

A New Zletter

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

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE, ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE—AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Summer Issue 10

December 2010

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THE OLDEST WISTERIA IN AUSTRALIA

CITY PARK RADIO STATION, LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA. 'SOUNDING THE EARTH' CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
(Photo: Barbara Holloway, Secretary / Treasurer)

ASLEC-ANZ
A New Zletter

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ASLEC-ANZ News is the official newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture—Australia and New Zealand. It is distributed to members twice yearly, in July and December. The December mail out will also include the Membership Directory.

Contributions of news items, member activities and publications, calls for papers, poems, photographs, etc., should reach the editor, **Neale Macdonald**, in due course.

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NEWS FROM THE NODE

Greetings. And Sorrow. We offer our sincerest regard for colleagues, friends and families across the Tasman who, having survived the earthquake of 7.1 magnitude on September 4, were to watch in November as four explosions shook Pike River Mine, burying 29 men. ASLEC-New Zealand Vice-President, **Charles Dawson** comments more fully in his NZ Report. We missed you Charles at the 3rd Biennial Conference in September. And we welcome all new ASLEC-ANZ Members—those who presented at the ‘Sounding the Earth’ conference, and those who, for whatever reason, missed out on the literal culture/nature conjunctions of the conference title—registering in a Community Radio Station at City Park, with the ‘Animal Calls’ of the HIV-positive Macaque monkeys grooming behind one wall of the compound, and the oldest wisteria in Australia (see front cover) growing on the other. The conference took place during auspicious times. On 19 October, as Friday’s Keynote speaker **Damian Candusso**



was setting up his ‘Nature Man Machine’ installation at the Academy of the Arts, a Peace deal (in principle) between logging contractors, The Wilderness Society, and the Forest Industries Association was announced. The agreement is to transition Forest Industries out of old growth logging in Tasmania while continuing to support the timber industry (i.e., plantations). Like an overarching branch bearing mood pods of burgeoning hope, the news was received by local ASLEC-ANZ delegates with cautious optimism and shifts in sentiment as relations with timber company Gunns Ltd. undergo reassessment—after 30 years of doing battle. More good oil came by way of opening keynote speaker **John Bradley**, Monash U. with his brilliant presentation ‘Earth embedded song and human amplifiers’, complete with John in song. The photo (above) shows CA. Cranston with the delicious songster, **Ronnie Summers**, a Tasmanian Elder, taken after the Welcome to Country ceremony. There was lots of food (thank you, UTas). Though why do private caterers penalise conferences by charging extra for Fair Trade coffee and tea when there are brands available for less than the commercial brands? Smiling again, we extend our thanks to the local community for its support: locals like City Park Radio, The Royal Oak, and our on-the-spot Local Culture Advisor, **Helen Tait**. (For a full conference report

see **Rupert Summerson's** column, this newsletter). Following the Tasmanian Forest Statement of Principles handed to Premier David Bartlett earlier in the week, more peace was in the offing with the 2010 Sydney Peace Prize going to the redoubtable **Vandana Shiva** who delivered the Peace Prize lecture on November 3rd at the Sydney Opera House. Listen to her lecture on ABC's [Big Ideas](#).

Inaugural Journal

Although we're putting the 3rd Biennial Conference to rest we are opening the way for a peer-reviewed online journal featuring papers from the conference. Made possible through the Open Journal System and the Public Knowledge Project, this project is the logical next step in facilitating the growth of the Association and stimulating interest in ecocriticism and the ecohumanities in Australia. The editorial team consists of **Lorraine Shannon**; outgoing ASLEC-ANZ President, **CA. Cranston**, and retiring Treasurer/Secretary, **Barbara Holloway**. Members will be contacted regarding submissions as the project progresses. The Association is going from strength to strength—just vide the publications and prizes that ASLEC-ANZ members scooped up this year! (See Members Publications & Activities)

Members' Links

To keep the momentum generated at the conference we're asking members to publicise ASLEC-ANZ through simple and painless measures such as attaching a link to the Association via email signatures, and via personal websites. The ASLEC-ANZ **Resources Page** ought to be chocker with information; to accomplish this members are encouraged to share resources and links that could make the Resources Page a must-have bookmark. *The Green Grammar Dictionary* is another initiative aimed at providing and promoting Australian and New Zealand definitions, sources, and examples, relating to terminology that is crucial to the interests of ASLEC-ANZ. I will continue as GGD Web Maestro and whole-heartedly encourage members to contribute items from their own work as well as that of other Southern Hemisphere colleagues. Once there is a

healthy body of work the GGD will be accessible for viewing outside the membership. A copy of the first page of entries can be found under 'Publications' below. As you will see, not all entries have local definitions. Here's your chance to change that. In my two years as President my goal has been to shift the view Southward; to create ways to facilitate easier access to Southern hemisphere ecocritical research; and to work as closely to a theory/praxis model (words *and* deeds) as is possible. I'm looking forward to the new directions that ASLEC-ANZ will go under the next Executive. So, my thanks to the Association—to my colleagues, **Kate Rigby, Debbie Rose, Charles Dawson, Mark Tredinnick, Barbara Holloway, Iris Ralph, Chris Coughran, Neale Macdonald, Stuart Cooke, and Tim Chandler**—for the honour of being nominated as President during 'interesting times'. This issue of *ANewZletter* was compiled and created by CA. because Neale is in the final moments of completing her Ph.D. Good luck, Neale. Hurry back.

'News from the Node' is brought to you by the 'president' of an organisation with an ecological focus that stresses interconnectedness rather than hierarchy. And while the Deleuzo-guattarian rhizomic borrowing lacks the gravitas of 'president', it suggests a firm grip of the earth. It is also a reminder that, like allelopathic nut grass, our impact on other organisms is not always without harm.

CA. Cranston

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

John Bradley
—(Honorary member)
*Yanyuwa
storyboarding;
linguistics;
Indigenous
ecological
knowledge*



Jan Baker-Finch—
*the interpretation of the environment through
movement.*

Marcus Baynes-Rock—
Interspecies relations; evolutionary anthropology

Jesse Blackadder—
Antarctica; place-based writing

Kate Both—
Ecophilosophy; gestalt ontology

Laurie Brinklow—
Island studies; phenomenology

Damian Candusso—
Sound, cinema, & environment

Glenda Cloughley—
Mythic theatre; Western lore song; cultural psychology

Carol Freeman—
Animal studies

Chris Gallagher—
Director, Tasmanian Writers Centre

Stephen Harris—
Aust. Lit; Environmental Writing

Keita Hatooka—
Literature, Disability, Environment

Deirdre Kessler—
Children's Lit. & Environment

Katherine Johnson—
Science writer; novelist

Patricia Long—

Tom Lynch—
Deserts; outback/west

Anthony Magen—
Landscape architectural urbanism; performance

Koji Matsunobu—
Interface between spirituality, ecology & aesthetics in the context of music

Glenn Morrison—
Ecocriticism; science/art overlap; narrative journalism

John Parham—
Ecocritical theory; (Post) humanism; Victorian Studies; green cultural theory

Merryl Parker—
Australian Animal Studies

Cecilia Rogers—
Ecocriticism; Eco-Gothic literature

Sapphire Roller—

John C. Ryan—
Botany

Hollis Taylor—
Zoomusicology; music of nature; nature of music

Andrew Thelander—
Author

Elaine van Kempen—
Nature writing; natural history; food & wine; Watermark biennial event convener

Katherine Wright—
Place-based research; animal studies; ecological humanities

\$20K CALL FOR POET IN RESIDENCE

\$20,000 Poet in Residence, Australian Poetry, supported by the Pratt Foundation. 'Australian Poetry' is a national organisation so poets can apply from anywhere in Australia. The selected poet will receive \$20,000 to work in their home city, from March 1 until October 31, 2011. The poet will spend time writing poetry, reading publicly, attending events, contributing to publications, working with 'Australian Poetry' and relevant associated organisations, to be an ambassador for poetry, promoting their own work, and the art form. The information sheet for applicants can be downloaded from www.tasmanianwriters.org under the Tasmanian Writers News Blog.

Call for Selection Panel for the 'Australian Poetry' residency (above). 'Australian Poetry' is seeking to establish a selection panel of industry leaders and established poets. If you are an established poet, publisher or representative of a poetry organisation, please express your interest, to paul@australianpoetry.com.au



THE FIFTH CALIBRE PRIZE FIRST PRIZE: \$10,000

Australian Book Review (ABR) and the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) Seek entries for an Outstanding Essay, the nations premiere Award for an original essay and one of the world's most lucrative essay competitions. The Calibre Prize is intended to generate brilliant new essays and to foster new insights into culture, society and the human condition. All non-fiction subjects are eligible: from life writing to literary studies, history to politics, biography to philosophy, natural history to popular science, travel writing to environmental studies.

Guidelines and entry forms available on ABR website www.australianbookreview.com.au

Eligibility: Essayists must reside in Australia or be Australian citizens living overseas. Essays can range from 3,000-10,000 words.

Entries close: **1 January, 2011**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT, NEW ZEALAND

TENA KOUTOU KATOA, GREETINGS. I'd like to share some happenings from here that have shaped a lot of the news in recent months, and both are events of and about land and people. On September 4 the South Island's Canterbury region was wrenched by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake. As Ruth Laugesen [observed](#)

The earthquake that hit Canterbury at 4.35am on September 4 has jolted New Zealand out of its complacency. It is a reminder that high-magnitude quakes can happen virtually anywhere in these shaky isles.

The 'blind fault' that wrenched was unmapped, just like the fault line in 1931's Napier earthquake (where my grandfather recalled bridges doing spaghetti-like shimmies). In the 2010 quake people spoke of its violence, of their inability to stand as the earth bucked and heaved and areas of ground liquefied, silt irrupting into areas of former lawn, plans for massive underground 'dams' circle entire neighbourhoods to stabilise the soil have begun. Looking at GNS's [image](#) of *Ten years of shallow earthquakes in New Zealand*, you can see the term shaky isles is absolutely right:



Analyst and political journalist **Colin James** [noted](#) the divergence between Haiti's experience of a 7.1 quake and Canterbury's: 'Humans have no power over the planet's geology or weather. Humans have power only over what they can do. Engineers can mitigate the effects of earthquakes: none dead in Canterbury; around 230,000 dead in Haiti.'

PIKE RIVER MINE EXPLOSION

29 miners died in a massive methane explosion in a 2 km long mine tunnel on the South Island's west coast. More info is [here](#). This has led to an outpouring of support for the miners' families and the town of Greymouth, and significant technical support from the Australian mining industry.

FORESHORE DEBATE 2003/2010

Colin James used the image of a quake to invoke the 2003 Court of Appeal ruling on Māori rights to the [foreshore and seabed](#) could be interpreted in the courts. Seven years on,

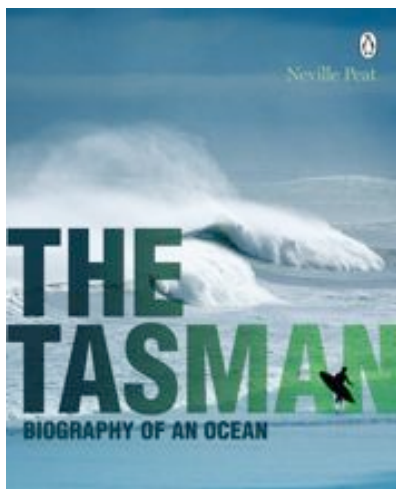
James [refers](#) to new legislation is proposed that again focuses national attention and a wide spectrum of views on the 'wet sand' area below high tide. Notions of the 'Kiwi birthright' to walk on the beach are pit against the fact of privately owned sites (30% of the coastline is in private hands) and [eroded](#) Māori rights.

Shifting sands, silt erupting from the earth's crevasses, flammable gasses blazing in 2 kilometre-long mines, their walls of coal smouldering still. We have had so many column inches devoted to the bedrock of the planet we live on, and yet David Suzuki's message on his New Zealand tour last month was bleak: we are past the eleventh hour and have already caused so much wilful damage. All is not woe: he spoke to packed houses. And we continue to see beautiful books and films made about celebrating or restoring the remnants that remain.

BOOKS

Film director and artist **Vincent Ward's** [The Past Awaits](#) is a powerful combination of Ward's art, photography and creative non-fiction. Deeply embedded in a sense of place, story and memory, it will appeal to a wide audience; it's an exquisite production.

Poet and essayist **Brian Turner** won the New Zealand Post Book [Award](#) for poetry with his volume *Just This*. **Jeffery Paparoa Holman** [reviewed](#) the work of 'The Thoreau of Central Otago' and found much to like.



Former ASLEC member **Neville Peat**'s award winning book [Tasman: biography of an ocean](#) was launched in 2010; it will resonate for readers of both sides of that squally passage, as will details of solo rower **Shaun Quincey**'s [success](#) early this year.

In **film** the biggest success is **Taika Waititi**'s [Boy](#) which demonstrated that we are still hungry for stories of this land; another feather in the cap for Taika, who is buddies with the *Conchords*; it's going to be good for Māori film, as is [The Strength of Water](#) from Māori script and playwright Briar Grace-Smith. Documentary highlights include [This Way of Life](#), an insight into a family's pared back and grounded commitment to place, simplicity and sustainability: 'What do I do for a living? I live for a living.' **Peter Karena**, in the doco.

ON YER BIKE: The capital city, Wellington, has elected **Celia Wade-Brown** as its first Green and cycling-ardent mayor. A spate of cyclists being killed by cars on the roads has led to a coronial inquiry and a network of [cycleways](#) is being built around the country to boost tourism.

All the best for Christmas: and yes, do try a New Zealand apple when they [make it over there](#) after an erroneous and illegal 89-year ban: they are nice. I will reciprocate and look for Queensland mangoes! Meantime I will ponder the stuff that helps the mangoes, apples and humans grow: **WATER**. In New Zealand, where water seems abundant (in the western coasts), a major report not only looks at irrigation and pollution from run-off as the country's dairying boom comes under increasing [scrutiny](#), but also how to run a Scandinavian style forum for discussing and coming up with shared goals across a range of interest groups. Check out the report at www.landandwater.org.nz and New Zealand's Royal Society's fascinating and sobering short paper [Virtual Water](#).

Kia ora ki a koutou katoa / salutations, best wishes and good health to you all,
Charles Dawson



SAM NEILL AND LILLY
TROWUNNA WILDLIFE PARK

New Zealander **Sam Neill** caught in the loving act of a hug, with Lilly, a rescued wombat living at **Trowunna Wildlife Park**, Mole Creek, in Tasmania. Best known for his role as paleontologist, Dr Alan Grant, in *Jurassic Park* (1993) and *Jurassic Park III* (2001) Neill began life as an army brat, later graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Victoria University, Wellington. He lives in Sydney, runs a vineyard in NZ, and supports Greenpeace and World Wildlife Fund (according to Wikipedia).

He and Lilly were snapped by **Deirdre Kessler**, Prince Edward Island academic and writer, when she visited Trowunna after the 'Sounding the Earth' conference.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



In March 2010 I attended a conference at Harvard University called 'Climate: Science and Humanities' at which Australian, Chinese and American postgraduate students came together to present interdisciplinary papers on climate change. The breadth of the papers—which covered the whole spectrum of arts and sciences—showed how widely concern for these issues has infiltrated academe, and the necessity for all disciplines to contribute to the discussion about anthropogenic climate change and other environmental issues.

The highlight of 2010 was of course the ASLEC-ANZ 'Sounding the Earth' conference in Launceston, where I met several student members, along with many others. As we are so few and so widely dispersed, such gatherings are invaluable for exchanging ideas and keeping up on what's happening in the region.

Student Representative **Tim Chandler** (Monash U.) is finishing his MA thesis titled 'Reading Atmospheres: Ecological Aesthetics and Virgil's *Eclogues*'. Tim presented a paper titled 'What echoes in the forest of literary history?' at the ASLEC-ANZ conference and MC'd the 'Bending the Ivory Tower' evening at The Royal Oak. He is now finishing up his year as Student Representative. The Executive thanks him for his work and admires his hat greatly. Student Representative for 2011 is **Jesse Blackadder**, University of Western Sydney. Her interests are place-based writing; Antarctica; gender issues.

CONFERENCE REPORT

ASLEC-ANZ Third Biennial Conference 'Sounding the Earth: Music, Language, Acoustic Ecology', October 2010, Launceston

In October the new society, the Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture–Australia and New Zealand, held its conference in Launceston, Tasmania. The theme of the conference was 'Sounding the Earth: Music, Language, and Acoustic Ecology'. The conference was held in the Tram Shed in the Inveresk Cultural Precinct—the one-time railway marshalling yards and now re-born as a spacious site of post-industrial culture. This is very much a personal account as I wasn't able to attend every presentation and event and some things made a deeper impression on me than others. I hope that those people I don't mention won't be offended. One of the tragedies of a conference such as this is that inevitably you miss things that you want to listen to, either because of competing papers but also because one meets so many interesting people!

DAY ONE

The first day was a day of openings, launchings and greetings. I went along to the first opening: 'The Raw of Nature' installation in the Tram Shed loading dock—an austere functional space and the antithesis of anything natural—especially as the traffic roared up and down the street outside making the words of welcome hard to hear. After lunch a number of us made up a walking tour up the famous Cataract Gorge which gave us a chance to get to know each other and a chance to get our bearings in the city. We were blessed with good weather which made it a pleasure to walk around. That evening there were launchings of four books at Aaj Indian Restaurant on Charles Street. **Carol Freeman's** *Paper Tiger: A*

visual history of the Thylacine; **Jennifer Rutherford** and **Barbara Holloway**'s *Halfway House: The Poetics of Australian Space*; **Libby Robin**, **Chris Dickman** and **Mandy Martin**'s *Desert Channels: The impulse to Conserve*; and **Ian Kennedy Williams**'s *Fugitive Places: Stories from a suite of hotels*. As one who has walked extensively through ancient thylacine territory, the dry sclerophyll forests on the east coast of Tasmania, Peter Hay's description of 'an almost tangible absence' during his launch of Carol's book resonated with me.

DAY TWO

It would be nice to think that all conferences and major events from now on will follow the example of our conference and offset their carbon emissions by a donation of trees. How many trees would it take to offset the World Cup, I wonder? After a welcome to country by **Dyan Summers**, we were treated to the very moving story of **Fanny Cochrane Smith** and **Horace Watson** who appeared together in a photograph. The musical rendition of the story by **Bruce Watson** and **Ronnie Summers** can't have left a dry eye in the house. **John Bradley**'s keynote speech was startling in that he revealed that he is now one of only five people who can speak Yanyuwa, the language of the Yanyuwa people in the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria. I was disappointed that **Bruce Chatwin**'s *The Songlines* didn't tell me anything about songlines; I was enthralled by John's account. I was fascinated by the sounds of **Lila Meleisea**'s leather horns. I have seen some quite unusual instruments—but never before now instruments made out of leather! They have a quite soft and organic sound—perfect for sounding the earth. The discussion of bird sounds has been one of the perennial themes for environmental conferences and the relationship we have with birds through music has had a fascination for centuries. Remember Mozart's starling? **Ron Nagorcka** demonstrated some of the complexities of birdsong and his own fascination with its musicality.

I discovered from **Barbara Holloway**'s paper that I am not the only person in the world who listens to trees—either by putting my ear right up against the trunk when the wind is blowing



and also by listening to the eerie croaks as trees rub against each other in the forest. Having read *The Casuarina Tree* by **Somerset Maugham**, I have a slightly fearful attitude to those otherwise beautiful trees. I loved **Keita Hatooka**'s story about **Kenzaburo Oe** and his mentally handicapped son's awakening through the music of birds and Bach, for me it illustrated, once again, that mysterious power that music has over us. **Vanessa Tomlinson**'s work reminded me of a short film from Sweden called 'Music for an Apartment and Six Drummers' (you can find it on YouTube). Our world is full of materials to make music out of, including, as Vanessa demonstrated, a pile of leaves, plastic bags and miscellaneous crockery. As a shakuhachi player, I identified immediately with **Koji Matsunobu**'s

paper: 'Performing and Listening to Nature through a Bamboo Flute'. It was good to hear that there has been a resurgence in interest in playing this instrument in Japan, as well as in the West.

The Writers' Panel was an opportunity to hear how professional writers carry out their craft. I was particularly interested (as I work in fisheries and marine science) to hear **Katherine Johnson** discussing her book *Pescador's Wake*, the story of the chase of a boat caught illegally fishing for Patagonian toothfish near Heard Island and its eventual apprehension

near South Africa. And I learnt that you really can hear whale songs through the hull of a boat! A few years ago I hosted some beehives in my garden in Canberra so was also very interested in **Grace Pundyk's** *The Honey Spinner* and the account of her travels in search “orgasmic” honey!

‘The Royal Oak’, where we had our evening of performances, demonstrated the antithesis of the “less is more” approach to cuisine! So many people performed at ‘Bending the Ivory Tower’ and the evening was so full of fun and good humour that I can hardly recall any individual performances, except, of course, for **Jan Baker-Finch's** robotics!

DAY THREE

The keynote speaker for Friday was **Damian Candusso**, talking about ‘Clean Sound: Sound designing an Environment for Film’. This was about both creating realistic sounds from foreign objects and also about finding a clean sound environment without background noise from noisy humans, something that is becoming ever harder to achieve. [Damian was the sound engineer for ‘Happy Feet’ and ‘Australia’]. I missed several of the papers on Friday while I either prepared for or was presenting my own about Antarctica—the quietest continent. The silence of Antarctica is one of its key characteristics, which is so hard for humans to appreciate and even harder to keep that way. I think the most startling paper of the conference for me was **Marcus Baynes-Rock's** ‘Songs of Death in the Night’ about the hyenas that share the town of Harar in Ethiopia and their relationship with humans. Some humans are said to understand what the hyenas are singing about, knowledge that they must be careful with!

Kumi Kato, Kate Rigby and **Lorraine Shannon** presented the last papers of the conference and brought together the essence of how we should interact with our environment, from Kumi Kato's homage to **Val Plumwood** to Kate's celebration of Eichendorff's *Rauschen* and Lorraine's evocation of Orpheus, these really provided stimulation to go out and live right.

That was not the end of the conference, however. The conference dinner was a wonderful celebration of Tasmanian produce in what had once been the haunt of the local sailors and it was perfectly organised. And it rained the only time we were there!

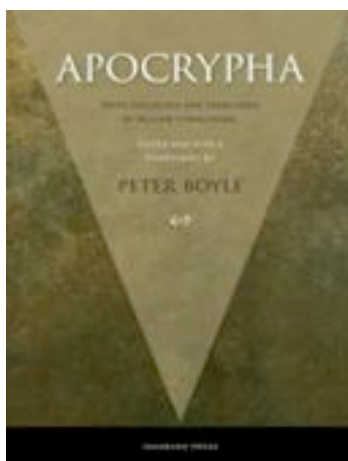
DAY FOUR

Finally, on Saturday, the conference excursion took us to the Blue Tiers in north-eastern Tasmania. The focus of the trip was a visit to Kodama Forest [the forest of tree spirits, so named after a forest guardian Kodama, which appears in a Japanese animation ‘Princess Mononoke’] where an extraordinary relationship has developed between a group of Japanese students and the local people wanting to preserve their forest. This culminated in the installation of a suikinkutsu or Japanese underground water harp (sui = water, kin = harp, kutsu = cave), built by a master who travelled to Tasmania specially to install it. As we enjoyed the sound, a performance of percussion by Vanessa, dance by Jan, leather horn by Lila and shakuhachi by Koji and myself developed into a full-blown celebration of the forest. After a barbecue hosted by local friends of the forest, we went up to Mt Poimena for a short bush walk from which we could enjoy fabulous views down to the Bay of Fires, the Eddystone Point Lighthouse and Ringarooma Bay. That brought to an end the third conference of ASLEC-ANZ. A big thank you to CA and Barbara in particular for the organisation.



Rupert Summerson

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Peter Boyle *Apocrypha* (Vagabond Press). won the Arts Queensland Judith Wright Calanthe Award. 'Intellectually and poetically, this is the most ambitious book that has appeared in Australian poetry in the last decade'.



John Bradley *Singing Saltwater Country: Journey to the Songlines of Carpentaria* (Allen & Unwin). John spoke about some of the Saltwater experiences as Keynote at the 'Sounding the Earth' conference.

Tim Chandler and **Kate Rigby** (Monash U.) published a translation of an essay titled "The Atmospheric in the Experience of Nature" by German environmental philosopher, Gernot Böhme in a special issue of the Australian Journal of German Studies, *Limbus* 10: "After Nature/Nach der Natur".

Tim Chandler, ASLEC-ANZ Student Rep. is submitting his work for the degree of MA. 'Reading Atmospheres: Ecological Aesthetics and Virgil's *Eclogues*'. Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Monash University. Submitting January 2011. This thesis draws on the work of the German philosophers Gernot Böhme, Walter Benjamin and Theodor Adorno to formulate an ecocritical theory of reading Virgil's *Eclogues* centred on Böhme's concept of aesthetic atmospheres.

Carol Freeman (UTas) *Paper Tiger: A Visual History of the Thylacine* (Brill). *Paper Tiger* was launched by Pete Hay at the 'Sounding the Earth' conference in October.

Susan Hawthorne has been appointed Adjunct Professor in the Writing Program at James Cook University. Her poetry collection *Earth's Breath* (Spinifex Press, 2009) was shortlisted for the 2010 Judith Wright Calanthe Award.

Freya Mathews, 'On Desiring Nature' [on Living Sustainably] *Indian Journal of Ecocriticism*, Vol. 3, August 2010, 1-9. This issue of *IJE* contains two other Australian contributions: an essay by **Glyns Livingstone** and an interview with **John Seed**.



Merryl Parker, brand new ASLEC-ANZ member, is guest speaker at the **2011 Watermark Literary Muster**, speaking on Nature and Place of the Backyard. Her essay *The Environmental Dingo* received a High Commendation in this year's Eric Rolls Prize.

Kate Rigby edited a special issue of *Philosophy Activism Nature* (No. 7, 2010) titled *Cultures of Sustainability*, which includes a number of articles based on papers from the 2008 ASLE-ANZ conference at RMIT University, along with poems and essays. Among the contributors are ASLEC-ANZ members **Libby Robin**, **Noelene Kelly**, **Charles Dawson**, **Lorraine Shannon**, **Susan Hawthorne**, **Anne Elvey**, **Mark Tredinnick**, **Pete Hay** and (as translators) **Tim Chandler** and **Kate Rigby**.

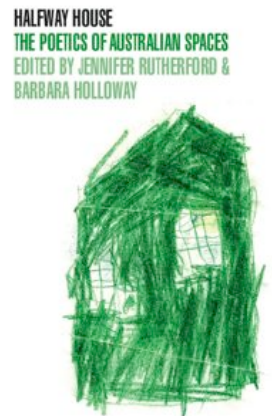
Libby Robin, ASLEC-ANZ Advisory Board member, has undertaken a project in Sweden with the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and the Stockholm Resilience Centre working globally with place-based ideas. She was recently reappointed to the National Committee for the History of Science. She's also appearing at the **Watermark Literary Muster** in June 2011.



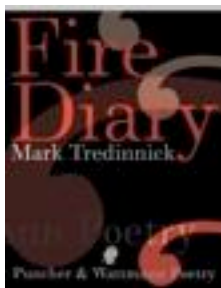
Desert Channels: the Impulse to Conserve (CSIRO; with CD) by **Libby Robin, Chris Dickman, and Mandy Martin**. *Desert Channels* was launched by Kate Rigby at the 'Sounding the Earth' conference.

Halfway House: The Poetics of Australian Space (UWA) co-edited by **Jennifer Rutherford** and **Barbara Holloway**.

'Twenty essays explore multidisciplinary notions of space'. *Halfway House* was launched by Debbie Rose at the 'Sounding the Earth' conference.

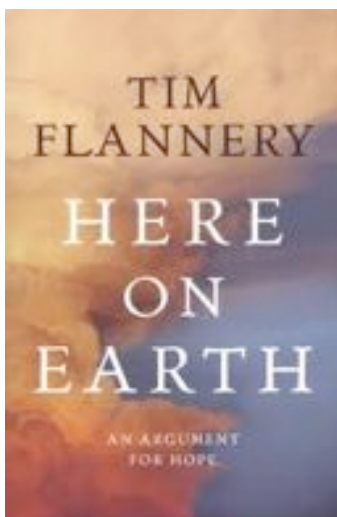


Mark Tredinnick's collection of poems *Fire Diary* was launched 1 December at 'The Friend in Hand', Cowper Street, Glebe. \$20 from Puncher & Wattmann, PO Box 441 Glebe NSW 2037; office@puncherandwattmann.com. Mark also attended the **Tasmanian Poetry Festival** in October after winning the **Queensland Premiere's Literary Award** for Non-Fiction for *Blue Plateau: A Landscape Memoir* (Penguin, 2009). Not a bad effort. Here's a poem from the Tasmanian Poetry Festival that was also one of the extracts selected for display at the 'Sounding the Earth' conference, titled 'So Little to say, so much space to say it in':



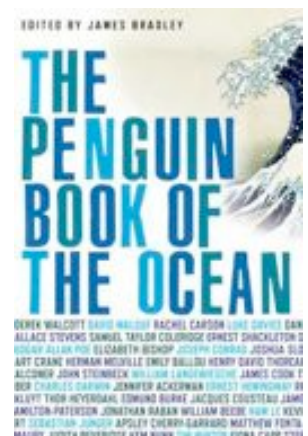
Winter is the silence
you nearly killed yourself trying
to finance. But when it comes at last, as it does again this morning,
it's always
a bit more silent than you'd meant. Way too much
elsewhere and *otherwise* enamelled on the sky's tin cup.
And then there's the problem of your self,
Sitting here, a chipped glass in your hand and more bittersweet
Water swilling in the flask than you'll get to the bottom of by spring
and no one anywhere to drink to.

Other books of interest:



Tim Flannery *Here on Earth: An Argument for Hope* (Text; \$34.95). *Here on Earth* was launched by **Cate Blanchett** in Sydney, in September. An online review by **Ian Lowe**, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation, can be found at the [Readings](http://Readings.com.au) site.

The Penguin Book of the Ocean, edited by **James Bradley**. \$35, with selections from Coleridge, Rachel Carson, **Tim Winton**, Edgar Allan Poe, **David Malouf**, Edmund Burke, Jacques Cousteau, **Judith Beveridge** and more. (What better publisher for a 'book of the ocean' than Penguin?)



STATE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIRDS: NATIONAL ISLAND BIOSECURITY INITIATIVE

Since 2003 Birds Australia has produced an annual State of Australia's Birds (SOAB) report. The reports collage and disseminate information on trends in bird populations to inform Australians of the status of their birds and help bring about improved understanding and better management of the land for birds and other biota. They also provide feedback to the dedicated thousands who volunteer their time and skills to monitor birds. <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/soab/state-of-australias-birds.html>

Islands and Birds Compiled by Julie Kirkwood and James O'Connor Birds Australia December 2010

This report features articles on a small number of Australia's precious islands, but it is only a snapshot of the situation, as more than 8,300 islands occur within Australia's jurisdiction. Indeed, only a small number of these islands are ever visited regularly by people who record biological data, and precious little is known about most



of them. We are left to make inferences about what is happening on those unknown islands from what is happening on the few we have studied. Nevertheless, some distinct themes emerge from the articles in this report: a high level of endemism means islands represent a critical biodiversity ark; even small increments of climate change-induced sea-level rise will have grave consequences for low-lying islands; and invasive species have already caused widespread devastation of many islands' biological resources and ecological processes, and continue to do so at an alarming rate. We tend to know much more about islands inhabited by humans, of course, and the processes on inhabited islands are likely to be distinct. Patterns of invasion of islands by novel species, for example, are bound to be heavily influenced by human habitation: by contrast, climate change and sea-level rise will affect any island on the basis of its physical situation. Opportunities for mitigation, too, may depend on whether an island is inhabited. For instance, most examples of successful eradications and reintroductions have, so far, come from uninhabited islands, although there are some notable exceptions. While we may know little about many of our islands, what we do know is that, by their nature, they constitute a unique and precious biological resource; and that, while they are

extremely vulnerable to degradation and extinctions, they also represent unique opportunities for providing real and effective conservation measures for the protection of a large proportion of our natural heritage.

NATIVE COMPANIONS DANCING BY JOHN SHAW NEILSON (1872-1942)

ON THE BLUE PLAINS IN WINTRY DAYS

THESE STATELY BIRDS MOVE IN THE DANCE.
KEEN EYES HAVE THEY, AND QUAIN OLD WAYS
ON THE BLUE PLAINS IN WINTRY DAYS.
THE WIND, THEIR UNSEEN PIPER, PLAYS,
THEY STRUT, SALUTE, REATREAT, ADVANCE;
ON THE BLUE PLAINS, IN WINTRY DAYS,
THESE STATELY BIRDS MOVE IN THE DANCE.

- Native Companion was the colonial name for the Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*); the poetic form is the triolet



BOB BROWN'S POETRY COLLECTION \$14.99.

In Balfour Street: 14 Poems from the 1970s.

Senator **Bob Brown**, post- the 'Statement of Principles' announcement, holding a 10-day old future supporter, at

the launch of his chapbook of poems from the 1970s. Launched by **Tim Thorne** at Fuller's bookshop, Launceston, 5 November 2010.

CALL FOR PAPERS, AND CONFERENCE EVENTS



‘SPECIES, SPACE, AND THE IMAGINATION OF THE GLOBAL’

June 21-26 2011, Indiana University

Bloomington Indiana

<http://www.indiana.edu/~asle2011/index.shtml>

PLENARY SPEAKERS

DAVID QUAMMEN author of *Song of the Dodo*

HELEN TIFFEN co-author of *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*

MARC BEKOFF author of *The Emotional Lives of Animals*

ZAKES MDN author of *The Whale Caller*

ROBERT FISCHMAN *The Meanings of Biological Integrity*

JENNIFER META ROBINSON *The Farmer's market Book*

ANACRISTINA ROSSI *The Madwoman of Gandoca*

(Information only; deadline past). The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) will be holding its Ninth Biennial Conference in Indiana, comprising papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and other public presentations connecting language, nature, and culture. As always, ASLE encourages interdisciplinary approaches; readings of environmentally inflected fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; and proposals from outside the academic humanities, including submissions from artists, writers, practitioners, activists, and colleagues in the social and natural sciences. The conference theme seeks to engage with questions of humans' relation to nonhuman species, both plant and animal, and to explore intersections between work on nonhuman species in disciplines such as biology, anthropology, philosophy, neuroscience, literature, and art. Our goal is to do so in a transnational framework that will allow us to reflect on how different historical, geographical and cultural contexts shape our encounters with the natural world and with environmental crises.

Questions about the program? Email Ursula Heise at uheise@stanford.edu. **Questions about the conference site and field sessions?** Email Christoph Irmischer at christoph.irmscher@gmail.com.

AUSTRALIANS ABROAD: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies

University of Queensland Brisbane

10 to 11 February 2011

From Yolngu travel to Asia to today's tourists & expatriates, residents of Australia have left its shores for a multitude of destinations and reasons and in different roles. Perspectives on travel & intercultural experiences.

Website: <http://www.slccs.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=134821&pid=70702>

Contact name: Dr Juliana de Nooy



THE 4TH BIENNIAL AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE (2011): ANIMALS, PEOPLE—A SHARED ENVIRONMENT.

This conference will bring together animal theorists and scientists from a broad range of academic disciplines with representatives from non government organisations, government officials from several nations and representatives from industry, to examine the interrelationships between human and nonhuman animals from cultural, historical, geographical, environmental, representational, moral, legal and political perspectives.

The Brisbane conference venue will be Southbank, at the beautiful Queensland Conservatorium and the historic Ship Inn. The Call for Papers is now open and abstracts can be uploaded via the dedicated AASG 2011 website: www.aasg2011.com.au

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 250 words in length to express their interest in the Conference. Please visit the AASG 2011 conference website and follow the instructions for uploading your abstract submission. The deadline for all abstract submissions is the **17th December 2010** For further details visit our conference website or contact the chair of the local organising committee, Leah Burns: Leah.Burns@griffith.edu.au

ROMANTICISM AND THE TYRANNIES OF DISTANCE

Romantic Studies Association of Australasia (RSAA)

Sydney

10 to 12 February 2011

The theme of the conference will be Romanticism and the Tyrannies of Distance, after the Australian historian Geoffrey Blainey's now classic account of the way the geographical remoteness of Australia has shaped its history and identity.

Website: <http://conference.rsaa.net.au/>

Contact name: Professor Will Christie

BRITISH WOMEN WRITERS CONFERENCE

Aesthetics and Environmental Ethics in British Women's Writing Conference

March 31-April 3, 2011 Columbus, OH

Contact Todd Williams williams@kutztown.edu Or Andrea Crow crow.73@buckeyemail.osu.edu

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

December 8-10, 2011, University Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3

CFP deadline **January 31, 2011.**

The purpose of this conference is to reflect on the role played by Indigenous peoples in the production of discourse and practices regarding the environment. Another goal of the conference will be to examine the predicament of indigenous peoples caught between adjusting to the economic values and principles imposed upon them by colonizing powers without totally rejecting their identities, and living up to ecological standards popular images and western ecological discourse are imposing. Time for the presentations is strictly limited to 20 minutes. English, Spanish and French may be used. Written versions of the presentations will be due by December 31, 2011. A peer-reviewed selection of these articles will be published.

Lionel Larré : Lionel.Larre@u-bordeaux3.fr

Laurence Machet : lmachet@u-bordeaux3.fr

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FICTION BEFORE 1962

ASLE sponsored panel at the Science Fiction Research Association's 2011 Conference

Lublin, Poland, July 7-10, 2011

CFP Deadline: **March 18, 2011**

Published in 1962, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is often identified as the founding text of environmentalism, namely because it generated the popular interest in environmental issues that culminated in the first Earth Day in 1970 and has since branched into a number of political and radical movements. Proposals are invited for presentations that explore science fiction's engagements with environmental issues before the full-scale emergence of environmentalism in the years after 1962. Are there authors of (proto) environmentalist science fiction that were thinking about environmental issues before such thinking was popular? What are the founding works of an environmental science fiction subgenre that Kim Stanley Robinson, Margaret Atwood, Paolo Bacigalupi, and others work in today? Please submit a 200 word proposal in the body of an email to Eric Otto at eotto@fgcu.edu by March 18th, 2011. See <http://sfra2011.pl/> for more information.

ANTARCTICA: MUSIC, SOUND & CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

A Creative Arts Conference at The ANU School of Music, Canberra

27-29 June 2011

Taking place in the centenary year of the Australasian Antarctic expedition led by Sir Douglass Mawson, the Conference will highlight the importance of sound (or lack of it) and music as part of the unique Antarctic environment. Keynote speakers and performers will include:

Professor **Tom Griffiths**, ANU; Assoc. Prof. **Douglas Quin**, Syracuse U. Dr **Elizabeth Leane**, UTas

Cheryl Leonard, US; **Craig Vear**, UK. Further details: <http://www.music.anu.edu.au/antarctica>

PODCASTS NOW AVAILABLE

‘CHANGING THE CLIMATE: UTOPIA, DYSTOPIA AND CATASTROPHE’, a conference held 30 August to 1 September, now has podcasts available on line, thanks to the School of English, Communications and Performance Studies, Monash U. Podcasts include papers by ASLEC-ANZ members, **Kate Rigby** (Opening Address); **Debbie Rose** (Keynote), **Linda Williams** (Keynote) and **Anne Elvey**.

Titles of papers link directly to mp3 files.

<http://arts.monash.edu.au/ecps/conferences/utopias/>

QUO VADIS INSTITUTE

Schloss Mittersill, Austria

Climate Change, Migration, Radicalism: What to do?

5-8 May 2011

Migration, information chaos, an ageing population, fundamentalism, virtual reality, hostile takeovers, environmental disasters, psychoses, globalisation, multiculturalism, poverty, family disintegration, energy shortages, hedonism, criminal sophistication, art without beauty, post-democracy, loss of authenticity, decline in rule of law, war, hunger, epidemics.... Have we reached another Augustinian moment? Between the fall of Rome to Alaric in 410 and his death in a city beleaguered by the Vandals in 430, Augustine laid bare the mistaken assumptions of his own culture which could not separate the idea of ‘Roma aeterna’ from Religion. His ideas proved fertile for a thousand years. What ideas are too firmly married today in our own European worldviews? Is it time to reconsider the intellectual tools we have been using in order to prepare for the end of society as we have known it? Authors wishing to respond to this call should send an abstract in English, German or French of no more than 500 words (Word format) by **17 December 2010**. Contact Christian Bensel cbensel@qv institute.org or visit <http://www.qv institute.org>

[Click](#) to see past present and future **Fenner Conferences** on the Environment as well as Awards, and Travelling Fellowships, Publications, or go to:

<http://www.science.org.au/awards/awards/fenner.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS: PUBLICATIONS

ASLEC-ANZ PROCEEDINGS OF THE 'SOUNDING THE EARTH: MUSIC, LANGUAGE AND ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY' CONFERENCE, 2010

Delegates are invited to submit papers, rewritten for publication, for inclusion in ASLEC-ANZ's inaugural peer-reviewed online journal. It is possible that those sound and video clips considered essential to the paper might be included online.

- Word length 4,000
- **Deadline 28 February 2011**
- Submissions must follow the MLA (7th Ed) citation style

Submissions to each of the following: Lorraine Shannon shannontext@ozemail.com.au
barbara.hollowy@bigpond.com
CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au

PAN PHILOSOPHY ACTIVISM NATURE SPECIAL ISSUE – PLANT ETHICS

The basis of this special issue of *PAN*—the question of the moral considerability of plants--will be an excerpt from the forthcoming publication of *Plants as Persons: A Philosophical Botany* (SUNY Press) by **Matthew Hall**, a work which challenges readers to reconsider the moral standing of plants.

Contributions from across the disciplines of philosophy, cultural anthropology, religious studies, conservation biology, animal studies, plant sciences, and literature are welcomed especially work that crosscuts the humanities and life sciences. Potential themes to engage with 'plant ethics' include religious ecological ethics, ideas of 'nature', animal ethics, vegetarian philosophies, human-plant communication, biodiversity conservation, gardening and agricultural norms, bio-ethics, concepts of human and non-human life, death & killing and the value of life. Papers should be 5000 words and submitted no later than **June 2011**. Contact Matthew Hall m.hall@rbge.org.uk. For more information on *Plants as Persons* see <http://www.sunypress.edu/p-5089-plants-as-persons.aspx>

AWARD-WINNING TITLES

All of these books have won the Bookseller/Diagram Prize for Oddest Title of the Year. (Posted by Arlene Plevin on the ASLE listserver in November 2010).

1. *The Stray Shopping Carts of Eastern North America: A Guide to Field Identification* (2006)
2. *How to Shit in the Woods: An Environmentally Sound Approach to a Lost Art* (1989)
3. *Reusing Old Graves: A Report on Popular British Attitudes* (1995)
4. *Highlights in the History of Concrete* (1994)
5. *The Book of Marmalade: Its Antecedents, Its History, and Its Role in the World Today* (1984)
6. *People Who Don't Know They're Dead: How They Attach Themselves to Unsuspecting Bystanders and What to Do About It* (2005)
7. *The Joy of Chickens* (1980)
8. *Oral Sadism and the Vegetarian Personality* (1986)
9. *How to Avoid Huge Ships* (1992)

SCIENCE FICTION AND BIOPOLITICS

Science Fiction Film and Television (<http://liverpool.metapress.com/content/121631/> (journal published by Liverpool UP) is seeing articles for a special issue on biopolitics. How do biopolitical theories of figures such as Foucault, Hardt and Negri, Esposito and Agamben inform readings of sf? What can sf contribute to ongoing discussions of biopolitical governance? What can sf visions of posthumanism tell us about life under biopolitical capitalism? How can recent work on life in/as capital, by Nikolas Rose, Melinda Cooper and Kaushik Sunder Rajan, inform our readings of sf? Submission deadline **February 15, 2011** Submissions should be made via our website at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/lup-sfftv>. Enquiries should be directed to the editors, Sherryl Vint (sherryl.vint@gmail.com) and Mark Bould (mark.bould@gmail.com).

NEW (IN)SECURITIES: EMPIRE, ENVIRONMENT & EMPLOYMENT ALTERNATE ROUTES: A JOURNAL OF CRITICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH

We are living in increasingly insecure times. In the face of drastic climate change, global economic uncertainty and imperialist wars with no clear battlefield or determined timeline, a good many social scientists have concluded that insecurity, broadly defined and in its many forms, is the new. For the next issue, *Alternate Routes* invites submissions on the various ways in which (in)security has manifested in the new millennium. How has state repression been employed and under what pretexts? What lessons may be drawn from policing dissent? How does ecological degradation threaten our—food, labour, biospheric, geopolitical and physical—security? In what ways are planetary life and the future of the earth threatened? To what extent has labour market restructuring made work more precarious? What groups and persons are most vulnerable to insecure forms of work and labour? How have labour unions been impacted? How may we understand empire today? What relationships are there between war, terror and foreign policy? *Alternate Routes* is also interested in Media, Arts and Cultural contributions with political and/or academic merits. This may include works of poetry, verse, photography, graphic design and media analyses. We likewise welcome reviews of books, theater, art exhibits, documentaries and cinema. Finally, *Alternate Routes* appreciates rejoinders and/or reflections on previously published material. The deadline for submissions is **15 March 2011**. For more information visit www.AlternateRoutes.ca. All submissions should be sent directly to editor@alternateroutes.ca

HAWK & HANDSAW: THE JOURNAL OF CREATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

For more information, please visit our website: www.hawkandhandsaw.org
or contact us at hawkandhandsaw@unity.edu.

New journal: [THINKING NATURE](#). Edited by Tim Morton and Ben Woodard (USA)

AUSTRALIAN HUMANITIES REVIEW

The latest issue of *AHR*, Issue 49, November 2010, is now available. Our Ecological Humanities section features essays by Peter Burdon, ASLEC-ANZ member, **Lesley Instone**, and Jodi Frawley. As always, we welcome submissions from writers and scholars across the humanities. For guidelines, please see <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/about.html> - submission

MANOA A PACIFIC JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL WRITING

The winter edition of *Mānoa* is scheduled for release in early January. Titled ***Wild Hearts: Literature, Ecology, and Inclusion***, the issue features writing from Japan, China, South Asia, Australia, and North America, including pieces translated especially for *Mānoa*.

Indian Journal of Ecocriticism *Submissions welcome*

Along with **Freya Mathews**'s essay, 'On Desiring Nature' there are two other Australian contributions in *IJE* Vol. 3— **Glenys Livingstone** 'Female Metaphor, Science and Paganism: A Cosmic Eco-Trinity' 51-61; and —'Renewing the Green Earth Sangha: An Interview with **John Seed**', by **Swarnalatha Rangarajan**, 22-29

IJE Vol. 3 is Swarnalatha's last issue as Editor. She has been a shining force on behalf of ecocriticism and we wish her well. (Swarnalatha appears in the Taiwan report; and Peter I-min Huang (mentioned in the Taiwan report) has an essay in *IJE* Vol. 3 on the work of Margaret Atwood). *IJE* will shift from the Indian Institute of Technology and be relocated at Thiruvavur Central University. *IJE* is the official peer-reviewed journal of OSLE-India (an affiliate of ASLE). Submissions should be sent with a cover letter containing an abstract not more than 200 words, and author's contact address and email ID. osleindiajournal@gmail.com



LITERARY MUSTER 2011

17 – 20 June 2011

The Nature and Place of the Backyard

<http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au/>

Is your backyard a quarter acre block, a city courtyard, a stretch of sandy beach, a steamy rainforest? Is it a city forest, a country ridge or a black soil plain? Is it the Back Paddock, the Back Block, the Allotment or the Common? Is it the Red Centre, the Never Never, the Dead Heart? Is it the *Outback* or the *Inland*? Does it have serial views interrupted by blunt tall buildings? Or 360° views across flat country mirrored by flat bottomed clouds? Is it a city forest, a country ridge or a black soil plain? Discerning readers will join writers to explore ideas posed by these questions at the 2011 Watermark Literary Muster, Kendall School of Arts, mid north coast of New South Wales.

Participating writers include **Gay Bilson** (SA), **Stanley Breeden** (QLD), **Ali Cobby Eckerman** (SA), **Ted Egan** (NT), **Denise Goodfellow** (NT), **Gail Jones** (NSW), **Kate Llewellyn** (SA), **Rhyll McMaster** (NSW), **Tanya Massy** (VIC), **Robyn Mundy** (WA), **Marie Munkara** (NT), **John Newton** (NSW), **Merryl Parker** (TAS), **Libby Robin** (ACT), **Peter Shepherd** (NSW), **Nadia Wheatley** (NSW) and **Ian Templeman** (ACT). They will be joined by **Robert J. Pyle** (USA), **Zhang Wei** (China) and **Pat White** (NZ).

—**Romola Templeman**, artist and portraitist, will be the 2011 Watermark Artist

—**Ted Egan**, singer and songwriter, will entertain at Words and Music

—The Literary Dinner Guest Speaker will be announced early in 2011



THE 2010 ERIC ROLLS PRIZE for prose fiction or nonfiction in the genre of natural history writing has been awarded to **Stanley and Kaisa Breeden** for their essay *Larry Comes to Bulurru*. The judges were enthusiastic in their praise for the high quality of the entries that were received from all parts of Australia. They commented especially on the variety of approach and the affectionate understanding of the diversity of Australian landscapes; desert drifts, dark forests, sweeping high country and coastal lake systems, explored by the writers.

SPINIFEX PRESS is run by ASLEC-ANZ member, and poet, **Susan Hawthorne**. It is an award-winning independent feminist press, publishing innovative and controversial feminist books with an optimistic edge. You can also sign up for 'The Spin Newsletter'. On the *Bush Telegraph* there's an interview Marie-Monique Robin speaks about 'The World According to Monsanto' along with an extract from Vandana Shiva on the film of the same name.

ABC'S BIG IDEAS ONLINE RESOURCE

As well as hosting **Vandana Shiva's** Sydney Peace Prize lecture, ABC's *Big Ideas* online program offers items of interest under its 'Environment' section including '**David Suzuki's** Legacy', and '**John Salatin: The Politics of Food**'.
<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/bigideas/>

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED FOR ASLEC-ANZ GREEN GRAMMAR DICTIONARY

The Green Grammar URL and wikidot password have been altered to reflect the Association's name change. To contribute to the *Green Grammar Dictionary*: 1) Go to <http://aslec-anz.wikidot.com> 2) Sign up (under 'create a new account') for a free wikidot.com user account. Use your real name so that we can confirm who's who. You will need a valid email address for confirmation; you will then receive an official invitation to join the aslec-anz site. 3) Once logged in as a wikidot.com user, go back to the ASLEC-ANZ page and enter the ASLEC-ANZ site by entering the password 'aslec'. 4) Start adding entries, creating pages, and editing; a list of all revisions is automatically kept. You can also post topics to the user forum. Below is a sample of entries, some of which, like 'Bioregion' and 'Conservation', require definitions from Australian and New Zealand sources. Page 1 Example of existing entries.

Aa-Z: The Green Grammar Dictionary

The Green Grammar Dictionary A-Z is a glossary of terms with supporting excerpts from various genres, ALL OF WHICH ARE FROM AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOURCES ONLY. The Green Grammar Dictionary is...

Animal Liberation

"Animal Liberation will require greater altruism on the part of human beings than any other liberation movement. The animals themselves are incapable of demanding their own liberation, or of...

Anthropocene

"A proposed new geological period, defined by human interference with the climate system". Tim Flannery. 2006. We are the Weather Makers: The Story of Global Warming. Text: Melbourne, 256.

Anthropogenic

Caused by or resulting from human activity. "What is happening now in Australia and in the world is serious, but it is not terminal, it is a minor disorder. Everything that we are doing wrongly is...

Anthropomorphism

"Anthropomorphism is a very tricky concept, with many functions. But one of its main recent roles is that of policeman for reductive materialism, enforcing polarised and segregated vocabularies for...

Arboraphobes

Arboraphobes: "Fearers of trees" (neologism coined by Robin Boyd, "Pioneers and Arboraphobes", 91-119.). "The object of the pioneer cult, in short is to clear all decks for action, to...

Arcadia

"For classical poets, Arcadia was the symbol of rural serenity, the harmony of the legendary Golden Age. [...] where shepherds and shepherdesses, removed from 'real life', devote themselves to...

Auspex

(Fiction) I begin with the word, auspex: a Latin word that governs the phrase and opens the door to the past. Language shifts to the present tense. In ancient Roman civilization an auspex is a...

Biocide

Biocide: (see also Ecocide) "Any substance that destroys living organisms". Jim Howes, compiler. 1995. The Pocket Environment Dictionary. Knoxfield, Vic: Five Mile Press, 14.

Biodiversity

"All life on earth, including its genetic diversity and ecological interconnectedness". Tim Flannery. 2006. We are the Weather Makers: The Story of Global Warming. Melbourne: Text, 256. It is...

Biological control **NEEDS ENTRY**

Biopiracy

[In Fiction] "These days large-scale manufacturing—machine, factories, packages, products—creates new agricultural products made with neem: pest control, fertiliser; and creates new personal...

Bioregion **NEEDS ENTRY**

Biosphere

The part of our planet that supports life. Generally it is considered to extend to at least 11 kilometres up into the atmosphere, and about the same distance down into the ocean depths. Tim Flannery...

Carbon dioxide (CO2)

Carbon dioxide: One of the greenhouse gases, including halons, CFCs and methane. Prior to 1800, the start of the Industrial Revolution, there were about 280 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere,...

Carbon footprint

The amount of carbon that people, industries or countries emit as they go about their business. Tim Flannery. 2006. We are the Weather Makers: The Story of Global Warming. Melbourne: Text, 256.

Carbon sinks

The places where the carbon goes when it leaves the atmosphere are known as carbon sinks. You and I and all living things are carbon sinks, as are the oceans and the soil and some of the rocks under...

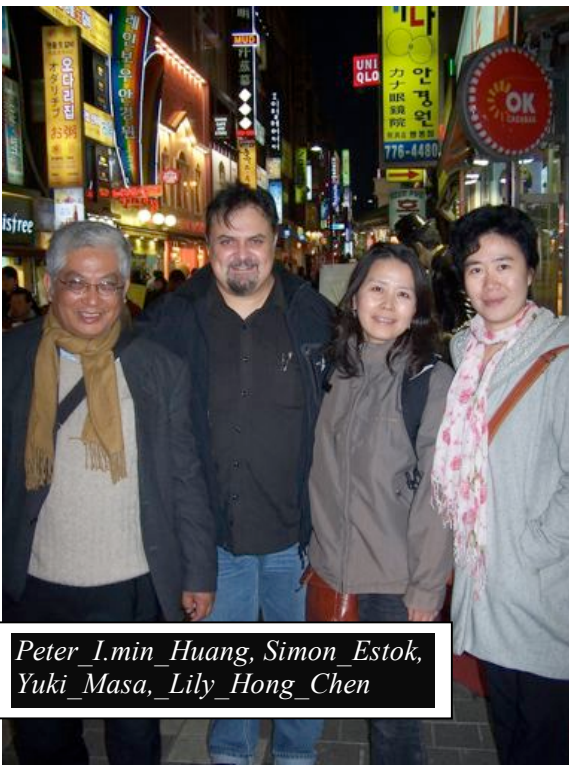
Clearfelling **NEEDS ENTRY**

Climate change / Global warming

In current political discourse, a metonym and umbrella term used to represent and/or displace a broad spectrum of environmental issues and concerns. "Education, health, disability rights, Indigenous...

IRIS RALPH REPORTS FROM TAMKING UNIVERSITY, [ASLE-] TAIWAN.

I promised CA to send something from Taiwan many months ago and apologise for not lighting under my slippers the beautiful brilliant red, pink, and gold colored, paper-wrapped firecrackers that can be purchased in many of the streets here in Tamsui, Taipei County, Taiwan, where I now live and teach. (I discovered the shops early on when I mistook the bright wide entrances and dark receding interiors for a now regular haunt, moon festival cake shops, because of the gold and red and pink wrapped boxes of all sizes and shapes piled high on the countertops and toppling from the shelves and tumbling out of baskets, because my sight is dilapidating—I ought to purchase glasses not stockpile sesame, tarot, pineapple, sesame, and pomelo-filled pastries!) **Tamkang University** (TKU), the oldest private university in Taiwan, began as an English College in 1950. The present English Department has a large undergraduate program and also offers graduate degrees in TESOL and English Literature. It has gained much recognition in recent years for its ecocriticism offerings.



Peter I-min Huang, Simon Estok,
Yuki Masa, Lily Hong Chen

Many international ecoscholars fly here to teach and partake in the conferences organised to promote the discipline. The upcoming 5th International Conference on Ecological Discourse will be held this December. **Deborah Rose** is one of the conference's esteemed invited keynote speakers and so too is **Mark Treddinick**, former Vice President of ASLEC-ANZ. I will think of Deborah and Mark on their flight here along with the hundreds of species of birds that migrate to Taiwan or make this small island their stopping place on their way south. The most famous environmental literature writing on the ornithology subject is **Liu Kexiang's** *A Posthouse of Migratory Birds* (*Lu Niao de Yi Zhan*). An astonishing number and variety of birds stop over or are permanent residents but piece by piece the exquisite coastal and inland wetland environments that are their home are being picked and pocked by industrial developers. Assoc. Professor **Serena Chou**, an ecoscholar at **National Sun Yat-sen University** in Taiwan, is very active in raising awareness of this marauding.

I first met Serena through **ASLE-Taiwan**, which was established last summer by the present chair of TKU's English Department, Assoc. Professor **Peter I-min Huang**. Professor Huang is one of the most prominent ecocritics and ecofeminist scholars in Taiwan and through his unflagging generosity, kindness, and support, many scholars visit TKU every year to teach summer intensive ecocriticism courses or to participate in ecocriticism seminars and conferences. **Kate Rigby** and **Deborah Rose** from Australia, **Lily Hong Chen** and **Nuo Wang** from China, **Swarnalatha Rangarajan** and **Nirmal Selvamony** from India, **Kiyotoshi Murakami** (President of ASLE-Japan) and **Yuki Masami Raker** from Japan, **Simon Estok** and **Won-Chung Kim** from Korea, and **Joni Adamson**, **Greta Gaard**, **Patrick Murphy**, and **Scott Slovic** from the United States, are just some of our distinguished visitors. There are many, many more and I am sorry if I have left anyone out who would be pleased to be mentioned here. In addition to Professor I-min Huang, other ecoscholars who teach at TKU or in other English Departments at universities in Taiwan are **Ming-tu Yang**, **Yao-fu Lin**, **I-ping Liang**, **Hsin-ya**

Huang, and Robin Tsai. I-ping and Hsin-ya are prominent Native American Literature scholars. Robin is a specialist on **Gary Snyder**. Recently, too, I met **Chia-ju Chang**, a Buddhist monk and Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures, City University of New York (CUNY). This past summer



she returned home for a visit, and took me to the headquarters of Life Conservationist Association (LCA), an organisation that cares for and promotes awareness of homeless dogs in Taiwan. Through Chia-ju, I am learning more about another Taiwan-based animal rights and environmental rights organisation, Environment and Animal Society of Taiwan (EAST). On the way home by train from the LCA offices in Taipei, **Chia-ju** pointed out to me high up on one of the steep mountains sandwiched between the massive, palatial, scarlet tiered roofed Grand Hotel and the bright imperial yellow colored walls of an art museum, a tiny temple of which Chia-ju's father is keeper. When we next see each other in December, we will climb up the hill and sit on the small, perched-high verandah looking south and west over the Tamsui Strait between China and Taiwan and have 'high tea'—black or oolong or green. This letter is especially for dear Kate, without whom I would not be here teaching literature courses on environmental and animal rights, and for CA, who never forgets me. The photo of Professors I-min Huang, Simon Estok, Yuki Masami and Lily Hong Chen was taken in Seoul at the joint **ASLE-Korea** and **ASLE-Japan** conference, 31 Oct-1 Nov.

*Iris Ralph, Asst. Professor
English Department, Tamkang University
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ASLEC-ANZ MEMBERSHIP

ASLEC-ANZ Membership Waged: \$25 Student / Unwaged \$15
ASLEC-ANZ Membership Couples: \$35

Membership monies and donations may be made by direct deposit to our ASLEC-ANZ bank account.

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ASLEC-ANZ Membership fee covers the July 1-June 30 fiscal year.

President's Report AGM 22 Oct Room 28 Tram Shed, Launceston (For a full version, see AGM Minutes 2010)

The Association began the year by adding 'Culture' to its name and officially being recognised, through a vote by members, as ASLEC-ANZ. This required a change in the Website naming and look. [A new URL is now operational]. A notice went out to ASLEC members calling for graphic artists to submit images for the new banner. Currently the banner is flexible, consisting of ASLEC text and a subscript, with a replaceable background so it is open to continual renewal rather than stasis, if artists submit work. The By Laws were altered to reflect the new name and numbering errors in the By Laws have been changed, and noted in the Agenda.

Beginning this year also, ASLEC-ANZ members are recognised as affiliates with ASLE-US and as such are not required to join the US organisation in order to present at the US conferences. In addition, ASLE affiliates are offered a reduced rate for subscription to ISLE. However, due to Senator Kim Carr's ranked journal list, ISLE—the journal for ecocriticism—ranked C in the Excellence in Research for Australia rankings. With ASLEC-ANZ mandate to promote and publish its members' work in the ecohumanities area, it means Australian research cannot be consolidated by a branded publication—in the manner of ISLE for instance. ASLEC-ANZ members are encouraged to continue to submit work to the Australian Humanities Review, the Ecological Humanities corner, which received an A ranking. Until ASLEC-ANZ makes a commitment to establishing an online branded publication it will continue to miss opportunities to develop a significant core of ecocritic-defined scholars as resources.

Trying to establish a body of work that is local in approach has been the primary concern of this President, with the establishing of the free wiki.dot account for the online Green Grammar Dictionary, to which members contribute definitions, quotations, extracts, and bibliographies from Australian and New Zealand resources which is aimed at providing and promoting Australian and New Zealand definitions, sources and examples relating to terminology crucial to the interests of ASLE-ANZ. Members are particularly encouraged to contribute items from their own work as well as that of other Southern Hemisphere colleagues. The wiki site also hosts a forum for discussion though this is currently under-utilised. To date only around 10 people have signed on to access the site, and the Green Grammar Dictionary is still awaiting enthusiastic uptake.

The last newsletter sent out a call for a Research Scout to assist in creating a local foundational network for future research by developing the Resource page on the ASLEC-ANZ webpage. This would involve establishing an active bibliography through recommendations from members, hyperlinking to current articles in order to centralise data and to build ASLEC's reputation and usefulness. ASLEC is still on the look out for a Research Scout.

This year the 3rd biennial conference 'Sounding the Earth: Music, Language and Acoustic Ecology' was held at Inveresk Cultural Precinct, from 20-23 October (including pre- and post-conference events). Previously advertised and contracted to take place at UTas School of Architecture ASLEC-ANZ was told that their conference on 'Sound' fell during quiet crit week, so the venue was [quietly] changed to a public venue, at a greater cost. As conference convener I recommend that the site and topic for the next conference (2012) be decided as soon as possible to enable sufficient time for grant applications; and that the conference convener/s have strong links to a supportive academic community as future conferences will also be subjected to ERA rankings and will affect the academic-take up when it comes to conferences. I recommend that there be aspects of the Launceston conference that be considered by future organisers as possible 'traditions', such as carbon-offset schemes that benefit the locale; conscious use of sustainable resources, and an evening of 'bending the ivory tower'. The conference also engaged the 'Active Network' online registration and payment system which facilitated payment from overseas clients as well as documenting details of registrants at a cost of \$3.95 per registration. It is recommended that ASLEC-ANZ continue with this in future.

The President's two-year term has seen a change in secretary/treasurer with the previous secretary, Iris Ralph, finding an academic position overseas. Barbara Holloway has taken the position which has been more time-consuming than either of us expected due to issues around non-compliance with the Office of Fair Trading concerning the filing of documents in previous years. This, plus the fiscal complexities of running a conference have left me in her personal debt for staying the course, despite promises that the position was not onerous. The issues surrounding our status with the OFT impacted on our ability to solicit new members.

Similarly, this year we lost Chris Coughran the newsletter editor who raised the standard of the newsletter in his one year in the position. The newsletter editor now is Neale Macdonald from New Zealand. She too has succeeded a position where transmission of knowledge might perhaps have provided more continuity. With the call for nominations, closing Dec 1 for the new executive beginning 2011, as immediate past-president I will endeavour to provide guidance to the incoming Executive but cannot stress strongly enough the need for the Executive to familiarise themselves with the Association's By Laws and the obligations involved in the Articles of Association.

Secretary / Treasurer's Report AGM 22 Oct Room 28 Tram Shed, Launceston

In September the outgoing secretary-treasurer Iris Ralph handed the two-part job and all the paperwork over to me. Fortunately, a relatively quiet period followed while I studied what was involved, until the AGM in December when I sent out an urgent call for sub renewals beforehand, and four people responded.

At the AGM the President alerted us to the need to appoint a new Public Officer and to take steps to comply with the Office of Fair Trading regulations. The role was added to my position. When I attempted to lodge the Annual Statement with the Office in February as required, I learned that we had been operating without legal status. The Association had been deregistered, during the previous Executive, twelve months earlier. I learned that this is not unusual, but we experienced a minor panic with the conference only a few months away. For the benefit of future treasurers and Public Officers the 'acts of non-compliance' bringing deregistration were a) failing to lodge Annual Statements, and b) failing to answer correspondence. It's easy to see how this happened for busy and mobile office-holders. The repercussions were that OFT froze our account and for 2 and a half months to mid-May no money could be collected, no renewal reminders could be sent, and nothing requiring our status as a Registered Association could be settled for the conference. The people at OFT were helpful, and not too obsessed with detail. After much records-searching, number-crunching and form-filling we were reinstated as fast as possible and without complications.

*As a result however, we paid the Office of Fair Trading:
\$75 for late lodgement of the certificate of compliance,
\$241 to lodge annual statements 2004-2008,
\$95 to change our name from ASLE-ANZ to ASLEC-ANZ, and for reservation of that name.*

(Information for future Executives: the AGM must be held within 6 months of 30th June, the end of our financial year, and the Annual Financial Statement must be lodged with the Office of Fair Trading within a month of the AGM.)

I will ensure that our Annual Financial Statement is lodged within a month of the current meeting, to avoid the late lodgement fee. The work of Public Officer is not usually onerous, and I suggest it continue as part of the Secretary-Treasurer's duties. Please note that should the future Public Officer not reside in NSW, s/he will need to register with the OFT in his/her state of residence.

Membership Issues

Twice in 2009-10 financial year, I sent out a message calling for sub renewals—in December as noted, and after reinstatement in May, as a message personally addressed to each member—again four people then paid or replied. A core of committed members of course continues. In the financial year 2009-10, we have had 25 renewals, of which 19 paid full membership, and 6 the concession rate. Seven new members have joined in 2009-10—Lesley Instone, Tom Lynch, Cecilia Rogers, Stephen Harris, Jesse Blackadder, Andrew Thelander and Glenn Morrison. A further 22 of the participants in Sounding the Earth became members as part of their registration until June 2011. In addition, we have several people who participated as artists and have become interested in ASLEC-ANZ. As such, financial membership stands at 54.

ASLEC-ANZ Biennial Conference, 'Sounding the Earth'

Preparations for the Conference were made very much easier from an administrative viewpoint by the Convener's choice of an online agency, Active Network Australia, to process registrations and all the details of payment and booking for events as well as the book-keeping at a cost of \$3.95 per registration. I arrived in Launceston early to see what I needed to know to do my part, and to help with a few last-minute tasks. CA had been determined the conference would reflect an ASLEC agenda in its attention to 'place' and Launceston rewarded her forethought handsomely. We waited nervously for the first registrants to appear at the Community Radio Station, and as they arrived back from the Cataract Gorge Walk, the rich program was underway and CA's meticulous planning meant it went with scarcely a hiccup. I missed a lot of the presentations as I was fielding enquiries at the desk over the next two days, but it was easy to see that most people enjoyed the selection of speakers, artists and performers and found them stimulating and thought-provoking. It was a most satisfying and successful week to be involved with. We operated with a very tight budget, without major institutional support, and managed to leave our bank account with a respectable balance.

Finally, I'd like to put on record my thanks to CA. for much assistance and rarely-failing good humour in the face of the roller-coaster ride through the considerable successes and difficulties the Association has had this year.