

# AAWP newsletter

## April 2009

Compiled by Moya Costello, SCU

*COMPILER'S NOTE: Some information I already know about and have included, even though not directly received from an institution.*

### THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

▪ Launch of the 2008 AAWP anthology, *Re-Placement*, through Southern Cross University. ▪ Kevin Brophy and Rachel Robertson are co-winners of the *Australian Book Review* Calibre Essay prize. ▪ A successful annual AAWP conference organised by John Dale and team at UTS. ▪ 2009 Fourteenth Annual Conference 'Margins and Mainstreams' on 26-28 November at the Waikato Institute of Technology, Hamilton, NZ, with Gail Pittaway and team. ▪ Nicholas Jose is to go to Harvard for Australian Studies. ▪ Frank Moorhouse is the inaugural Copyright Agency Limited Writer in Residence at UTS. ▪ Marion Campbell, Glenda Guest, Belle Paterson and Julienne van Loon are among those with new books. ▪ The Creative Writing Program at the University of Adelaide is the host institution for the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership (APWP).

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## Message from the President

### Message from Marcelle Freiman

As the incoming Chair of the AAWP, elected in November 2008, I want to extend a welcome to all AAWP members. Thanks also to the members of the Management Committee for their nomination, and to the immediate past president Donna Leg Brien for her mentoring role as I take on this new position and its responsibilities.

I want to share with you some ideas I have about the role of our association at this time. Since its inception the AAWP has been part of the growth of Creative Writing and Writing Programs in Australia and New Zealand and while growth of the discipline is now ensured, the need is stronger than ever for the AAWP to be the organization that speaks for the interests of the Creative Writing and Writing and Research disciplines within academic and scholarly settings.

Higher Degree Research programs, MA Coursework programs, undergraduate creative writing courses, all have expanded enormously in the past twenty years and are now well established and sustainable. Research being done in the discipline from theoretical and applied research perspectives attests to the deepening scholarly, intellectual engagement of our work with innovative contributions by doctoral researchers and writers. Following on from the 2008 conference, I think we can agree that we are faced with new challenges, with work to be done in articulating what we are doing and how we promote the professionalism of the discipline. There is the issue of standards for doctoral degrees in creative work, with a need to frame the degrees in light of the variety of possible institutional approaches to theses. There are the ongoing questions, which so many researchers and writers are working on, about framing our research and its relationship to creative work. And there is the need for assessment standards that have educational integrity at all levels from senior high school to HDR thesis degrees. These are areas that the AAWP needs to be talking about – to foster and maintain a dialogue between practitioners, researchers, writers and teachers.

It's my intention that at a national level we can keep alive the dialogue about creative work and research, and about examining standards – with the aim of establishing a set of guidelines and expectations for academic creative writing (not a template, not a set of rules). We should be claiming our place in the current Learning and Teaching arena and be able to justify our decisions and judgments on assessment. Increasingly we are asked to be external examiners, supervisors, assessors, and to provide benchmarks for our assessment practices. I have been approached to be on panels or to advise on the question of 'what is creative research?' (a question we've been grappling with for some time, testament to its complexities rather than to our tardiness), and which you may also have been invited to do. These involve questions from universities and students about the 'form' of the creative writing thesis; standards of its assessment and examination; questions about the role of learning and assessment in creative arts; questions about teaching and examining – all of which indicates that similar queries are being made and addressed across the sector, and that we are indeed well-placed to contribute to these areas.

International connections are essential. The Australian academic and educational systems in which we work, together with publications in *TEXT*, the journal's international reach as an online journal and through its subscriptions as well as other publications (books, journal articles, essay collections, literary journals, anthologies) in Australia and overseas where AAWP members are consistently publishing their work, clearly demonstrate what we have to offer to an international context in scholarship and teaching. We should see ourselves not only as an Australian and NZ association with connections to important organizations here, such as the Australian Society of Authors, but as part of an international network. It was terrific to welcome several people from the UK organization NAWA (National Association of

Writers in Education) at the 2008 conference at UTS in Sydney. We aim to strengthen that connection as well as developing new links with other international organizations. In addition, several members of the Executive were present at the American AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Annual Conference in Chicago in January this year, where the AAWP had a booth at the book fair. Members of the AAWP should be prepared to engage and to know what others are doing, to keep in conversation with them in our research and teaching. We welcome hearing about any ventures or connections that members are involved in, now or in the future.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for our 2009 Fourteenth Annual Conference 'Margins and Mainstreams' on 26-28 November at the Waikato Institute of Technology, Hamilton, NZ, with Gail Pittaway at the helm. Our new anthology *Re-placements*, edited by Janie Conway-Herron, is available for ordering for libraries, gifts and for your own reading pleasure. Our next anthology of writing selected from national writing programs is planned for 2010, to be edited by Kevin Brophy at the University of Melbourne. We also want to foster our linkage with schools and teachers and with the TAFE sector. The AAWP is always mindful of increasing our memberships. I want to ask each person reading this newsletter to encourage others to join our association and to disseminate our website link with its easy access to membership payments. Please share your experiences of our activities with others (AWPN, Conferences, anthologies etc). Create links in your emails and websites – let's aim for more visibility. A new brochure is being designed, in line with our emphasis on publicity.

A list of all the members of the AAWP Management Committee (Executive) with their portfolio areas and contacts is available on our website. Here, I'd like to welcome new members who have joined the Committee in November 2008: Ben Chandler (our new Treasurer), Joshua Lobb (School linkages), Ffion Murphy (memberships) and Ross Watkins (publicity, brochure and Postgraduate Representative). Our designated website manager ('Web Queen') is Linda Hawryluk. I'd also like to warmly thank AAWP member Moya Costello for taking the reins for our newsletter from 2009.

**Dr Marcelle Freiman, AAWP President, Department of English, Macquarie University, NSW**

## Staff and Student Publications (predominantly apart from *Text*)

### Curtin University



Julienne van Loon's  
*Beneath the Bloodwood Tree*  
published in 2008 by Allen & Unwin.

### James Cook University

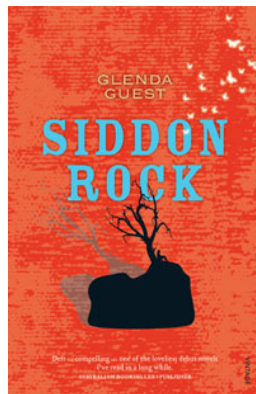
Lindsay Simpson is Co-editor *LiNQ* (Literature in North Queensland).

### Macquarie University

Jane Messer, 'Up the Highway to Campus Optus', *Text* April 2009. Jeanette Wood, 'Bowlby's Children: The forgotten revolution in Australian children's nursing', *Contemporary Nurse* vol. 30, no. 2, October 1, 2008. (PhD Macquarie and current tutor).



Glenda Guest



and her novel, *Siddon Rock*

Dr Glenda Guest, tutor in creative writing, publication of her novel *Siddon Rock* (Random House) in February 2009.

### Melbourne University

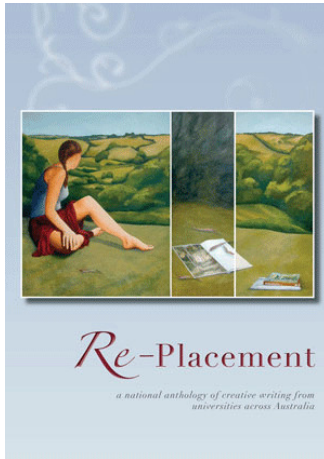


Marion Campbell's novel *Fragments of a Paper Witch* was published by Salt with a preface by Gail Jones.

### Southern Cross University

With the AAWP and Southern Cross University Press, we produced the fourth anthology, *Re-Placement*, edited by Janie-Conway Herron, Moya Costello and Victor

Marsh, with Nell Cook, Lainie Jones, Sally Goldstein, Dove Rengger-Thorpe and Mary-ellen Stringer as SCU contributors.



*Re-Placement:*  
AAWP anthology published in 08  
edited by Janie-Conway Herron, Moya Costello and  
Victor Marsh of SCU

Janie Conway-Herron's paper 'Voices for Hope: Story Telling and Human Rights' was published in *Activating Human Rights and Peace: Universal Responsibility Conference 2008 Conference Proceedings*. Moya Costello has a wine column, 'Raise Your Glass', in the Northern Rivers *Echo*. Undergraduates Sonia Borenstein, Craig Faulkner, Lin Foley and Margaret Heggen had stories published in 'The Weekender' during the *Northern Star's* short-story summer competition, and Suzie Morely had a journalistic piece in the *Art of Healing* magazine. Belle Paterson has published *Finding the Shelf within* with New Holland, an undergraduate writing project of hers.



Belle Paterson, an SCU undergraduate,  
as Jane Smith  
at the launch of her book in March,  
*Finding the Shelf within*

## University of Wollongong

Shady Cosgrove had a paper in *Activating Human Rights and Peace: Universal Responsibility Conference 2008 Conference Proceedings*.

## Prizes and Honours

### Curtin University

Rachel Robertson's essay 'Reaching one thousand' was a co-winner of the *Australian Book Review* Calibre prize 2008.

Natasha Lester is winner of the TAG Hungerford Award 2009 for an unpublished manuscript. Her novel 'What Is Left Over, After' will be published in 2010 by Fremantle Press.

### **Flinders University**

Jeri Kroll has just spent a month as a Visiting Fellow at George Washington University in Washington, D. C. in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

### **Macquarie University**

Mary-Ellen Mullane (MA) Faculty of Arts won the Fred Rush Prize.

### **Southern Cross University**

Jenna Sten was Highly Commended in the Writers' Resource Centre short-story competition. Craig Faulkner was a finalist in the *Northern Star's* short-story summer competition. Jessica Cole has won a Varuna residency to work with a HarperCollins editor on a novel.

### **University of Melbourne**

Kevin Brophy is co-winner of the *Australian Book Review* Calibre Essay prize.

### **University of Western Sydney**

Nicholas Jose will be Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University in 2009.

## **Recent completions**

### **Curtin University**

Phil Sylvester completed an MA.

### **Flinders University**

Flinders is awash with new Doctors! **Ben Chandler**, *Flight of the Dragon: A Comparative Study of Heroes in Japan and the West as Represented in Modern Fantasy Genre Fiction*. **Rex Hunter**, *Tom Tomsen's Talisman and Other Adventure Stories*. **Mag Merrilees**, *Shame: Searching for redemption in the Australian Story*. **Michael Savvas**, *'Shamejob: Murder in the Port': The Crime Novel as a Metaphor for Reconciliation*. **Emily Sutherland**, *Framing the Portrait: Finding the balance between imagination and research in the creation of an historical novel*.

### **James Cook University**

Lindsay Simpson completed a Supervisor's certificate in 08.

### **Macquarie University**

Kailash Srinivasen, Robyn Philip with MAs.

### **Southern Cross University**

Hons: Tessa Chudy, James Dene, Ashley Haywood, Patricia Lee, Mary-Ellen Stringer (who was awarded a University medal).

## General News

### Flinders University

**Professor Jeri Kroll** is overseas on study leave in semester 1, 2009. In February she organised and staffed (along with Professor Jen Webb and Gail Pittaway) the AAWP booth at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference Bookfair in Chicago. Jeri, Jen and Gail liaised with NAWE (National Association of Writers in Education) colleagues from the UK who are keen to establish links with AAWP. (Plus the Aussies played in the snow under moonlight.) Professor Leslie Jacobson did a preliminary staged reading of sections of Jeri's verse novel-in-progress, 'Vanishing Point', with actors from Horizons Theatre and theatre students from GW. Leslie is planning a full staged reading in 2010. Jeri also just gave a talk about the creative Ph D at the University of Texas at Austin.

### Macquarie University

Gina Mercer, poet and editor of *Island* magazine, was a guest and Writer-in-Residence with the Dept of English in September 2008. The residency was sponsored by the Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL).

### Southern Cross University

In February, Janie Conway-Herron went again to the Thai-Burma border to conduct writing workshops.

### University of Adelaide

The Creative Writing Program at the University of Adelaide is now the host institution for the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership (APWP).

### University of Technology, Sydney

Frank Moorhouse is the inaugural Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) Writer in Residence at UTS. During 2009, he will complete his 'Palais des Nations' trilogy at UTS.



Frank Moorhouse has written 12 books of fiction and one non-fiction. His work *Forty-Seventeen* was named Book of the Year by The Age, while *Grand Days* – the first of the Palais des Nations novels – won the South Australia Premier's Award for Fiction. *Dark Palace* took out the 2001 Miles Franklin Literary Award and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Award, the Victorian Premier's Literary

Award and The Age Book of the Year Award. Moorhouse was made a member of the Order of Australia for Services to Literature in 1985.

The **CAL Writer-in-Residence** will promote the study, recognition and appreciation of Australian literature. In 2009 a prominent Australian writer will be selected nationally as **CAL Writer-in-Residence** and be attached to the Creative Practices Area in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UTS. The **CAL Writer-in-Residence** program directly connects prominent writers with the academy. It will increase sales of the writers' books, enable their past creative work to be appreciated by a larger and more influential audience, and provide them with an intellectually stimulating environment in which to produce new creative work.

## **Unaligned**

Exegesis retreats. 10:00am May 11th until 4:00pm May 17, 2009. 10:00am August 29 until 4:00pm September 4th, 2009. Olvar Wood Writers Retreat, Sunshine Coast hinterland. Email [admin@perilousadventures.net](mailto:admin@perilousadventures.net). Cost of the week-long exegesis retreat is \$1500.00 per person.<http://www.perilousadventures.net/Olvar/Exegesis.html>

## **Waikato Institute of Technology**

2009 Fourteenth Annual Conference 'Margins and Mainstreams' on 26-28 November at the Waikato Institute of Technology, Hamilton, NZ, with Gail Pittaway and team.

## **Journals/magazines: the institutions**

### **Curtin University**

A new journal *dotdotdash*: aims to publish new and emerging writers, poets and artists. The theme for issue 1 is 'Quicksand'. Submissions close 30 June 2009. Email: [dotdotdash.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:dotdotdash.submissions@gmail.com).

### **James Cook University**

*LiNQ* (Literature in North Queensland). Submission date to be finalised but issue planned later in 09. Theme will be the nexus between popular culture and the region.

## **Conferences** (largely apart from AAWP)

### **Flinders University**

Jeri Kroll chaired and presented on the panel, "Exploring International Writers' Organisations" (which included Jen Webb and Gail Pittaway plus colleagues from the UK), at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference Bookfair in Chicago.

### **Southern Cross University**

Nell Cook read at the launch of the AAWP anthology at the 2008 annual AAWP conference. PhD student Iris Curteis presented at the two early conferences in 09, Legacies 09, and Individual Evolution for World Evolution—Personal Action, World Healing. Janie Conway-Herron presented at the Activating Human Rights and Peace Conference 2008. Iris and PhD candidate Judi Stockwell presented at Crux, SCU's postgrad conference, in late 2008.

### **University of Wollongong**

Shady Cosgrove presented a paper at Activating Human Rights and Peace Conference 2008.

## Competitions from the institutions

### **Curtin University**

Bobbie Cullen Memorial Prize 2009. Closing date October 1 2009.

### **University of Technology, Sydney**

*The Inaugural Guy Morrison Prize for Literary Journalism*

The annual \$2000 Guy Morrison Prize for Literary Journalism recognises excellence in Literary Journalism by an undergraduate and postgraduate Writing or Journalism student.

The prize honours Sydney journalist and playwright Guy Morrison, former Production Editor of The Australian and Features Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald, author of the memoir *We Shared an Island*, and plays *Jara*, *Those Old Picasso Blues*, *Dancing the Tango in Sensible Shoes*, *Victor*, and *Eat Cake*.

*Conditions of the Prize:*

The Prize is for the best piece of Literary Journalism by an undergraduate or postgraduate student enrolled in a Writing or Journalism program in an Australian university. In the context of this Prize, Literary Journalism is defined as: "a factually accurate, well-researched story that demonstrates the use of fiction techniques in a work of non-fiction; a work that is written with style, flair, detailed description and narrative flow; a work that demonstrates a journalistic and critical understanding of some of the finest reportage in the English language". The work submitted for the Prize must demonstrate these qualities.

There will be only one award presented each year and this will be at the discretion of the judges. The prize may not be given if there is not deemed to be a suitable candidate. The amount of the Prize is \$2000. There is a travel allowance of up to \$500 if the winner lives outside Sydney.

To qualify for consideration for the Prize, the applicant must:

1. Have been enrolled in a Writing or Journalism Program as a part-time or full-time undergraduate or postgraduate in an Australian university.
2. Have submitted a story of not less than 2000 words that exemplifies the qualities of Literary Journalism as stated here.
3. Have produced the work in the 12 months prior to April 30, 2009

*Applications*

Applicants must submit three (3) copies of the story, A-4 and double-spaced, with full details of name, institution, course, contact details and have it authenticated by a supervising academic.

Applications must be received at the UTS Centre for New Writing, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney, PO Box 123 Broadway, NSW 2007, by April 30 and marked "Guy Morrison Prize".

The winning entry will be decided by a specially convened selection committee, the decision of which shall be final. The winner will be announced at the launch of the UTS Writers' Anthology during the 2009 Sydney Writers' Festival, May 18-24.

## ORDER FORM FOR *RE-PLACEMENT*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25.00 (inc GST (Australia) or AU\$22.75 (ex Australia)</li> <li>• Invoices not issued for private orders. Overseas customers must supply credit card details.</li> <li>• Complete details and return form (post/fax) to: Southern Cross University press PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480 Fax + 61 2 6620 3282 scupress@scu.edu.au</li> </ul>	<p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Ph/Fax</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Please supply _____ copies of Re-Placement at the cover price quoted above plus delivery of \$5.00 (Australia) and AUS \$12.00 (overseas). For large multiple orders, postage rates may vary, so please enquire first.</p> <p>Cheque enclosed (Australian customers only) \$-----</p> <p>Or bill my credit card:</p> <p>Card type ----- (visa or Mastercard accepted)</p> <p>Card Number -----</p> <p>Expiry Date -----</p> <p>Cardholder's name</p> <p>Cardholder's signature</p>	