

news from the node (president's report)	2
member activities	5
member publications	7
geoff park: a tribute	9
calls for papers	13



ASLE–ANZ News is the official newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Australia and New Zealand. It is distributed to members twice yearly, in July and December. Contributions of news items, member activities and publications, calls for papers, poems, photographs, etc. should reach the editor, Chris Coughran, in due course.

asleanz.news@gmail.com

COVER IMAGE: forest near Toolangi, Victoria, approximately seven weeks after bushfires ravaged the region in February 2009. In his [online photo essay](#), Gary Ayton explains that of all the devastated forests he visited, this ‘was the only one where I heard a fly passing by, and the odd bird, while the bull ants were rebuilding their nests’. Read more, and view further images at the photographer’s [website](#). Picture by Gary Ayton, reproduced by kind permission of the photographer.

News from the Node

Looking Southward

Five years into the establishment of ASLE–ANZ and six months into the new executive’s turn with the firestick, it’s time to think about directions for the next couple of years. South seems a good compass point. Southward, because a quick squiz at Australian reference sources in the eco-humanities shows our current dependency on Northern research—for obvious reasons, including genesis, abundance, and accessibility. As the resource umbrella serving ASLEs across the globe Northern ASLE has served us well, and will continue to do so—in all sorts of important and comradely ways such as the visit of Laurence Buell, southwards, to Sydney University’s *Reading Across the Pacific* symposium, in January, 2010. But we’re well aware from the scholarly work of Flannery, Low, Robin et al.—and perhaps from the pragmatics and problematics of a Peter Andrews, and Natural Sequence Farming—that we are long past a time when white Australia could posture as an ersatz Northern outpost. J.M. Arthur’s *The Default Country* (2003) was an early critique of the linguistic moulding of Claytons’ Country; at the 2009 Watermark Literary Muster, Nicolas Rothwell (*The Red Highway*, 2009) reiterated the need for language to fit country. And while the very naming of Northern political geographies such as the *United States* and the *United Kingdom* suggests numbers of separate entities (historical, sociological, and implied biodiversity) ‘Australia’ seems shackled to a single landscape stereotype stretching from Dorothea MacKellar’s ‘My Country’ (written in 1909) to Baz Luhrmann’s *Australia* (2008).

Naming and knowing the particulars of a place though, requires more than a shift in head position. In a shameless plug I should say that *The Littoral Zone* (2007) was an attempt to shift the gaze 180 degrees, to invite US colleagues to look Southward from their centre. Yet, *TLZ* too, is replete with references from Northern foundational experts in the field. The work of many Southern colleagues is absent—for want of accessible resources. If, as Libby Robin writes ‘Australia has the potential to become a “literary entity” for the rest of the world,’ then ‘this will depend on our capacity to write Nature as a subject and to understand the Human as a physical force in the Earth’s ecosystems’ (*ALS* 2008). It will also depend upon our being able to speak with one another, being aware of one another’s strengths, and being able to utilise each other as a community interested in the arts and sciences as they relate to environment.

The Green Grammar Dictionary: Members’ Contributions #1

So. Looking Southward. In my first email to the members I signalled one way in which this could be done: by

establishing an online resource, a database of definitions, with quotations taken from Australian and New Zealand writers, artists, scholars. As an ASLE–ANZ community project, and our first online publication, the resource would have the working title of *The Green Grammar Dictionary*, a name pilfered partly from a work by past Vice President Mark Tredinnick. I've made some sedimentary entries that will, hopefully, quickly become antediluvian; members are encouraged to add definitions and quotes from their own, and other's, published works, all of which will go towards establishing an accessible resource base framed in Southern Hemisphere speak. Each entry will serve a dual function, being followed by a bibliography. By the end of 2010 it's hoped there'll be a body of work available for those writers, critics, artists, scholars, who are new to the field, or just coming on board, depending on their terrestrial focus. And for those labouring under institutional demands, the *GGD* should assist in increasing author citations. Instructions will be emailed on how to access the ASLE–ANZ private wiki so that you can begin adding Australian and New Zealand entries.



Jane Goodall

Being South: Australia and Asia

In the phenomenological realm, part of the Southward gaze (for me) extended to taking up an invitation to go on a turtle walk along a stretch of the Bay of Bengal. Arne Naess' simple message that the earth does not belong to humans was reinforced by another noteworthy, Jane Goodall, founder of **Roots & Shoots**. Visiting Chennai to outline a then-and-now scenario of Gombe Reserve (Tanzania)—shrunk by logging roads to a 30 km island, its long-armed residents reduced to bush meat by ex-pats—Goodall screened *Chimps Like Us* alongside a local film showing students' conservation efforts to save the Olive Ridley turtle. This controversial form of conservation—digging up eggs and transporting them to hatching stations—is complicated by local, national, and international actions. Local, where nests are ransacked by starving dogs; and by liquor shop owners, for omelettes.

National, where protectionists vie with the Dhamra Port project and an Orissa minister, who asks 'What use are turtles for India?' And International, where, post-tsunami, thousands of casuarinas planted to prevent foreshore erosion have drastically reduced the nesting territory of the Olive Ridley turtle. And while *Reading Across the Pacific* has its place in first-world intellectual exchange, tilting the head Southward means getting to know our closer neighbours, the Indian Ocean, and the ocean's inhabitants, in an attempt to reduce the reciprocal capacity for harm in environmental and cultural exchanges.

ASLE–ANZ and the inclusiveness of Culture: Members' Contributions #2

'Culture' was the word that the previous executive had hoped to include in the ASLE–ANZ acronym last year. It didn't happen but it must. The association is broader than its literature component as the work of members like Ashley Hay (*Herbarium*, 2004) demonstrates. Members are urged to see this as an opportunity to find a Southern fit. A survey of indigenous languages, for instance, might produce a corollary for 'culture', signifying greater inclusiveness and distinct southern-hemisphere origins. Watermark Sapling Steven Ross, a Wamba Wamba man, suggested 'corroborree', with its multiple art forms, its coming together of community, and its passing on of traditional knowledge—in other words, 'culture' rendered dramatically and geographically. The executive invites the collective wisdom of members in offering options that reflect 'culture' in action before we go to the vote (again).

**ECOLOGICAL CRITICISM:
APPLICATIONS AND POSSIBILITIES**

Ecologically sensitive criticism has been practiced and critiqued in isolation by academics and intellectuals in our part of the world for close to a decade now. However, few significant attempts have been made towards any collaborative venture—towards theory and practice. The present anthology proposes to be the first of its kind.

We have in mind an anthology of critical pieces focusing on the various aspects of ecological and environmental criticism, its diverse reach and possibilities.

We invite articles from academics and critics interested and involved in this unique and sensitive critical practice. The book is to be published by Sarup and Sons (Delhi).

For further information do not hesitate to contact the editors, **Murali Sivaramakrishnan** and **Ujjwal Jana**.

Arne Naess and the Southern Hemisphere: Members' Contributions #3

Members were alerted early this year to the passing of long-lived, widely influential, deep thinker, Arne Naess (1912–2009). The email prompted this response from Advisory Board member, Ruth Blair:

I was lucky enough to not only hear but have dinner with Arne Naess in the heady days at UTAS when Robyn Eckersley and Warwick Fox were PhD students of Peter Hay's, and the Richard Jones Memorial Lecture (which Naess gave) was in its early days. Arne Naess stayed with Warwick and Robyn and it was my friendship with them and with Mary Jenkins, who had started a Masters degree in environmental studies on a literary topic, that led to my interest in this field.

Thinking about those days led me to think that some of us should do some chronicling of how cultural studies of the environment (I'm using the broader term to include the early input of those in fields like political science and law) developed in Australia post-1980. It might be interesting to have in the ASLE journal or on the website a collection of people's memories of how they awakened, as it were, to the need to get these studies into their fields and their institutions. There's not a book in it, but there's something. Maybe if I put my story out there in a couple of pages, others might follow suit.

Ruth has thrown down the gardening glove. If you have memories of Arne, or are awakening to your own Ecosophy T, forward your thoughts to ASLE-ANZ. With the right balance of quality and quantity, the Arne Naess collection could translate into another ASLE-ANZ online publication.

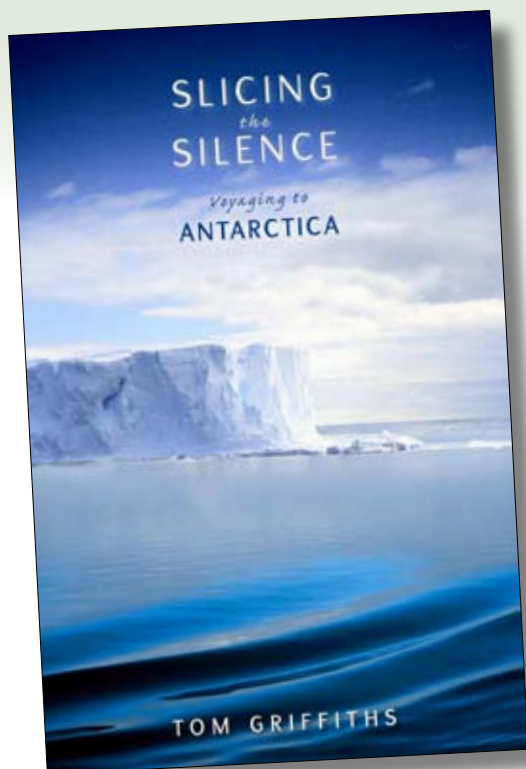
* * *

That's all for now. '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**



Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network, Tamil Nadu



Member Activities

This July, ASLE-ANZ member Tom Griffiths was announced co-winner of the 2008 **Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History** for his book *Silencing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica*. Tom shares the \$100,000 (tax-free!) prize with Robert Kenny, for *The Lamb Enters the Dreaming: Nathaneal Pepper and the Ruptured World*.



CA Cranston undertook an AIC Fellowship at the University of Madras, Chennai, from February to April, 2009. Susan Hawthorne has received an AIC Writers' Grant, also attached to the University of Madras, from September this year.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Diana Brown**—Nature writing in prose; fiction; the personal essay
- Louise Crisp**—Poetry, essays, *Snowy River, water and environment*
- Rebecca Giggs**—Ecophilosophy, water history, land-use interpretation, disaster studies
- Barbara Holloway**—Ecology, history, good writing, especially at present Lachlan River
- Neale MacDonald**—Poetry, especially Mary Oliver, ecotheology, ecocriticism
- Dean Munday**—literature, art, botany
- Sharyn Munro**—Place-based writing, short stories and non-fiction; publisher of two books (2007, 2009) with strong nature themes
- Paul Pule**—Environmental ethics, gender studies
- Tetsuta Watanabe**—Children's literature, creative writing translation (Japanese-English), linguistics

Ian Johnstone has written a piece titled 'Mother Nature Speaks', to be broadcast on Robyn Williams' ABC Radio National program *Ockham's Razor* in the near future. Stay tuned for details!



Members Kate Rigby and Martin Harrison have both been hospitalised of late. The association's best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to both of them.



Wellington ASLE members **Dinah Hawken**, Keith Westwater and **Lynn Davidson** were joined by travelling member and birder **Hilary Elfick** at **Karori Sanctuary** to read on a dark and stormy night. Hilary read various poems, including some from her new book, *The Third Mile*; Lynn featured new work, including pieces from her latest book *How to Live by the Sea* (VUP 2009). Dinah read work from a range of her publications; Keith read new poetry, including a poem in honour of Geoff Park. The attentive audience also heard fantastic acoustic guitar from Mike Hogan. The Sanctuary has welcomed the writers' contributions and hopes to make the ASLE readings an annual event. Thanks to all involved.

WATERMARK LITERARY MUSTER

IT IS over a month since the Watermark Literary Muster (19–22 June) and my overwhelming memory of Watermark is the rain: all-day-all-night rain, being lulled to sleep by rain, waking to rain in the middle of the night, the steady joy of water's persistence. The theme this year, however, was not water but wood: wood growing, wood harvested, wood made into things, and forests, trees, the people who

love them and write about them, and their readers. While it is impossible to comment on everyone who presented, many images stayed with me: Nicolas Rothwell's evocation of a forest of desert oaks; Mark Tredinnick's *The Blue Plateau*, especially the poignant story of the candle; Roger McDonald's stories, especially his homage to Wilf Crane; the poets and their poetry. Sharon Dean invited us into the spare and beautiful world of haiku, with particular reference to Janice Bostok, and some impressive examples written by young students. Interspersed with the lyric prose and poetry were histories of cedar getters; John Blay's attentive

walking of Indigenous pathways; Peter Hay's address giving voice to the small foresters in Tasmania disenfranchised by Gunns; Bill Gammage's talking to Peter Solness' wonderful photos. I learned that from the shape of eucalypts one can read the history of a forest. Roger Underwood told the story of a young man's experience on fire lookout at the top of one of WA's giant karri trees. Steven Ross recounted the vision and work of the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations confederation and offered some of his own poetry. Sue Feary reminded us of the relationship between social justice and resource use. Stuart Cooke offered an understanding of the poem as part of the environment. McDonald described his writing as an elegiac exercise and Peter Hay spoke of the writer as witness in these often distressing times. Two panels were particularly timely, the forum on fire featuring Bob Beale, Tom Griffiths and Roger Underwood on the first day and the final forum with John Blay and Roger Underwood, which opened the possibility for a dialogue between proponents of different modes of forest keeping and use. As Peter Hay commented, there was an atmosphere of grace across differences of opinion and experience. This grace sums up Watermark: the hospitality, the shared transport, the conversations, the writing and the place. And from the dedication at the beginning, through many of the presentations, and Carolyn Leach-Paholski's lovely poems, the late Eric Rolls was a remembered presence.

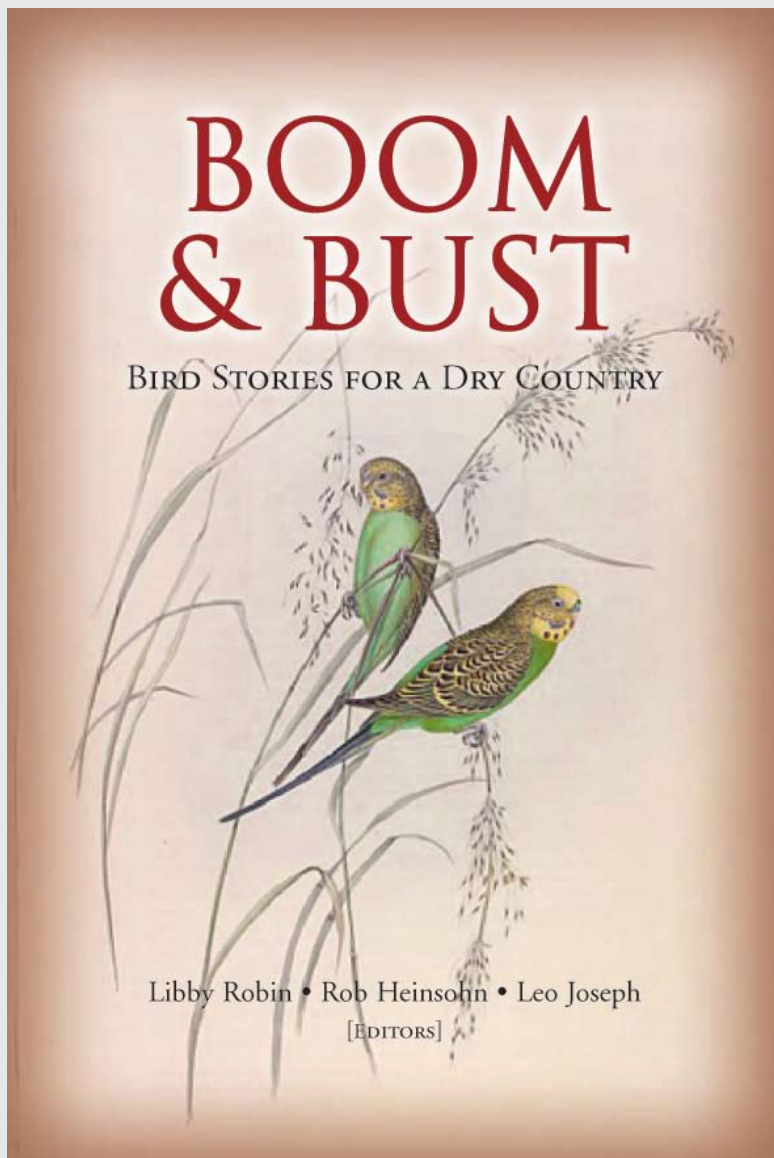


TOP: Watermark 'Saplings' Sharon Dean, Stuart Cooke and Steven Ross.



BOTTOM: Nicolas Rothwell and Pete Hay at the Watermark Literary Dinner.

Member Publications



Jointly edited by Libby Robin, Robert Heinsohn and Leo Joseph, *Boom and Bust: Bird Stories for a Dry Country* was published in March by CSIRO Publishing. The book has been described in glowing terms as ‘another small but commendable step along the path towards achieving a widely held ecological understanding, and applying it to debates about the wise use of our dry continent’ (Peter Menkhorst, *Australian Book Review*, June 2009). Transcripts and audio of an interview with Libby Robin, originally broadcast on ABC Radio National’s *Ockham’s Razor* program (‘Pelican stories for the future’) are currently available [online](#).

RUTH Blair’s entry on Australian environmental literature appears in ‘A Booklist of International Environmental Literature’, an overview coordinated by Scott Slovic and published in the January–February issue of *World Literature Today*. The article is included as an attachment with this PDF.

Formerly one of Ruth’s (numerous) postgraduate students, Chris Coughran has finally appeared in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (Spring 2009) with ‘Green Scripts in *Gravity’s Rainbow*: Pynchon, Pastoral Ideology and the Performance of Ecological Self’. His article on Pynchon and plagiarism (read: textual recycling) appears in the latest issue of *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*.

CA Cranston’s ‘From Shanty to Shanti: Teaching Australian Literature in India’ appears in the most recent (special) issue of *Journal of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature*. The [full text](#) of CA’s article may be found at the *JASAL* website.

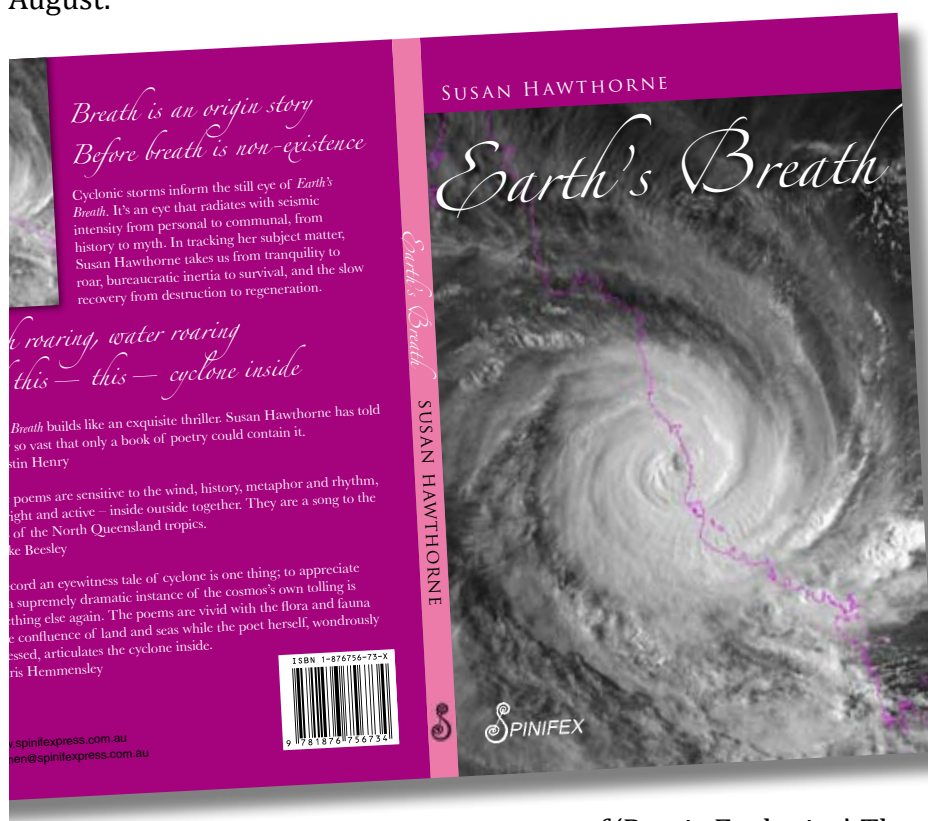
Lorraine Shannon’s ‘Petty Crimes: Animal Transgressions in the City’ is published in *Island* 117 (Winter 2009).

Kate Rigby’s ‘Dancing with Disaster’ appears in *Australian Humanities Review* 46 (May 2009), alongside articles by Deborah Rose, Thom Van Dooren, Gerda Roelvink and J.K. Gibson-Graham, and the late Val Plumwood. The same issue of *AHR* boasts a special section on ‘Naturecultures’ featuring the work of Emily Potter, Gay Hawkins, Michael Dieter and Zoë Sofoulis. Full-text articles are accessible via the *AHR* [website](#).

Lapsed ASLE–ANZ vice-president Mark Tredinnick's landscape memoir, *The Blue Plateau*, was published in June, and has already attracted some nice notices. According to Claire Scobie, writing in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, it 'sets a new benchmark for nature writing in Australia'. ASLE–ANZ's current vice-president Deborah Bird Rose launched the book, with the grace and love you'd expect from her, at a night of poetry readings at Macquarie University.

Mark is in the middle of what would be called a book tour, he says, if it didn't feel so much like an eccentric series of visits to radio studios and intimate conversations by phone with distant journalists, some of them bored, some of them excitable; he's had the chance—on *Late Night Live* and *The Book Show*, among other places—to mention, apart from the book and himself, ASLE and the green cultural project all of us at ASLE are embarked upon.

In April, Mark flew to the Gold Coast to receive second prize for his poem 'Red Tulips' in the Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize. All May and June, Mark's poem 'Cleave' hung in the the Newcastle Region Gallery beside the painting to which it responded, Robert Jacks's 'Kentish Fire and Heavy Boots IV'; Robert Gray and Anthony Lawrence also had poems in the show, *Poets Paint Words*, which tours in August.



Earth's Breath, Susan Hawthorne's latest book of poetry, was published in July by Spinifex Press. Inspired by the author's experience of Cyclone Larry in 2006, the collection is described by fellow poet Luke Beesley as 'a song to the cycles of the North Queensland tropics'. Well done Susan!

The work of two Australian academics appears in the current issue of *The Journal of Ecocriticism*, under the rubric

of 'Poetic Ecologies'. The special issue includes 'Poe(trees) of Place: Forest Poetics in Lithuania and Tasmania' by Claire Jansen (University of Tasmania) and "'Narratives from Another Creek': Judith Wright and the Poetics of Water in Australia' by Stephen Harris (University of New England). Both authors are in the process of becoming ASLE–ANZ members. The full text of the current issue of *JoE*, including the work of Stephen and Claire, is available [online](#).

GEOFF PARK: A TRIBUTE

Geoff Park, a founding ASLE-ANZ member, writer and ecologist died on 17 March 2009 after a battle with a brain tumour diagnosed in mid-2008. Geoff was a stalwart defender of remnant indigenous knowledges and ecosystems, who believed in the power of words to reveal the memories and complexities of familiar places. He was a scholar and mentor generous of his time and laughter. As a newspaper **obituary** noted, Geoff combined academic rigour with local activism, and a form of outreach that owed much to his appreciation of north American nature writers like Gary Snyder, John Muir and Scott Russell Sanders. Although he was a master at evoking the losses wrought upon the land and on Māori knowledge and culture by colonisation (as those listening at Watermark 2003 will recall), he remained positive about the gains that have been made—gains he helped make happen and publicised. Although his groundbreaking book *Nga Uruora: The Groves of Life: History and Ecology in a New Zealand Landscape* is now out of print, it was serialised on national radio in New Zealand and is now available as **an online feature** that is evocative and revealing of both Geoff's vision and the remnants of bush and Māori knowledge that so captured his life's work and passion. Many of the New Zealand members of ASLE have been enriched by his generosity in sharing that passion *Geoff, moe mai, moe mai, maoe mai ra i te ngahere nunui, rest rest rest in the great forest.*

I can think of no better tribute than the one ASLE member David Young has offered; David and Geoff were friends for many years and David's obituary offers real insight. My own small tribute, a poem I wrote for Geoff just after he heard about the cancer, and which his son **Turi** read at Geoff's service, follows.

 **Charles Dawson**

It should come as no surprise to historians that Geoff Park, whose first love was ecology, could find a soul-mate in history. The wonder of it is that this kind of 'dualism' does not occur more often. After all, both are sprawling disciplines preoccupied with understanding the context of relationships and communities (for history, sometimes read 'nations'), including their establishment, the nature of power, dominance, hegemony, survival and succession—albeit usually on different time scales.

In his 1995 treatise, *Nga Uruora: The Groves of Life*, Geoff busted out of the rigours of his soil science and ecology (his PhD from ANU was on forest nutrient cycling) into what James Belich once described as 'an act of the imagination'.

He imagined himself into an elegiac ecological and historical account about Aotearoa/New Zealand's surviving lowland forest communities in a wasteland of depauperate nativism. It is a measure of the work that before its emergence, awareness of the extent of lowland forests up until the devastation of the 19th century took place was, at best, poorly understood by most of us.

Geoff also imagined the Maori communities who lived in and near these forests who had largely been displaced and overwhelmed by 150 years of relentless modernism. What did remain were those groves of life, persisting with sometimes astonishing tenacity against human-induced adversity.

His was a thesis—as he freely stated—owing much to his former DSIR colleague and mentor Geoff Kelly that was radical in its capacity to jolt receptive New Zealanders. Looking back it helped create a new awareness that has had more than a little to do with one of the most significant phenomena in the trauma of post Rogernomics: widespread community endeavour to make right the yawning ecological deficits bequeathed by our forebears, and in so doing give rise to new and purposeful community.

In simultaneously upholding Maori and ecological truths, which he came to see as profoundly convergent and the basis of a covenant, he put himself offside with the leadership, if not the membership, of the still preservationist Pakeha conservation movement.

The 'Yellowstone park model', as he described it elsewhere, first imagined, then took native people out of the places where millennia of mutual nourishment had occurred. It replaced them with the empty landscapes, the 'wildness' of Emerson, John Muir and Henry Thoreau. Even the late great exponent of modern ecological thinking, Aldo Leopold, pays little attention to the indigenes. What differs in New Zealand thinking, where philosophers such as Geoff are as rare as mature kahikatea, is that nineteenth-century colonisation pushed forest back with axe and fire on a scale and at a speed that was probably unprecedented.



If there was one limitation to the book that eventuated, it was Park's presentism—his judgment delivered upon those who had been so unmindful of what it was that they were destroying. It was terrible but it was no worse—at least in extent—to the unthinking Maori fires that had originally laid waste the first third of Aotearoa's lost forested landscape. And both settler groups—separated by some 550 years but thousands of years of divergent evolution—showed what human settlers the world over have demonstrated: that awareness of the symbiosis of wild and human nature and a spiritual relationship based on respect is uncommonly rare in those first few hundred years of adjustment following arrival.

Geoff Park grew up in Pinehaven, Upper Hutt, near Wellington, with the emerging ornithologist Sandy Bartle as a close mate. This friendship helped spawn Victoria University's Ecology Action who had a great victory in the late 1960s when they were able to force the mighty Ministry of Works to shift part of the Hutt Motorway in order to protect regenerating bush on the valley's western flanks. Bartle's knowledge of our endemic and single-destination black petrels, together with Park's concern for the landscape, also helped turn Forest Service plans for a mill into the exquisite forest, limestone, pancake rocks and wetland/coastal ensemble that is today's Punakaiki National Park. Both these political triumphs become part of chapters in the meditation that is *Nga Ururora*.

If you were lucky enough to paddle and tramp with Geoff, he shared his knowledge with great generosity. A day in the wild with him was as good as a semester in the lecture room. Symbolic of the lowland ecology is the kahikatea, of Gondwanan lineage and New Zealand's tallest tree. I still recall his pointing out the subtle splendour of its lilac florescence in spring on the Upper Whanganui. That was the beginning of trips in which we always stayed, at his instigation, in Tamatea's Cave, a unique heritage experience, but also a potential death trap in the event of unexpected flooding.

On a trip almost 18 years back we trekked by kayak the wetlands, lagoons and coastal edges ('edge' and 'connectedness' were favourite words of his) of South Westland. 'Bring your umbrellas', he had said. Sure enough, when we paddled Okarito's length to view the kotuku colony we had wind assistance, Mary Poppins-style, both ways. The islands offshore of Open Bay provoked his rendition of the 'The Ballad of Davy Louston', New Zealand's oldest pakeha ballad. Seized by a Muir-like bit of transcendentalism, Geoff had hoped we might camp the night out in the vast wetlands of Haast, with their giant flaxes and teeming wildlife. I think most of us were relieved when he finally pronounced that we needed to find dry land for the night.

He could be surprisingly blasé about weather forecasts, but maybe that was the John Muir coming out in him too.



Geoff Park, photograph by son Turi.

(Muir's favourite memory of his visit to New Zealand in 1904 was being lashed by a storm while coming through the Buller Gorge riding shotgun on a coach.) At Geoff's suggestion we once paddled out to Mana Island with his *Nga Ururoa* editor, Andrew Mason (Andrew liked to say Geoff had 'a corkscrew mind'—but it must be said immediately that writing on holistic matters does require an orchestral concentration). Our return journey, however, was against the tide and into the fangs of a big northerly. Andrew disappeared off into the mist and I did wonder if we would make it to shore. When finally we did we lay tuckered out on the beach. For a guy of average build, Geoff had enormous physical confidence and it is unsurprising that at least one of his three sons has been a cliff-jumper, Hawaiian-style.

His artist wife, Lindsay, who is a graduate in geology and ecology and is a great outdoorsperson herself and a vibrant partner, had three sons and a daughter, all of whom were imbued with a strong sense of their Pacific-wide cultural and natural heritage.

In spite of the macho streak, what made him appealing was a tender, romantic side. After all, as a lad he raised orchids. He engaged in a 20-year conversation with Ian Wedde on Wordsworth and his Lake District poetry, contributing to his *Theatre Country* in 2006.

He was also a close reader of the American sage of sustainability, Wendell Berry, and Black Mountain poet, Gary Snyder—whose spare, elegant reflections evoke his Buddhist commitment to nature with a lifestyle to match. While Geoff's work was all-consuming, even in conversation which had little room for what was outside his thinking, there were times when he grew deeply silent. Once, on a trip coming down the botanically compromised Whanganui he began to reflect on the nature of what was pristine, falling into what I came to think of as 'botanic reverie'. He seemed not to emerge from these spells until he had resolved his thinking, which was often, for a small drifting archipelago, truly visionary: a unique way of seeing the land.

His friendship with Sara McIntyre late in life took him back to the Kakahi bach of that 1960s environmental campaigner, her father, painter Peter McIntyre. Here, again mindful of heritage both cultural and natural, it served as a topic in several of his series in *Forest and Bird*. Kakahi enabled him to muse on his beloved, lamented kahikatea, still surviving on those river flats just round a bend from where that other great campaigner for the environment, Keith Chapple, had lived and died. Geoff revelled in the serendipity of all that.

Geoff Park was a wonderful, impossible man and we are all the poorer for his passing so early in his rich life.

 **David Young**

This poem imagines Geoff by some of his favourite places: at the water's edge; in close contact with the whenua (earth); and with his mokopuna (grandchildren), his hands with their warm grip upon New Zealand's tallest tree, the kahikatea.

LIGHT WORDS BY WATER

For Geoff, from Charles, arohanui. June '08

Just weeks really, and the cards, phone calls, letters (and poems) are already slipping into your hands, words rising up from the page like mist off the lake.

It's the water you go back to now,
Dawn-struck pewter, millpond smooth,
with that quiet on it
as the first raindrops begin
to dapple its surface.

There's that moment of stillness before the drops hit; the pock of water on water. Tiny ripples then; they mirror the wash of blood surging through the veins in your fingers

And so you reach out in that still moment
to touch the brilliant orange berries on the *kahikatea*,
its split bark furred with moss.

That pause, tears platching on leaves, each one
a new sounding board.

The words keep on rising up
through the rain, as they always have:
so many of us have come
home to this place, this *whenua*,
through your words, your attentive heart
listening by the water.

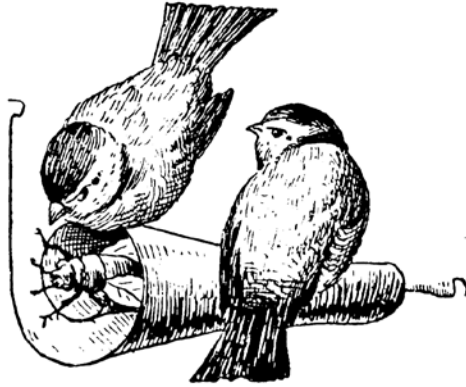
The rain's eased,
mist sighing off
the flow.

A hundred times the cleansing
of tears, of trees,
and yes, the sound of
your *mokopunas'* laughter
spangling through the groves
like light.

 **Charles Dawson**



Calls for Papers



ASIA-PACIFIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY (STS) NETWORK CONFERENCE

Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
23–25 November 2009

The first annual conference of the Asia Pacific STS Network brings together researchers involved in STS studies in the Asia-Pacific region (East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australasia near the Pacific Ocean plus the states in Oceania) for stronger regional STS networking and critical discussions about science and technology for the new millennium, environmental sustainability, and STS issues of interest to indigenous peoples.

Abstracts are invited in 3 categories (formal papers, roundtable discussion presentations, and posters) on the themes:

- Environment and sustainability transitions
- Indigenous people, science and technologies
- Life techno/sciences
- Governance, public policy, community
- Utopia and dystopia: Science and technology for the new millennium
- Conceptual and methodological innovations

For more details, keynote speakers, sponsors, events, registration fees, and online submission of abstracts, visit the APSTS Network Conference [website](#).

Submissions close 15 September (see submission form for details and postgraduate/indigenous researcher travel bursaries).

VOLCANOES, LANDSCAPES AND CULTURES

Catania, Sicily,
11–14 November 2009

The first World Conference on Volcanoes, Landscapes and Cultures will be held in Catania, Sicily, under the auspices of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and relevant Italian institutional and academic authorities.

The conference objective is to provide answers to the increasing demand for comprehensive policies focusing on the protection and enhancement of the huge natural and cultural heritage represented by volcanic landscapes and territories together with the people living therein, all over the world. Conference organizers are looking for papers addressing preferably one of the topics of the four major themes:

- Nature and science
- Nature and culture
- Volcanoes and sustainable development
- Volcanoes and tourism

Deadline for abstracts is 15 September.

For information about registration, modality of participation, calls for papers and other matters, please visit the [conference website](#).

NEW GROUNDS: ECOCRITICISM, GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURAL MEMORY

Radboud University, Nijmegen (the Netherlands)
13–15 January 2010

The first conference on ecocriticism in the Netherlands aims to bring together scholars from different ecocritical networks and countries to explore recent themes in ecocriticism. After its initial focus on the local and the regional, ecocriticism is now facing challenges posed by globalization, as explored in for instance Ursula Heise's *Sense of Place, Sense of Planet* (2008). Also, ecocriticism is still coming to terms with postmodernism and its implications, while interdisciplinary approaches to ecocriticism from the point of view of evolutionary psychology, cultural memory and biosemiotics are gaining ground. 'New Grounds' will serve as a platform and forum for developments in ecocriticism, offering the possibility for interaction and an exploration of a variety of ecocritical themes in order to further define and broaden the ecocritical field.

Organized in association with ASLE-UK and EASLCE, this international conference aims to bring together scholars working in the fields of literature, drama, the visual arts, film and music. Responses to postmodern theory, globalization and cultural memory are particularly encouraged. Also, the conference aims to explore (European) ecocriticism to date, in particular during the plenary panel which features panellists working on ecocriticism in a number of European countries. Confirmed plenary speakers include Greg Garrard, Catrin Gersdorf, Serenella Iovin and Richard Kerridge.

Topics can include but are not limited to:

- Post-modern—post-nature?
- The local and the global
- The future of ecocritical theory
- Ecocriticism and the visual arts
- Postcolonial ecologies
- Animal studies
- Figures of memory of nature
- Cultural memory
- Eco-cosmopolitanism
- Place and space
- Apocalypse
- The nature of cities

A selection of papers will be published in a special issue on ecocriticism in *English Studies*. Please send 250-word proposals for 20-minute papers to **Astrid Bracke** and **Margu rite Corporaal**. Deadline for submission of proposals is 1 September 2009.



M/C JOURNAL

Special Issue: *Climate*

Edited by Andrew Gorman-Murray and Gordon Waitt

Climate is, presently, a heatedly discussed topic. Concerns about the environmental, economic, political and social consequences of climate change are of central interest in academic and popular debates. As such, climate change is a 'hot' cultural discourse and media issue. Moreover, there has recently been a 'cultural turn' in climate change science and politics, with some scholars arguing that climate change research and action has been hindered because it has not accounted for localised cultural values that give everyday meaning to climate, and consequently urging for greater attention to the cultural dimensions of climate change. As Mike Hulme asserts, "registers of climate can be read in memory, behaviour, text and identity as much as they can be measured through meteorology" and thus "the idea of climate can only be understood when its physical dimensions are allowed to be interpreted by their cultural meanings" ('Geographical Work at the Boundaries of Climate Change', in *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 33.7 (2008): 6.).

Climate change is both a 'physical transformation and cultural object' and requires new examination which 'needs to start with contributions from the interpretative humanities and social sciences' (Hulme 5). Advancing these important emerging debates, this issue of *M/C Journal* seeks to explore the critical interface of climate and culture, particularly in the context of climate change. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: the cultural dimensions of climate and climate change; the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage; localised readings of climate and climate change; changing everyday practices in response to climate change; the potential effect of climate change on tourism; and the role of the media in framing climate change debates and competing discourses of climate change.

Please send a 100-word abstract to **the editors**. Articles of 3000 words in length should be submitted **online**, and prepared in accordance with the *M/C Journal* style **guidelines**. *M/C Journal* articles are blind peer-reviewed.

Deadline for submissions is 28 August, with a view to publication on 21 October 2009.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION:
A JOURNAL OF NATURE & CULTURE**

Target Issue: Vol. 5, No. 1 (2011)
*Coloring the Environmental Lens:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives
on Cinema, New Media, and Just
Sustainability*

Guest editors: Salma Monani,
Gettysburg College; Belinda Chiu, Duke
University; Carlo Arreglo, University of
California (Berkeley)



We are seeking manuscript submissions on the role of cinema and new media in engaging environmental issues from the perspectives of traditionally marginalized groups (specifically socio-economically depressed groups and racial and ethnic minorities in the American and global context). We deliberately conceive cinema broadly (as its Greek root suggests) to include various moving images—documentary and fictional film, video, television—and are also interested in new media such as video games, internet video shorts, blogs and online gaming.

Recent scholarship has begun to actively highlight the importance of engaging different racial, cultural, and socio-economic perspectives within the arena of environmental sustainability. Specifically, the concept of just sustainability forwarded by Julian Agyeman, Robert Bullard, and Bob Evans (2005) is a theoretically and pragmatically vigorous framework that scholars have begun to use to evaluate and elucidate issues of colour, race, ethnicity, and/or regional power dynamics that determine whose voices are heard within the environmental arena and how they are heard. However, there is relatively little comprehensive attention devoted to the way cinema and new media intersect with and highlight issues of environmental justice and sustainability. This special issue hopes to fill this current gap in environmental, cinema, and new media scholarship.

We invite essays from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary angles, and welcome analyses of films/videos/new media, filmmakers, film festivals, national cinemas, or classroom practices. We are particularly interested in readings of cinema that do not neatly fit traditional categories of nature or environmental films, and in articles that engage new media, such as online gaming, Internet video platforms (i.e. YouTube), and blogospheres that utilize social spaces in alternate ways. We are also interested in critiques of contemporary environmental cinema and new media that omit the voices of various traditionally marginalized groups despite their relevance to the issues discussed.

Manuscripts should be prepared in English, and should not exceed 8000 words including references. The journal adheres to APA Style. Manuscripts must not be under review elsewhere or have appeared in any other published form. For further details on manuscript submission, please refer to the '**Instructions for authors**' on the journal's website. Upon notification of acceptance, authors must assign copyright to Taylor and Francis and provide copyright clearance for any copyrighted material. Manuscripts should be **emailed** to the guest editors by 30 January 2010.

TRANSFORMATIONS: THE JOURNAL OF INCLUSIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Special Issue: *Teaching the Earth*

Guest Editor: Anthony Lioi

The editors of *Transformations* seek articles (5000 to 10,000 words) and media reviews (books, film, video, performance, art, music, etc., 3000 to 5000 words) that explore environmental issues in all pedagogical contexts and disciplinary perspectives. Essays should raise questions concerning constructive pedagogical responses to local and planetary environmental issues.

- Ecological literacy
- Environmental ethics
- Natural, cultural, and financial economies
- Resource depletion
- Mass extinction
- Popular culture and the environment
- Religion and ecology
- Corporate greenwashing
- Celebrity environmentalism
- The Earth and the Internet
- Resource wars
- Indigenous nations and environmental sovereignty
- The queer Earth
- Nature writing
- Green cities
- Food and farming
- Radical environmentalisms
- Ecology in the Borderlands
- Environmental racism
- The Anti-Toxics and Environmental Justice movements
- Rural, suburban, and urban geography

Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary forum for pedagogical scholarship exploring intersections of identities, power, and social justice. The journal features a range of approaches—from theoretical articles to creative and experimental accounts of pedagogical innovations from teachers and scholars in all areas of education.

Send submissions or inquiries in MLA format (6th ed.) as attachments in MS-Word or Rich Text Format to **the editors**, Jacqueline Ellis and Edvige Giunta. Alternatively, send a hard copy to: *Transformations*, New Jersey City University, Hepburn Hall Room 309, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07305. Author(s) name and contact information should be included on a separate page. For submission guidelines please visit the journal **website**. *Transformations* is published semi-annually by New Jersey City University. Deadline for submissions is 31 October 2009.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Themed Issue: *Community-Based
Natural Resource Management:
Designing the next generation of models*

Managing Editor: Professor Charlie
Shackleton (Rhodes University,
South Africa)

Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) has been a pervasive paradigm in conservation circles for three decades. Despite many potentially attractive attributes it has been extensively critiqued from both ecological and sociological perspectives with respect to both theory and practice. Nonetheless, many successful examples exist, although against a backdrop of a greater number that seemingly has not. Is this because of poor implementation or rather a generally flawed model in the first place? If the criteria and conditions for success are so onerous that relatively few projects or situations are likely to qualify, what then is the value of the model in the first place? The question thus becomes: is it time to abandon CBNRM as an outdated and impossible ideal for conservation in a changing world, or learn from past theory and practice to develop a new generation of flexible, responsive and implementable CBNRM models? If the latter, what are likely to be the attributes of such a model?

Only original and unpublished high-quality research papers are considered and manuscripts must be in English. **Instructions for Authors** can be found online. Papers must be submitted via the journal **website submission** route. You must provide a cover letter to indicate that the submission is for the special issue on CBNRM. If this is not supplied, or if insufficient papers are accepted for a particular theme, they will be published by the journal as regular submissions. All papers will be submitted to a rigorous peer-review process and the mere fact that they are part of a themed issue (solicited or not) does not guarantee acceptance. Deadline for submission of manuscripts is 1 September 2009, with a view to publication in May 2010 (to be confirmed).

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following subjects (reporting on or reviewing case studies where appropriate):

- Review: CBNRM—past, present and future
- Are the goals of community development and natural resource conservation truly compatible?
- The role of local or traditional ecological knowledge in advancing CBNRM
- Unveiling the conservation benefits of CBNRM
- Dealing with spatial and temporal complexities in CBNRM formulation and implementation
- CBNRM—conserving the community or conserving natural resources?
- Designing CBNRM models to accommodate multiple and contrasting community actors
- The future face of CBNRM
- One size does not fit all—how to build in flexibility and adaptability in CBNRM
- Is intra-community CBNRM the future?
- When is a community ready for CBNRM?
- Despite the local focus, an enabling macro context is the foundation for successful CBNRM