

Conference Committee :

International Committee

Dr Cynthia vanden Driesen
(Chair)
President - ASAA (Aus)
University of Western Australia
cynthia.v@westnet.com.au

Professor Greg Battye
Vice-President - ASAA (Aus)
University of Canberra
Greg.Battye@canberra.edu.au

Professor Kirpal Singh
Singapore Management University
koxsing@hotmail.com

Professor Satendra Nandan
University of Fiji
SatendraN@unifiji.ac.fj

Dr Bernadette Brennan
President - Association for the
Study of Australian Literature
University of Sydney
bernadette.brennan@sydney.edu.au

Dr Susan Ballyn
Director - Centre for Australian
Studies
University of Barcelona
susand@arakis.es

Professor Janet Wilson
University of Northampton
Editor - Journal of Postcolonial
Writing
Committee - New Zealand Studies
Assn. (NZSA), UK and Ireland
Janet.Wilson@northampton.ac.uk

Professor Helga Ramsey-Kurz
University of Innsbruck
Board - European Association for
the Study of Commonwealth
Literature and Language Studies
(EACLALS)
Helga.Ramsey-Kurz@uibk.ac.at

Dr Julie Mehta
University of Toronto
julmehta@rogers.com

Dr Nathanael O'Reilly
President - American Association of
Australasian Literary Studies
(AAALS)
Editor - Postcolonial Issues in
Australian Literature
Texas Christian University
n.oreilly@tcu.edu

University of Hyderabad

Professor Mohan G. Ramanan
(Chair)
Dean, School of Humanities
mohanramanan1949@gmail.com

Professor Syed Mujeebuddin
Head, Department of English
mujeebudin.syed@gmail.com

Dr K. Suneetha Rani
(Executive Committee)
suneetharani@hotmail.com

Professor M. Sridhar
(Executive Committee)
msridha@gmail.com

ASAA - India

Professor Anjali Roy
President ASAA (Asia)
IIT Kharagpur
agera_99@yahoo.com

Dr R.K Dhawan
University of New Delhi
rkdhawan@gmail.com

Dr Suman Bala
University of New Delhi
balasuman@yahoo.com

Dr V. Sangeetha
Periyar University Tamil Nadu
sankri19@yahoo.co.in

Asst Professor Arindam Das
Heritage Institute of Technology
Kolkata
ad_arindam@yahoo.co.in

Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia (ASAA)

The Association was originally established under the name of the **Asian Association for the Study of Australia** in August 1995 as one of the outcomes of the meeting in Sri Lanka of a group of academics from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia.

The Association was expanded into the **Asian-Australasian Association for the study of Australasia** in October 1998 at a meeting in Dhvanyaloka, Mysore, India, when New Zealand was admitted into the membership of the Association.

The name of the Association was changed again in 1999 to its present name of **The Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia (ASAA)**.

Aims: To bring together individuals, institutions and associations concerned with the study and the teaching of Australasian studies in Asia and to foster interest and promote research in all aspects of Australasian life.

The inaugural conference of the Association was held in Kerala, January 1997. Four more have been held since that date: Mysore in 2000; Kerala again in 2003, Kandy Sri Lanka in 2008, and Hyderabad India in 2011.

Four substantial publications have emerged from these conferences: *New Directions in Australian Studies* (1998), *Austral-Asian Connections* (2001), *Diaspora* (2004), and *Change, Conflict and Convergence: Austral-Asian Scenarios* (2010).

www.asaa.net.au

Patrick White Centenary International Conference Hyderabad, India 5-7 November 2012

The Australian Nobel Prize winning writer, Patrick White, has for long been a formidable presence in the Australian literary context. This was attested by the first ever national conference on a living Australian writer, held in Adelaide in 1978. His significance on the world scene was also evidenced early through the organization of an international conference at the University of Stirling, Scotland (1991). Books and theses on White's work have been generated world-wide even before he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1973, "for an epic and psychological narrative art which has introduced a new continent into literature". After his death in 1990, the 'Patrick White Modernist Futures Conference', held in 2011 at the University of London, attested a resurgence of interest in White and an emphasis on his contemporary relevance. Staging a conference in Asia, specifically in India, which has been a centre for White studies for decades, to mark the centenary of White's birth, seems entirely appropriate in 2012.

White's massive oeuvre - novels, plays, short fiction, poetry, biography - the voluminous critical commentary these have generated and the personal odyssey of his own life, provide a field for literary, critical and socio-political probing that remains enormously rich in possibilities. While older motifs may be still resurgent, this conference hopes to encourage new and innovative explorations of White's work. The scope for these remains enormous:

- The evolution of White's political sympathies and socio-cultural ethos from that of a scion of a conservative affluent squattocracy to radical activist for Aboriginal rights, republicanism and nuclear disarmament remains largely uncharted;
- Feminist approaches to White's works are scarce, yet his work opens up radical interrogation of feminist issues which are directly relevant to contemporary times;
- Post-colonial re-readings of the texts offer particularly challenging possibilities;
- Literary cross-fertilization: White's influence on Australian and other writers and vice-versa, has inexhaustible potential as White studies expand internationally and nationally.