in allegations of violation of election fund laws, criminal anti-labor activities and other political inveiglings), a reputation that owes in part to a “green revolution” that he spear-headed when he was mayor of Seoul: the restoration of a downtown river, Cheonggye Stream (it was vehemently opposed at the time by environmental activists and conservationists). Thus, local environmentalists are calling, and waiting with baited breath, for Lee to use his time in office to accomplish for the country what he is hailed for achieving in Seoul.

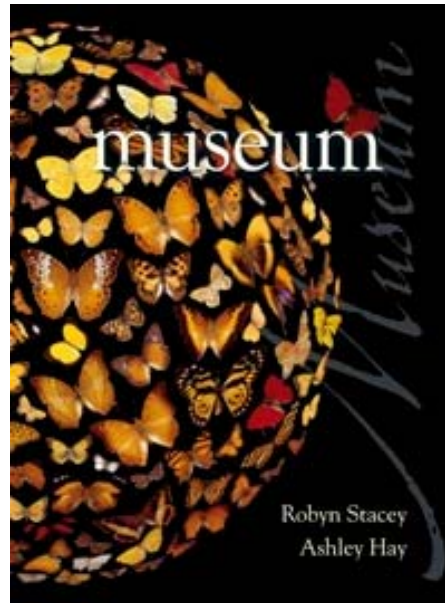
Australia is a close neighbor of Korea, and one of its major trading partners. Pound once said to Whitman, “let there be commerce between us”. I will try with others to give to the existing pact between a beautiful peninsula in the Yellow Sea and a country south of it something a little more green ( ).

### **Iris Ralph**

Secretary/Treasurer

## MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES & PUBLICATIONS, AUSTRALIA

**Bonny Dot Cassidy** is a new member of ASLE-ANZ (welcome). Bonny is a PhD candidate (Sydney) and recipient of a 2008 Asialink Residency at Keio University, Tokyo, and author of “We have passed by that Coast”: a dialogue with Jennifer Rankin’s Papers’ forthcoming in *Ecopoetics*.



**Ashley Hay**, with Robyn Stacey, *Museum*, Cambridge University Press. The story of the Macleay Museum at Sydney University Museum traces the lives of three Macleay men and tells a story of one collection, of the ideas and obsessions which underpinned it, and of the earliest days of Australian science.

**Pete Hay**: ‘Defending the Wild Lands’ in *Endangered: Tasmania’s Wild Lands* Penguin: Camberwell (Vic.), 2007, xiii-xxii.

– ‘From a Suitcase in Maritime Canada’, *Elsewhere* (US), 1(1), 20-29.

— with Ronlyn Duncan ‘A Question of Balance in Integrated Impact assessment: Negotiating Away the Environmental Interest in Australia’s Basslink Project’, *Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management*, 9(3), 273-297.

**Kate Rigby**: ‘Prometheus Redeemed? From Autoconstruction to Ecopoetics’, commissioned by Catherine Keller and Laurel Kearns (eds), *Eco-Spirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth* Fordham University Press, 270-94.

— ‘(K)ein Klang der aufgeregten Zeit? Enlightenment, Romanticism and Ecological Modernity’, commissioned by C.

Magerski, R. Savage and C. Weller, eds. *Moderne Begreifen. Zur Paradoxie eines sozioästhetischen Deutungs-musters* [Understanding Modernity. Paradoxes of an Interpretative Paradigm]. Wiesbaden: Deutscher Universitätsverlag, 145-56.

— ‘Tragedy, Modernity and *Terra Mater*: Christa Wolf Recounts the Fall’ *New German Critique* 101 (Summer 2007) 115-141.

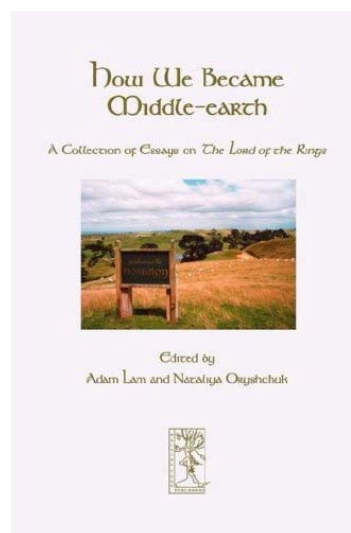
— ‘Writing After Nature’, *Australian Humanities Review* Issue 39-40 (Sept. 2006). On-line at:

<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive/Issue-September-2006/rigby.html>



**Libby Robin** Joint contributor, ‘Mind the Sustainability Gap’ in *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 22(12), 621-624 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01695347> (2007)

**Tom Wilson**: ‘A Green Reading of Peter Jackson’s ‘The Lord of the Rings’, in *How We Became Middle Earth*, Walking Tree Publishers, 2007.



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

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*The latest issue of*

**PAN** no. 4  
is on-line at:

<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=E-LIBRARY;issn=1443-6124>

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*The latest issue of*

**Colloquy**

is dedicated to **Utopias**  
and is now online

<http://www.colloquy.monash.edu.au>

This issue publishes new work dedicated to the **analysis of utopias** in film, literature, critical studies and digital technologies.

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### ‘Ecological Humanities’

in *Australian Humanities Review*

Issue 43 December 2007

Features the first in a series of ‘Classic Essays’: Tom Griffiths: ‘The Humanities and an Environmentally Sustainable Australia’ (2003)

<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR>

### ‘The Story of Stuff ’

Downloadable; DVD examines consumer-driven culture, from resource extraction to iPod incineration.

Presenter: Annie Leonard. Produced by Tides Foundation, Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

<http://www.storyofstuff.com>

### Blog News: ‘Planetary’

Announcing the premiere of a new media space in green pedagogy across the disciplines: ‘Planetary: Teaching the Environmental Humanities’ is now online at [planetaryblog.wordpress.com](http://planetaryblog.wordpress.com)

‘Planetary’, a moderated blog, is, in part, inspired by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment <<http://www.asle.umn.edu/>> and its international affiliates, though membership in ALSE is not required of authors on this blog. Graduate students and our allies in the arts and sciences are especially encouraged to post. If you'd like to become a member of the community (which is necessary to post on this kind of blog) let me know. If you just want to read and respond to the posts of others, you don't have to join.

Planetary follows the conventions of free use, with attribution, outlined by the Creative Commons movement:

(<http://creativecommons.org/>). This means that readers are free to use ideas and information they find on Planetary as long as they give proper credit to the original authors.

To join, contact **Anthony Lioi** [alioi@juilliard.edu](mailto:alioi@juilliard.edu)

### PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES



WATERMARK LITERARY  
FELLOWSHIP

**Applications close 31 March  
2008**

The Fellowship offers a residency for emerging Australian writers of natural history, nature and place in the Camden Haven on the NSW mid north coast for a 6-week period during June and July 2008. [For more information:](#)

[fellowship@watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au](mailto:fellowship@watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au)

### CALL FOR AUTHORS

*The Fourth River* (USA)

Submission deadline **15 February 2008**

welcomes submissions of creative writing that explore the relationship between humans and their environments, both natural and built, urban, rural or wild. We are looking for writings that are richly situated at the confluence of

place, space and identity, or that reflect upon or make use of landscape and place in new ways. Nature and environmental writing that is edgy and provocative, that goes beyond traditional nature writing, and contributes to a new type of place-based writing has the best chance of finding a home in our journal.

Submission information

<http://fourthriver.chatham.edu/>



A.R.A.W.L.I.I., launched in January 2008, 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>

**Facing the Change: Grassroots Encounters with Global Warming**  
Submission deadline **1 May 2008**

This will be a completely new kind of book about global climate change. Instead of experts talking at you, this planned hard-copy anthology will feature personal responses to global warming — what everyday people are feeling and thinking as well as what they are doing. Stories, essays, and poetry are welcome, from concerned citizens from all walks of life and all ages. Please go to [www.facingthechange.org](http://www.facingthechange.org) for more information, writing suggestions, and submission instructions (including a printable version of the full Invitation to Submit).

**Steven Pavlos Holmes**  
[steve@facingthechange.org](mailto:steve@facingthechange.org)

Independent Scholar in the Environmental Humanities  
[www.facingthechange.org](http://www.facingthechange.org)

***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 org

or

**Jean-Francois Vernay**

vernayj"AT"yahoo.com

### **The International Fiction Review**

*The International Fiction Review*, now in its thirty-first year, is a reviewed scholarly periodical devoted to international fiction. It publishes articles and book reviews. The journal has a worldwide circulation and a diverse readership, which shares an interest in fictions of other cultures and language groups. It invites essays on contemporary fiction by international writers, new and established, including minority writers. Equally welcome are essays on literary and narrative theory, comparative studies of world fiction, and surveys of contemporary national literatures or writers. Contributors are invited to explore all narrative forms in any interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and critical context.

The journal is available online to subscribers at [www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/IFR](http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/IFR)

Please send submissions to the editor **Christoph Lorey** □ University of New Brunswick Canada e-mail: [ifr@unb.ca](mailto:ifr@unb.ca)

### **CONFERENCES CALL FOR PAPERS**

‘The Keyboard in the Garden’  
**An Interdisciplinary Conference on  
Literature and Mediated Nature**  
2008 ASLE off-year symposium  
**27-29 June 2008**  
Delaware Valley College

**Doylestown PA 18901**

Deadline for proposals: **29 Feb 08**

We invite papers and panels relating to the conference theme, including but not limited to the following:

- Nature and design
- Parks, both city and national
- Gardens, whether formal, informal, or vegetable
- Landscape design and designers
- The garden as repository for scientific study
- Botanical gardens
- The garden as archetype
- The garden as metaphor
- The garden of earthly delights
- Creative writing: fiction, nonfiction, or poetry

On Sunday afternoon, we'll offer optional field trips, including one to Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. On-campus housing for all participants available for the full conference.

Please submit a one-page proposal, including any audio-visual requests, by **February 29, 2008**

**Richard Hunt** [richard.hunt@delval.edu](mailto:richard.hunt@delval.edu)

**ASLE-UK 5th Biennial Conference**  
‘Activism, Apocalypse, and the Avant-Garde’

**10-13 July 2008**

□ The University of **Edinburgh** □

Deadline for Abstracts **14 Feb 2008**

Plenary speakers: □ **Timothy Morton** (Uni Cal Davis); □ **Kate Rigby** (Monash University); □ **Rebecca Solnit** (author).

This international conference will bring together literary scholars, activists and practitioners to consider and discuss important interfaces between the discipline of eco-criticism

and studies of ecology, the modern period, post-colonialism and the notion of apocalypse. The organizers anticipate that a publication of selected essays will be delivered by this event. □□ Contributions are invited from writers and critics in humanities disciplines and from the sciences on the relationship of humankind to its environment. Papers are limited to 20 minutes, including, but not limited to, the following (abbreviated):

- Moving from the post-Romantic to the Modern
- The post-colonial and the end of nature
- Green re-readings of literature and other media
- Psycho-geographies
- Ecological activism and literary studies
- Refocusing the apocalyptic lens
- Latecomers and science fiction: how fictional truth became real
- Environmental philosophy
- Trauma of self, trauma of world

A limited number of bursaries are available for post-graduates. □□ Please email proposals (250 words max.) for papers etc via the [abstracts](http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/Nature/asle08/abstracts.html) page: <http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/Nature/asle08/abstracts.html>

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The Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and  
The Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS)  
‘Resilient Culinary Cultures: Disaster, Innovation and Change in Foodscapes’  
University of **New Orleans**  
**4-8 June 2008**

This year's conference is being held in New Orleans, where one of the most distinct culinary cultures in the United States is slowly but surely recovering from one of the worst disasters in American history.

For conference information:

<http://www.afhvs.org/2008mtg.html>

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Biennial conference of the British Australian Studies Association:  
‘Changing Australia’  
Royal Holloway, University of  
**London**  
**2-5 September 2008**

Deadline for Abstracts **31 March 08**

Australia is ever changing—culturally, politically, economically, artistically, historically, and geo-graphically—and this conference seeks to investigate, and interrogate, some of those changes. How and why has Australia, and Australian culture, changed? What changes are in process now? And what changes are anticipated in the future? How has the international image of Australia changed, as well as the clichés and stereotypes? How have the lives of Australians changed, and how do they continue to change. How is the definition of what it is to be 'an Australian' changing?

This call for papers invites responses to the broad conference theme in relation to a wide range of disciplines subject areas. These might include: ecology, history, fine arts, politics, mythology, literature, film, media and performance studies, music, geography, anthropology, architecture, law, popular culture, political science, sociology, archaeology, biography, cultural studies, migration and settlement studies, gender and women's studies, war studies, sports studies, religion, education.

It is expected that a selection of the papers will be published in a conference issue of the BASA journal, *Australian Studies*. The conference website is at:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/menzies/basa/conf2008.html>

Contact:

**Liz Schafer**, Prof. of Drama and Theatre Studies, University of London  
[E.Schafer@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:E.Schafer@rhul.ac.uk)

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### CONFERENCE EVENTS

(Only if you're in the area: *submission deadline past*)

'Oceans of Stories: Intercolonial Networks of Cultural Exchanges Around the Indian Ocean'

**5-7 February 2008**

University of Western Australia, **Perth**

In particular the conference will focus on:

—political ecology of the Indian Ocean narrative, poetics and cultural value

—the social circulation of objects, cultural values, stories and languages

—contemporary popular cultures: music, film and other arts

—inter-colonial labour networks

—old and new cosmopolitan subjectivities

Contact: Dr **Lola Sharon Davidson** at [Indian.Ocean@uts.edu.au](mailto:Indian.Ocean@uts.edu.au)

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'Critical Regionalism: Realising The Local'

ASAL Short Conference □

**9-10 February 2008**

Curtin University

**Perth, Western Australia**

Paul Keating famously said that if you weren't living in Sydney, you were camping. More recently, **Per Henningsgaard** argued in *Antipodes* (June 2007) that we have seen a decline of regionalism in Australian literature and culture. This conference will explore the power of place and

region in Australian writing.

The Friday afternoon before the conference will see Curtin's annual **Elizabeth Jolley** Lecture and the launch of the online Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection. The 2008 Lecture will take the form of a forum in which a number of Western Australian writers will discuss the question of regionalism and writing.

For more information:

**Ron Blaber:**

[R.Blaber@curtin.edu.au](mailto:R.Blaber@curtin.edu.au)  
Curtin University

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'Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment'

29th Annual Meeting of the SW/TX PCA/ACA

**13-16 February 2008**

Hyatt Regency **Albuquerque**

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 Ada, OK  
[khada@ecok.edu](mailto:khada@ecok.edu)

Conference Website:

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

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14<sup>th</sup> Annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference

'Jeffers, Language and Nature'

**16-17 February 2008**

Cabrillo College, **Aptos, CA**

In recent years issues touching on language and the environment have been very much at the centre of eco-literary critical discourse. Some critics

have emphasized the ‘appropriating’ quality of language and have attempted to peel away or expose the embedded humanist designs of language expressed in nature discourse. In addition to critics, writers have also sensed this issue. Both **Jeffers** and **Abbey** hoped to avoid wishful intrusions onto the space of nature.

What are the crucial issues for the artist regarding constructing nature with language? How much was Jeffers aware of and disturbed by his medium? Do authors, as **Buell** suggests, like Jeffers and Abbey, find themselves troubled by the intersection of language and the world, where writers like **Silko** see this as necessary and indistinguishable? And if so, what are the socio-cultural implications?

For Conference Information contact: **Rob Kafka**, at [rkafka@unex.ucla.edu](mailto:rkafka@unex.ucla.edu)

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ANZSANA and AAALS  
Australian & New Zealand Studies  
Association of North America  
Doubletree Guest Suites Austin, Texas  
**28 February—1 March 2008**

The ANZSANA is a multidisciplinary organisation and will meet simultaneously with the annual meeting of the American Association of Australian Literary Studies (AAALS). Shared events will include an evening reception on 28 February and a formal banquet on 29 February. More information on ANZSANA and the conference is available at ANZSANA: [www.anzsana.org](http://www.anzsana.org) or for AAALS: [http://www.australianliterature.org/Annual\\_Conference.htm](http://www.australianliterature.org/Annual_Conference.htm)

Contact: **Dr. Greg Brown**,  
Georgetown University

[gsb23@georgetown.edu](mailto:gsb23@georgetown.edu)

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ACLA Conference  
**24-27 April 2008**  
**Long Beach, CA**

Panel session exploring ‘Postcolonial Ecologies’ (defined broadly in terms of the relation between humans and the non-human world) will be held at the ACLE Conference. Topics to include: the plant trade; (post)colonial gardening; agriculture, militarisation and the environment, sustainability, food, global warming, environmental racism, tourism, ecofeminism, marine ecologies, animals; pathogens, and non-human biota.

While the definition of ecologies is broad, the focus will be on contemporary postcolonial literary texts and contexts.

For more information:  
<http://www.acla.org/acla2008/?p=44>

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‘Poetic Ecologies: Nature as Text and  
Text as Nature in English-Language  
Verse’

**14-17 May 2008**  
Université Libre de **Bruxelles**

Within the framework of an ecocritical paradigm that is still constructing itself, this international four-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. As such, this forum will not only interrogate the very notion of ecology and ask what actually constitutes ‘ecocritical’ and ecologically-engaged poetic practice; various panels/sessions will also seek

to shed light on the ever so complex issue of 'Nature' versus 'Text' and on the possible interrelationships between ecological texts and textual ecologies, between the systems of Nature and those of Culture.

In its cross-boundary coverage of ecopoetics in English, the conference will not privilege any bioregion or poetic tradition in particular, instead exploring poetic voices from all areas of the Anglophone world, from Canada to the Antipodes

Keynote speakers are: **Pamela Banting**, University of Calgary; **Andrew McMurry**, University of Waterloo, Ontario; **Judith McCombs**; **Jack Collom**, Naropa University; and Romantic literature specialist and **Mihai Stroe**, University of Bucharest & Yale, New York Academy of Sciences. Several poets (**Brian Bartlett**, **Nancy Holmes**, **Mari-Lou Rowley**, **Camille T. Dungy**, **Richard Murphy**) will share their work in performance sessions.

To further enhance the sense of eco-community amongst the participants, the program will fuse praxis and pleasure by offering an outing to the estate of Meise, which houses the national botanical gardens of Belgium, listed as one of the most important botanical collections in the world.

A selection of papers presented will be published in conference proceedings.

Contact: **Dr. Franca Bellarsi**  
Université Libre de Bruxelles  
[fbellars@ulb.ac.be](mailto:fbellars@ulb.ac.be)

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'The Art of the Real: Creative Non-Fiction'  
University of **Newcastle**

**16-18 May 2008**

Topics include: genres and forms; tensions between the 'real' and the 'fictional'; the profusion of genres and sub-genres in contemporary life writing; true crime; **travel writing**; **nature writing**; poetry/poetics of the self; reportage; biography, memoir and auto-biography; ficto-criticism; DIY media; the pedagogy of creative non-fiction.

Conference co-convenor:

**Dr Ros Smith**

[Ros.Smith@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Ros.Smith@newcastle.edu.au)

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**2nd International Working  
Conference on Sustainable  
Consumption**

'Sustainable Consumption and  
Alternative AgriFood Systems'  
**28-30 May 2008**  
Arlon, **Belgium**

This second working conference will focus on agri-food issues and examine in which way the practices of Alternative Food Initiatives contribute to sustainable consumption through four theme areas:

- The initiatives' trajectories
- Workers and consumers
- Civic consumer's action theories
- Research posture

Full info on

<http://www.suscons.ulg.ac.be>

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**3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium of  
Environment**  
Athens, Greece  
**22-25 May 2008**

The Department of Chemical

Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens in collaboration with The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) is organising the 3rd International Symposium on Environment.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars and students of environment from all disciplines such as education, environmental health, environmental law & justice, biology, chemistry, geology, economics, geography, history, political science, communications, government policy, *etc.* Special topics will be devoted to Energy, Waste and recycling; The Economy of Nature, Politics & Science, Petroleum Waste Management and Natural Methods of Controlling Pollution; Water Research Engineering, Biological Treatment of Water, Treatment Management Strategies Relevant to Water, Surface Quality Control, Atmospheric Pollution, Soil Pollution. Selected papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Registration is 250 euro. For the program of the previous symposiums and other information please visit the conference website

<http://www.atiner.gr/docs/Environment.htm>

If you would like to participate without presenting a paper, *i.e.* chair a session, evaluate papers to be included in the conference proceedings or books, contribute to the editing, or any other offer to help please email Dr. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, [gtp@atiner.gr](mailto:gtp@atiner.gr)

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5th Environmental Writers'  
Conference in honour of  
**Rachel Carson**  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine  
**10-13 June 2008**

The Environmental Writers' Conference (limited to 100 participants) will be held at The Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and scholars, writers, educators and artists are welcome to attend. The Keynote speaker is **Verlyn Klinkenborg**, author and member of the editorial board of *The New York Times*. Other featured speakers include **Alison Hawthorne Deming**, **John Elder**—who will be in residence throughout the Conference; **David Gessner**, **Linda Lear**, and **Jennifer Sahn**. Sahn is the editor of *Orion Magazine*.

The program includes guided hikes and tidal pool explorations led by representatives from the Boothbay Harbor Land Trust, the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. In addition, a trip to the Burnt Island Lighthouse is scheduled.

For Conference information:  
**Barbara Ward Klein**, President  
NEW-CUE  
<http://www.new-cue.org>

Contact **Joe Doll** at  
[info@new-cue.org](mailto:info@new-cue.org)

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‘Poetry and the Trace’  
An International Conference

Monash University  
**12-14 July 2008**  
Venue: State Library of **Victoria**

Keynote speakers: Susan Stewart, Joan Retallack, Rachel Blau Duplessis, Lionel Fogarty.

This conference broadly investigates the relationship between poetry, trace and memory and whether collective and private pasts and subjectivities can

find articulation through the flexible forms of poetic language. How does poetry negotiate bad histories and bad timing? Whose memory is being voiced or heard?

Papers are invited which consider the theme of the trace in relation to poetry of any kind from classical antiquity to the contemporary. The following lists some possible areas but proposals in any area relating to the conference theme of poetry and the concept of trace will be welcome:

Poetic compost: recycling the past for present and future uses; Rethinking the Relationship between Word and Affect; Mourning and melancholia; Canon, Reputation, and Institutionalisation; Is poetry possible in the new millennium?; The Unrecoverable: Gaps, Absence, Silence; The making of history; Electronic Dreams: Digital memories; Historicising poetic movements and coteries; Memory of sensation/the sensation of memory; Memory and the Body; Memory and Desire

To submit a proposal for the conference, please forward a 200-300 word abstract and brief biographical note as an email attachment to either:

[Ann.Vickery@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Ann.Vickery@arts.monash.edu.au)

[John.Hawke@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:John.Hawke@arts.monash.edu.au)

[Rose.Lucas@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Rose.Lucas@arts.monash.edu.au)

The Inaugural Conference on  
**The Inclusive Museum**  
 National Museum of Ethnology  
**8-11 June 2008**  
 Leiden, the **Netherlands**

At this time of fundamental social change, what is the role of the museum, both as a creature of that change, and perhaps also as an agent

of change? The International Conference on the Inclusive Museum is a place where museum practitioners, researchers, thinkers and teachers can engage in discussion on the historic character and future shape of the museum. The key question of the Conference is 'How can the institution of the museum become more inclusive?'

If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in the fully refereed academic *Journal International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* as well as access to the electronic version of the Conference proceedings.

Full details of the Conference, including are to be found at the Conference website

<http://www.Museum-Conference.com>

Contact: **Amareswar Galla**, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, The University of Queensland

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Small  
 Island Cultures  
**17-20 June 2008 Finland**

The conference is being organised by the Skärgårdsinstitut (Archipelago Institute) of Åbo Akademi University and by the University of Turku, in conjunction with SICRI.

Thematic areas for the conference include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identity and place: how does the convergence of land, water, flora, fauna and seasonal change, affect the sense of identity in relation to adjacent cultures?

- Tourism and its various impacts
- Island media, from press, through radio and television to internet
- Cultural movements: the dispersal and exchange of cultural heritage formations such as folklore, music, dance etc

The Conference will be preceded by a study tour to Saaremaa Island (Estonia), details to be announced shortly, and negotiations are underway for a post-conference day visit to Bengtskar island and its historic lighthouse. Accommodation and travel options are posted on [www.sicri.org/](http://www.sicri.org/) and will be updated regularly in the lead-in to the conference.

Contact: **Phil Hayward**  
[phayward@humanities.mq.edu.au](mailto:phayward@humanities.mq.edu.au)

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8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
 Diversity in Organisations,  
 Communities and Nations,  
**17-20 June 2008**  
 University of **Montreal**

The Diversity Conference brings together scholarly, government and practice-based participants with an interest in the issues of diversity and community. It examines the concept of diversity as a positive aspect of a global world and globalised society. Diversity as a mode of social existence can be projected in ways that deepen the range of human experience. The Conference will seek to explore the full range of what diversity means and explore modes of diversity in real-life situations of living together in community. The Conference supports a move away from simple affirmations that 'diversity is good' to a much more nuanced account of the effects and uses of diversity on differently situated communities in the context of our current epoch of globalisation.

If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in the fully refereed *International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations*, as well as access to the electronic version of the Journal.

Contact **Sebastien Arcand**  
[sebastien.arcand@diversityconference.com](mailto:sebastien.arcand@diversityconference.com)

Full details of the Conference are to be found at  
<http://www.Diversity-Conference.com>

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The International Association for  
 Environmental Philosophy (IAEP)  
 'Thinking Through Nature: Philosophy  
 for an Endangered World'  
**19-22 June 2008**  
 University of Oregon, **Eugene**

Keynote speakers: **Donna Haraway**,  
 UC Santa Cruz; **John Llewelyn**,  
 Emeritus Reader, University of  
 Edinburgh; **Gary Paul Nabhan**,  
 Northern Arizona University; **Alberto**  
**Pérez-Gómez**, **Saidye Rosner**,  
 McGill University

Taking as our theme 'Thinking  
 through Nature: Philosophy for an  
 Endangered World', there will be 20-  
 minute papers and 30-minute  
 workshops on the following topics:

—Environmental Ethics; Eco-  
 criticism; Ecophenomenology; Envir-  
 onmental Metaphysics and Theology;  
 the Aesthetics of Natural and Built  
 Environments; Environmental Resto-  
 ration and Design; Architecture,  
 Place, and Dwelling; Humanities and  
 Environmental Policy Development;  
 Environmental Justice, Social Eco-  
 logy, and Ecofeminism; Traditional

Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Perspectives; Non-Western and Comparative Approaches.

Panels will be held in the Lillis Business Complex at the University of Oregon recognised as a national model for environmentally friendly building design. Local and organic products will be supplied whenever possible. A portion of the conference budget will be directed to offset the carbon-footprint of the conference, and participants will have the opportunity to contribute to this effort.

Several sites will be selected for organised field trips for conference participants.

Contact **Ted Toadvine**  
[toadvine@uoregon.edu](mailto:toadvine@uoregon.edu)

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Conference on New Directions in the  
Humanities

**15-18 July 2008**

Fatih University, Istanbul, **Turkey**

The Humanities Conference and its associated *International Journal of the Humanities* provide a space for dialogue and publication of new knowledge, which builds on the past traditions of the humanities whilst setting a renewed agenda for their future.

As well as impressive line-up of international main speakers, the Conference will also include numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed *International Journal of New Directions in the Humanities*. If you are unable to attend the Conference in

person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication, as well as access to the electronic version of the Journal.

Full details of the Conference are to be found at the Conference website:  
<http://www.HumanitiesConference.com>

Contact **Vassil Anastasov**, Dept. of English Language and Literature,  
Fatih University

[vassil.anastasov@humanitiesconference.com](mailto:vassil.anastasov@humanitiesconference.com)

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#### **Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment**

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

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?

Contact **Martine Fernandes**  
[martinef@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:martinef@stpt.usf.edu) or  
**Thomas Hallock** [thallock@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:thallock@stpt.usf.edu)

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ASLE Grand Canyon River Trip with  
Author Rebecca Solnit

### 24 June-7 July 2009

Join members of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) and acclaimed environmental writer **Rebecca Solnit** for a wilderness rafting expedition on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. Solnit is author of *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* (2002), *A Field Guide to Getting Lost* (2005), *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities* (2005), *Storming the Gates of Paradise: Landscapes for Politics* (2008), and many other works of nature writing, history, and commentary. She is a columnist for *Orion* and publishes regularly in *Sierra* and the Nation Institute's *Tomdispatch*. Solnit was awarded the Lannan Literary Award; the National Book Critics Circle Award; grants from the Guggenheim Foundation & the National Endowment for the Arts. The full expedition will last fourteen days and cost US\$3570. Two alternatives schedules are available. You can join the 6-day upper half of the trip and then hike out from Phantom Ranch at river mile 89 (US\$1820). Or you can hike in at Phantom Ranch for the 9-day lower half (US\$2690). Prices are all-inclusive (excepting gratuities and alcoholic beverages). The trip starts and ends in Las Vegas, Nevada. Trip organiser Lance Newman is a longtime ASLE member, professor of environmental literature, and Grand Canyon river guide. Outfitter Moki Mac River Expeditions ([www.mokimac.com](http://www.mokimac.com)) has been running river trips in Grand Canyon for more than fifty years. For more information or to reserve your spot, e-mail [lnewman@csusm.edu](mailto:lnewman@csusm.edu)

*(How about we get the Two Men in a Tinnie to put on a Tour for ASLE-ANZ members?)*



To submit items to ASLE-ANZ *A New Zletter*  
 Email [CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au](mailto:CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au)  
 (Australia) or [cmj@actrix.co.nz](mailto:cmj@actrix.co.nz) (NZ)