
ASAA NEWSLETTER

Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia

Website: www.asaa.net.au

Hyderabad Literary Festival 2018



HLF 2018 Inaugural: Dignitaries with children dressed as Jnanpith Award winners in Kannada

The eighth annual Hyderabad Literary Festival (HLF) was held from 26-28 Jan 2018 on the sprawling campus of The Hyderabad Public School, a heritage property in the heart of the city. Besides India, authors and artistes from a dozen foreign countries – Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Norway, Serbia, Spain, UK, USA, Wales – participated in the three-day festival. There were more than one-hundred speakers, a group which included authors, activists, artistes, film makers, fitness experts, legal luminaries, media celebrities, thespians and other creative talents from varied fields.

Spain was the Guest Nation at the festival and seven leading writers from the country took part in the festival which was inaugurated by the Deputy Head of

Mission, Embassy of Spain in India, Mr Eduardo Sánchez Moreno. Also present at the inaugural was the Cultural Attaché, Ignacio Vitórica Hamilton. The Indian Language in Focus was Kannada and ten leading Kannada authors and artistes took part in sessions on literature, theatre, film, and performance poetry in Kannada, and a panel discussion on the language crisis in Karnataka. In addition, there was a retelling of the *Ramayana* from a Kannada Dalit village woman's perspective.

Cultural programmes at the festival included a performance by the indie fusion band Bombay Bairag, a 'Mushaira' of humorous Urdu poetry, and the staging of the play "The Prophet and the Poet" by the Bangalore Little Theatre. The play, with the Indian freedom struggle as the backdrop, is based on the correspondence exchanged between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore over 25 years. (See picture below). Besides, there were film screenings, lecture demonstrations on rare and endangered art forms, events for children and young adults, and art installations and exhibitions including one by a Women's Collective and a Mouth and Foot Painting Artist. "Promote a

Concept” saw the enthusiastic promotion of four interesting initiatives: “The Human Library” (where books are people and reading is a conversation), “Ka se Kavita” (to foster an appreciation of Hindi and Urdu languages), “Rise of Literati (to keep the spirit of literature alive by bring together book lovers and budding authors), and “Tale Tellers Troupe” (a platform to help people overcome stage fear by practising the art of storytelling).



“The Prophet and the Poet” in progress

Paying homage to eminent artistes who had passed away during the preceding year was a feature introduced at the Festival in 2017. Continuing the practice, tributes were paid at to Girija Devi (Indian classical singer; 1929-2017), Shashi Kapoor (film actor and producer; 1938-2017), Tom Alter (film and theatre artiste; 1950-2017), and Gauri Lankesh (journalist; 1962-2017).

[Plans are afoot for HLF 2019. The dates: 25-27 Jan; Guest Nation: China; Indian Language in Focus: Gujarati. For festival updates visit: <www.hydlitfest.org>. It is hoped that Australia will be the Guest Nation at the Festival in 2020.]

T Vijay Kumar
Director, HLF

Vale-Serge Liberman Writer-doctor noted for his humanity



Serge Liberman (1942-2017)

Dr Serge Liberman, author, editor, scholar, bibliographer and medical practitioner, has died in Melbourne at the age of 75. For more than 40 years he was a leading light in Australian Jewish literary and multicultural spheres. He was born on November 14, 1942 in Fergana, Uzbekistan (USSR), to Abram Jacob and Regina Liberman (nee Minski), Polish-born parents made refugees by the war in Europe. After spending time in a displaced persons’ camp in Germany (1946-7) and then in Paris (1947-51), the family of three arrived by ship in Melbourne in 1951. Serge learnt English and graduated in medicine in 1967. He worked in this profession until his retirement in 2013.

Alongside his medical work he also pursued his literary vocation. Over some 30 years he published six collections of stories.

During that period he also worked on his groundbreaking *Bibliography of Australasian Judaica: 1788-2008* (updated 2011). This is a towering work (of 800 pages), a compendium of meticulously organised information on all publications concerned with Jewish life—literature, history, culture and the arts in Australia and New Zealand—for which researchers and readers will be grateful for decades to come.

He was an editor of the *Melbourne Chronicle*, associate editor of *Outrider*, literary editor of the *Australian Jewish News* and *Menorah* and vice-president of PEN Melbourne. He served several editorial committees; was three times winner of the Alan Marshall Award and a recipient of the NSW Premier's Literary Award; his books were studied in Australian high schools and universities. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his contribution to Australian literature (2015).

His fiction is distinctive for its vivid, highly-charged prose and its ethical, at times metaphysical, intensity, and especially for its myriad protagonists drawn with colourful precision and a compassionate understanding of the highlights and shadows of the human spirit.... Liberman's imagination was shaped by the world's great authors,... even more so by the greats of the Jewish and Yiddish literary traditions. His strong Jewish identity, and his history as a child survivor of the Holocaust ...underpin many of the themes of his books... while the

Jewish experience would remain his work's centre of gravity; the stories are universal in their exploration of our common humanity.

He was a person of supreme dedication and immense energy. As a doctor, he was revered by his patients for his concern for their welfare. By nature a modest and humble man, Serge gave of himself freely and generously. He was kind, courteous, softly-spoken and a thoughtful, loyal and generous, friendly; yet he could sport a correspondingly understated wit, while his humour could display an absurd, even wicked streak. He played a significant role in fostering Australian Jewish writing, through the publications he was involved with but also in less visible ways. Many other writers including myself were the beneficiaries of his encouragement and support. Confronted in 2016 with a diagnosis of motor neurone disease, Serge the medical professional fully understood its ineluctable trajectory. Throughout his illness he maintained an extraordinary outward demeanour: his characteristic ready smile, expressed by the merest crease around the lips, could warm the heart and lift the mood of any visitor...His dignity and grace in the face of his unspeakable predicament were an inspiration.

Serge was looking forward to the publication of his final book, a selection of his finest stories under the title *The Storyteller* (which Richard Freadman and I have been preparing and Hybrid will publish). ... Yet it was not to be ... Serge Liberman died on 22 December

(2017) at Gary Smorgon House, South Caulfield. ... He is survived by Anna Mow, his devoted second wife of more than 20 years, three children, two step-children and six grandchildren.

[The Storyteller was launched posthumously in Melbourne. See report below].

Alex Skovron

Melbourne writer and editor

Launching Liberman's Finest

The Storyteller, Hybrid 2018.

<www.hybridpublishers.com>

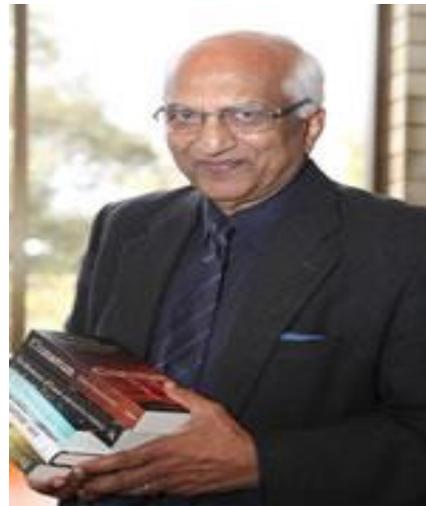
With no author to sign books, the posthumous launch of Serge Liberman's compilation of his best short stories in *The Storyteller* at Kadimah on Sunday was especially heartfelt. The 432-page collection, suggested to Liberman by friend and colleague Alex Skovron, had the late author's enthusiastic support but his hopes to attend the launch were dashed when he lost his struggle with motor neurone disease.... Introducing the anthology of 28 of Liberman's finest stories, La Trobe University emeritus professor, Richard Freadman described him as a medical doctor whose creative works explored "colliding worlds" of the real and the metaphysical. ... Liberman was a universalist, said Freadman, who believed that "the more a Jew cares about [Jewish and non-Jewish] others, the more Jewish he is".... Anna Mow, Liberman's wife of more than 20 years) portrayed him as "a wise, gentle, kind man with a great big heart". Although Serge, "the mensch, is

gone", she said, "Serge, the writer, lives on."

[Our sincere thanks are due to Anna for sending us these documents, and to Alex for permitting us to adapt his special tribute for this Newsletter. They have enabled us to remember here Serge as a much valued member of the ASAA community and that goodness which was his special attribute. He attended the ASAA Conference held at Mar Ivanios College in Kerala and while managing his own problem with two fractured ribs at the time (which we did not know about till the conference was over) tended one or the other of the attendees minor discomforts. ASAA friends from India and Spain stayed with him in his Melbourne home. He will be sorely missed.]

Peter Kohn

Busy Year for Satendra



2017 was a particularly busy one for Emeritus Professor Satendra Nandan (University of Canberra). It was the centennial commemoration of the abolition of the Indenture System in the British Empire, a work which commenced soon after the abolition of Slavery in the 1830s. The Indenture Experience is a major

theme in Nandan's writings. In March, he was invited to Fiji for participation in a number of celebratory events in this connection: a formal lecture, the launch two of his books as well as to present Readings from them.

The System was finally abolished on 17 March 1917. Writers like VS Naipaul, David Dabydeen are descendants of the indentured labourers transported from various part of the Indian subcontinent to the many colonies of the British Empire. Out of it, a creative Indian diaspora has emerged world-wide. His fifth volume of poems, *Across the Seven Seas*, and his collection of essays, *Dispatches from Distant Shores*, were published and launched in Fiji during his visit to the University of Fiji and the University of the South Pacific. The Chief Justice of Fiji, the Hon. HR Gates launched the volume of essays; the volume of poems was launched by Fijian poet Professor Sudesh Mishra.

Satendra was invited by the Commonwealth Foundation to give a talk and a reading at the CIVICUS conference in Suva in December; an international conference attended by 1000 delegates from 110 countries. On 3 October 2017, Satendra was invited to deliver the 'Gandhi Oration' for an international audience at the National Press Club, Canberra. His book *Gandhianjali* is due for publication on 15 May 2018. Satendra Nandan will also attend a conference in Ljubljana, Slovakia in July this year and will present a paper on the theme of 'Migrations

and Transformations in Literature – A Pacific Perspective.' The biennial conference is being organized by the European Centre for the International Study of Literatures in English (CISLE). His research and writing on a historical novel set in three countries continues at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University (Canberra) and at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, CSU. He is an invited member of both institutions.

Seminar on "Revisiting Memories and Histories of 1947"



Nandi Bhatia

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur organised an International Interdisciplinary Seminar sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the Indian Council of Historical Research on 3-4 January 2018 to mark the 70th year of India's independence. The Seminar was jointly convened by Professor Anjali Gera Roy, IIT Kharagpur and Professor Nandi Bhatia, University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Thirty scholars from universities in India, Canada, USA and Singapore revisited the events of 1947 in the two-day Seminar

juxtaposing histories and memories of Independence. The Seminar began with a round table discussion on “History and Memories” featuring noted partition scholars Professors Gyanesh Kudaisya (NUS), Sucheta Mahajan (JNU), Bodh Prakash (Ambedkar University Delhi), and was moderated by Professor Gopa Sabharwal, founding Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University.



Other well-known scholars included Professors Himad Sukeshi Kamra (Carleton University, Canada) and Padmini Mongia (Franklin and Marshall College, USA) who presented personal and visual narratives of memories of Multan.

Besides deliberating on political histories of Independence and partition, historians, sociologists and scholars in literary and cultural studies explored literary, cinematic and testimonial documents to trace the repercussions of partition across Punjab, Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. The Seminar discussion also covered the effects of partition beyond the subcontinent in the diaspora to situate it in a global context. The evening saw the screening of two documentary films *Dere tun Dilli* by

Shilpi Gulati and *A Thin Wall* directed by Mara Ahmed and co-produced by Surbhi Dewan. These were attended by the larger community in Kharagpur. The Seminar concluded with a Workshop of Graduate students from various disciplines.

Anjali Gera Roy
IIT Kharagpur

The Rise of Indian Literature and the Global World

(14-16 March 2018)

The Indian Society for
Commonwealth Studies, New
Delhi



The inaugural session began with the college invocation and the lighting of the lamp. Dr B Raju, Conference Coordinator, outlined the salient features of the Conference; the Principal, Rev. Fr. Dr Kishore spoke of the need for connectedness in promoting inter-cultural linkages and harmony. Dr RK Dhawan outlined the growth, and activities of the ISCS. Dr. Kishore then released the Souvenir which contained abstracts of the presentations at the conference.

The Commonwealth Review, the latest issue of the journal of the ISCS, was released on the occasion, as is customary at the Conferences, by Dr Suman Bala, Executive Secretary, ISCS. As the Chief Guest

Prof Rajasekhar Patteti, Professor of English and Former Registrar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, delivered a scintillating address on the concept of the alternative discourse of Indian literature in English. The programme was compeered by Dr D Praveen; Dr G Syamala proposed a vote of thanks.



After lunch, Prof CR Visweswara Rao delivered the keynote address, "The Rise of Indian Literature and the Global World" with Prof RK Dhawan in the chair. Ms Roswitha Joshi, Indo-German novelist and author of the acclaimed novel *Trapped in Want and Wonder*, shared with the audience her vision of the ironies, and incongruities of life that constitute her new material and how these are shaped by a spirit of biculturality, which is a recurring strain in her writing. The session was chaired by Dr Suman Bala, University of Delhi. The next session was devoted to a plenary talk by Prof N Usha on the diaspora which was presided over by Dr Satya Sudha.

Papers were presented by the conference delegates in the afternoon sessions on the first and second days. These discussed the diversity of voices and perceptions in Dalit writing; the interdisciplinarity involved in the unravelling of these discourses;

Feminism; the East-West encounter, and the re-interpretation of the traditional legends and classics. A number of papers on the emerging disciplinary requirements of ELT (like the use of ICT in the classroom) were also read.

On the second day, the plenary speech entitled "A Bird's Eye-View of Trends in ELT" was delivered by Rev. Fr. Dr Rex Angelo of Andhra Loyola College. The final item on the programme was a panel discussion on the Indian Novel in English. Prof N Usha, Prof RK Dhawan and Ms Roswitha Joshi were the panel members. The rise of the novel in English, the question of national boundaries and their re-definition, and the dialectic that frames this discourse were discussed. A cultural performance followed: scenes from Tagore's *Chandalika* and Bama's *Vendetta* were performed by "Curtain Call," the theatre group of postgraduate students from the University of Madras.

The valedictory session was presided over by Prof R K Dhawan, President of ISCS, who announced that Loyola College and ISCS were planning to enter into an MoU on collaboration to establish durable links with Andhra Loyola College. On the third day the participants and the Resource Persons were entertained to an excursion to Bhavani Islands on the River Krishna.

[Adapted Report]

CR Visweswara Rao
Chairman, ISCS

GIAN Project – Mangalore University



The acronym (GIAN) stands for “Global Initiative for Academic Networks” of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment and accelerate the country’s the pace of quality reform and elevate India’s scientific and technological capacity to global excellence. This Indian Government initiative enables Indian universities to bring ‘experts’ from diverse disciplines from abroad to teach on their campuses for a limited period. At the suggestion of Prof K Byrappa, Vice-Chancellor of Mangalore University (a friend from earlier ASAA programmes at Mysore University), Cynthia vanden Driesen collaborated with Prof Parinitha Shetty of the Department of English to shape a Course entitled ‘Affirmations of Female Strength in Selected Writings from West Africa, India and Australia.’ Awards to the Humanities are rare so we were fortunate to succeed.

Two courses spread over a 10 day period (27 October-3 Nov 2018) and consisting of two modules: 1. India and West Africa and 2.

Australia. Two lectures and one tutorial a day made this a demanding course. But with the help of two substantial Readers consisting of selected critical Readings and extracts from texts, the students had access to sufficient resources to enable them to participate effectively. This was shown in the high levels of the grades they received at the end of the Courses. GIAN lectures are beamed throughout India and the recordings remain as part of an archival resource in New Delhi.



Front Row: L-R: Parimala Kulkarni (Osmania University), Kishori Nayak (Mangalore University), Cynthia vanden Driesen (UWA), Parinitha Shetty (Mangalore University), Ravishankar Rao (Mangalore University)

Attendees were drawn mostly from the postgraduate cohort in English literature and related disciplines in Mangalore University and Bangalore; it also included professors and lecturers. Some travelled distances—from Kerala, Hyderabad, New Delhi and even Sri Lanka, to attend. It was a great pity so many were not able to attend all sessions due to a range of personal, professional and practical problems and in the Indian context—the challenging factor of distances to travel. Nevertheless, classroom discussions were remarkable for

their liveliness and interest. The ASAA link proved valuable as Indian colleagues brought attendees from other states and attended themselves.

The special note of camaraderie which subsisted between participants from different institutions was quite remarkable. One enjoyable evening was a sharing of cultural interests between attendees from different regions with songs and recitations of poetry – visitors from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh made distinctive contributions. Students presented their own compositions of poems and singers impressed with the high level of their expertise. Australian poems and ballads were also woven into an evening of light-hearted (but effective) cultural sharing.



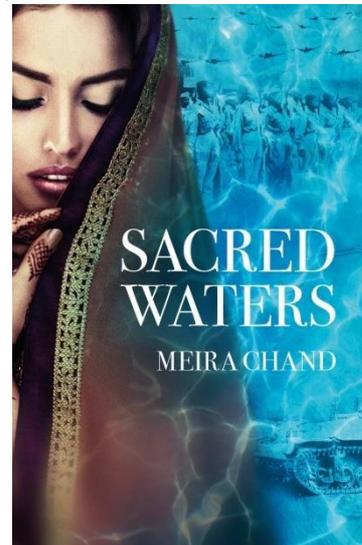
The ultra busy vice-Chancellor (recently made a Fellow of the Royal College of Chemistry) who had suggested the Application for the Programme, showed special interest not only by dropping in but also in helping interstate visitors make the most of their time at Mangalore, even assisting with personal arrangements to help those who had particular difficulties with travel. Another highlight was Singapore writer Meira Chand's skyped discussion from Singapore

with the participants. This focussed on her latest novel *Sacred Waters* being launched in Singapore at the time. [See next item]

Cynthia vanden Driesen
University of Western Australia

New Publications

Sacred Waters
Meira Chand
(Marshall Cavendish, 2018)



“Give me your blood and I will give you freedom.” With these words, nationalist Subhas Chandra Bose galvanised Indian women in South-east Asia to form one of the few female fighting forces in World War II. The obscure stories of the women of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, who were part of the Indian National Army (INA), are getting the fictional treatment by Singaporean author Meira Chand in her first novel since the acclaimed *A Different Sky* in 2010.



She spent more than seven years researching this, her ninth novel, in which Sita, an elderly Singaporean woman, traces her past as a Rani of Jhansi soldier to a university colleague of her daughter Amita. The Regiment was formed in 1943 by Bose, who aimed to overthrow British rule of colonial India. It had its first training camp in Singapore and grew to number more than 1,000 women. Chand tracked down and interviewed four former Ranis in Singapore, Malaysia and India, now in their late 80s or 90s. All of them, she says, regarded their years in the regiment as the best of their lives because of the sense of liberation and empowerment it brought them. "They began crying when they spoke of that time." Most of the regiment's volunteers were illiterate young women from Malayan rubber estates, where sexual exploitation was rife. After the INA fell apart and Bose died, many had to return to that life....[Chand's] novels are known for their epic historical sweep - *A Different Sky* tracks three Singapore families from the 1920s to the 1950s, while *A Choice of Evils* (1996) looks at the Rape of Nanking - and have been lauded by the Republic's late president SR Nathan. At the

upcoming Asian Women Writers Festival, she will give the keynote address.

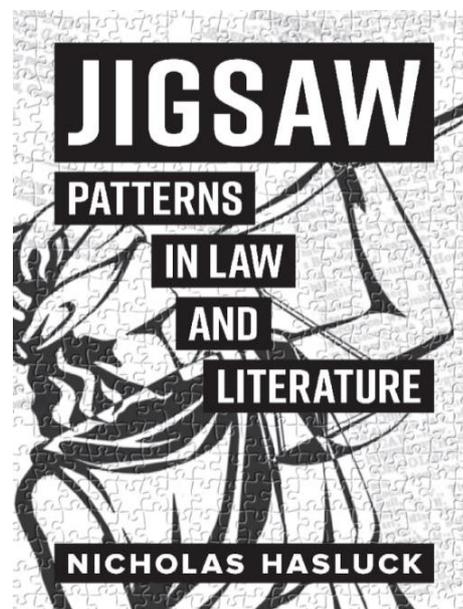
[Extracts from an interview]

Olivia Ho
STRAITS TIMES

Jigsaw: Patterns in Law and Literature

Nicholas Hasluck, Australian
Scholarly Publishing, 2018.

Judicial appointments, the rule of law, activism on the High Court, the push for indigenous recognition, the role of style in writing judgments, legal images in fiction's cave of shadows—novelist and former judge Nicholas Hasluck covers these and other issues in this intriguing occasional pieces. There are glimpses along the way of some remarkable personalities: Gough Whitlam, John Howard, Lord Denning, radical judge A.B. Piddington, well-known writers such as Gore Vidal, Germaine Greer, Clive James, Christopher Brennan, the Durack sisters, and activist Don McLeod, who led the



historic Aboriginal workers strike. The links between legal argument and literary works and the way in which they can enhance the teaching and practice of law is reflected in the book's title.

New Publication on the Australian Novel

A Gesture of Reconciliation:
Antonella Riem Natale, Forum
Edizioni, 2017

"This book provides an overview of Riem's fascinating critical work, which is underpinned and sustained by her argument for Reconciliation focused on Partnership values, the Creative Word and Dialogical Dialogue.

"Like Eisler, Antonella writes with a passionate belief in the value of the arts and humanities with their potential to change our patterns of thought, helping us to reimagine our position and our relation to others in and out across a range of texts by Patrick White, Randolph Stow, Blanche d'Alpuget and Peter Carey."

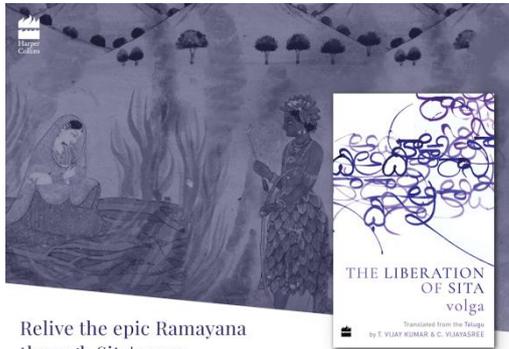
Coral Ann Howells
University of Reading

This book is the fruit of thirty years of Antonella's study of Australian Literature which began with studies in Italy and furthered by her winning the Australia-Europe Award Scholarship in 1985 which enabled her to enrol at the University of Queensland to pursue further postgraduate studies in the area. She has constantly organised and promoted national and international events focussed on



Australian themes, writers and literature. Antonella is Professor of English Language and Literary Studies and Pro-Vice-Chancellor International at the University of Udine, besides many other roles too many to list here. As Pro Vice-chancellor she visited Australia in 2014 and signed MOUs with several leading universities. Her wide literary interests enabled her to assist ASAA in reviewing papers invoking Indian philosophy and religion which was especially appreciated in the course of publishing papers from the ASAA White Centenary Conference in Hyderabad (2012).

Special Reprint



Relive the epic Ramayana through Sita's eyes.

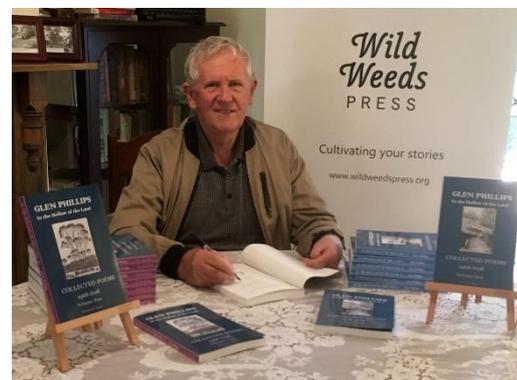
To celebrate Perennial's tenth anniversary, the editors at Harper Collins have handpicked ten of their favourite books, which are being published as special keepsake editions under the 'Perennial 10'series. T Vijay Kumar and C Vijayasree's translation of the story of Sita was selected as one of these to be reprinted.



Introducing Jane Fernandez- President, ASAA (Australia).

Jane's background is in postcolonial literature and in tertiary leadership and management. She holds a PhD from Macquarie University and a Masters in Tertiary Management from the University of Melbourne and is a professor at Avondale College of Higher Education

Avondale. After 11 years in service as an academic, Jane was appointed in 2011 to the Senior Executive position of Vice-President (Learning & Teaching) and in 2013 to the role of Vice-President (Quality & Strategy) at Avondale College of Higher Education. In this role, Jane led in significant milestone projects for her institution, primarily, leading to the achievement of self-accrediting status for her institution and securing the jointly-conferred award scheme between Avondale and Charles Sturt University. Jane is the founding convenor of the Higher Education Private Provider Quality Network (HEPP-QN) which is represented by 33 institutions across Australia. Email: jane.fernandez@avondale.edu.au



Landmark Achievement IN THE HOLLOW OF THE LAND Volumes One and Two

Glen Phillips has published poetry for 70 years and finally his Collected Poems (with the above title) has been released by Wild Weeds Press at the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation. It will be launched by Tracy Ryan and John Kinsella on 7th

June from 3-5pm at the KSP Writers Centre in Greenmount WA. The volumes were edited by poet Jan Napier and the Preface is by Professor Dominique Hercq of Swinburne University.

Professor Hercq comments on the amazing parade of contrasting themes, locations and forms free verse and 'shape' poems besides lesser-known villanelles, sestinas, aubades, ballads, elegies as well as Asian-derived forms such as the tanka, senryu, haiku and cinquain.

The collections amount to 500 pages with more than 40 illustrations by Glen in colour and black and white. The 400 individual poems represent less than a quarter of Glen's output of poetry over the years. They include persons and events dating back to the final years of the 19th Century when his forebears first came to Western Australia to work in gold mining and farming. Glen's work also includes two distinctive regions outside of Australia - Italy and mainland China.

Forthcoming Conferences



International CISLE Conference on “Literatures in English: Transcending Boundaries. Migrations, Dislocations and Literary Transformations”

at Ljubljana (Slovenia). 16-19 July 2018. Organized by Igor Maver (University of Ljubljana) in cooperation with Wolfgang Zach (University of Innsbruck).

Australian Perspectives on Migration

16th biennial conference of GAST
(Gesellschaft für Australienstudien
/German Association for
Australian Studies), 4–6 Oct 2018.

The conference will address cultural, social, historical, legal, and (geo)political issues related to the contemporary global challenge of migration and displacement—with more than 60 million displaced persons world-wide— from an Australian perspective.

The conference will be hosted by Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf and organized by GAST and the Section for Anglophone Literatures and Literary Translation of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Chair: Prof Dr Birgit Neumann). Please send paper and panel proposals (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion per paper) in English or German (200-300 words per paper) by 30 April 2018. Contact: Dr. Katrin Althans (e-mail: gast2018@hhu.de) <<https://australianperspectivesonmigration.wordpress.com/>>

ASAA TEAM

Jane Fernandez—President, ASAA (Australia). (See above).

Email: jane.fernandez@avondale.edu.au

Ralph Crane—Vice-President, ASAA (Australia) is Head of the English Programme at the University of Tasmania. He has particular interests in colonial fiction and the intersections of literature and geography. Ralph is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, and *The Atlantic Critical Review*. He has published three sole-authored books and at least seven co-edited books on Indian writing in English. His latest co-authored publication (with Jane Stafford and Mark Williams both long-term members of ASAA) is *The Oxford History of the Novel in English, Vol. 9, The World Novel in English to 1950*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. Ralph was Vice-President of ASAA (2006-2008) and co-edited the volume *Diaspora* with Cynthia vanden Driesen. Email: Ralph.Crane@utas.edu.au

Kavita Ivy Nandan—Secretary, ASAA (Australia) is the editor of *Stolen Worlds* (2005) and *Requiem for a Rainbow* (2001); the co-editor of *Writing the Pacific* (2007) and *Unfinished Journeys* (1998). Her first novel *Home after Dark* was recently published by the University of the South Pacific Press. She completed her PhD in Literature at the Australian National University and has lectured in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Canberra, the University of the South Pacific, Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University. Kavita was born in New Delhi, grew up in Suva and moved to Canberra in 1987. It is interesting to note that Kavita, while still a postgraduate, attended the historic first ASAA conference in Kerala in 1997. Email: nandan.kavita@gmail.com

Vijay Kumar Tadakamalla—President, ASAA (Asia) is Professor of English at Osmania University, Hyderabad. In Fall 2013, he designed and taught a course on the Indian Novel in English at The University of Utah. His research interests include postcolonial literatures, the Indian literary diaspora, and translation. He has co-edited *Globalisation: Australian-Asian Perspectives* (2014), *Focus India: Postcolonial Narratives of the Nation* (2007), and translated from Telugu into English (with C Vijayasree) *The Liberation of Sita* (2016) by Volga, and an early twentieth century classic *Kanyasulkam* (2002) by Gurazada Venkata Appa Row. He has interviewed several writers for print and electronic media. He was Fellow Oxford Seminar (2000), and Treasurer ACLALS (Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies; 2001–2004). He is a founder-editor of *Muse India: the literary e-journal*, and is a Director of the annual Hyderabad Literary Festival. Email: tvk2k15@gmail.com

K.T. Sunitha—Vice-President, ASAA (Asia) is Professor of English at the University of Mysore. She organised the ASAA Conference in Mysore in July 2010, bringing together several institutions, besides the University of Mysore: Professor C.D. Narasimhaiah's Dhvanyaloka as well as Professor Anniah Gowda's International Centre for Commonwealth and American Literature and Language Studies. She has presented research papers on Indian writers at Australian university conferences and taught Australian literature and presented research papers in the field at Indian and other international conferences. Email: kt_sunitha@yahoo.co.in

Parimala Kulkarni—Secretary, ASAA (Asia) is Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Osmania University, Hyderabad. She has an MA from the University of Hyderabad and PhD from Osmania University. Her area of specialization is Women’s Writing. Her research interests include Indian Literature, Gender Studies, and English Language Pedagogy. She has co-edited a book on Contemporary British Literature-post 1990s. She is a recent recipient of UGC Research Award 2014-2016. Email: paripavan@gmail.com

Ishmeet Kaur—Editor, ASAA Website is an Assistant Professor in the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies at the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. She teaches courses in English literature, language and communication studies and has also worked on translations of texts from Punjabi into English and vice versa. Her specialist interests in research lie in Australian Literature, Post-colonial Studies and Sikh Studies. She also works on Indigenous writing from Australia and India. Her doctoral thesis was a comparative study of Patrick White’s novels and *Guru Granth Sahib*. She has recently published (2014) a work entitled, *Patrick White: Critical Issues*. She represented her University as an “Inspired Teacher” for the President of India’s In-Residence Programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Email: ishmeetsaini@gmail.com

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Greg Battye is Professor and Associate Dean of Education in the Faculty of Design and Creative Practice at the University of Canberra., His research includes photography, narrative theory and new writing technologies and new media forms. Greg’s works are held by the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library of Australia and other national institutions. Greg has been vice-president of ASAA since 2007. Email: Greg.Battye@canberra.edu.au.

Tony Simoes da Silva was Professor and Associate Dean of International Programmes with responsibility for S. Asia till he recently took up the position of Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Tasmania. Tony co-edits the *Journal of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (JASAL)* and *La Questioners Meridionale /The Southern Question*. He attended the ASAA conference at Osmania University and is well-known to many of our Asian colleagues. Email: Tony.SimoesdaSilva@utas.edu.au

Glen Phillips is a well-known poet and is Director of the Landscape and Language Centre at Edith Cowan University adjunct ECU professor. He serves on several literary boards and Foundations and is represented in more than 20 anthologies and is author or editor of 20 books. Glen has been a long-time supporter of ASAA initiatives, since its inception in 1995. Email: glenlyp@bigpond.com

Anjali Gera Roy is Professor in the Department of Humanities of Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. She has published essays in literature, film and cultural studies on India as well as on African culture. She is now researching the transnational flows of Bollywood cinema and has recently co-edited several volumes in this field. She has been Asian President of ASAA since 2007). Email: agera_99@yahoo.com

Satendra Nandan is Emeritus Professor at the University of Canberra. He is also widely known for his creative work as and as a poet. In March 2012 he was awarded

the prestigious Harold White Fellowship at the National Library to write his autobiography. He has lately been appointed a member of the Fiji Constitutional Commission (July 2, 2012). He helped found ASAA at the historic meeting at the ACLALS conference in Colombo in 1995 and has served as vice –president for many years. E-mail: satendra.nandan@gmail.com

Cynthia vanden Driesen is a Research Fellow with the School of Humanities, University of Western Australia. Her research and publications are mainly in the area of Australian writing and other New Literatures in English. With help from Satendra Nandan she set up ASAA at an international meeting of Asian and Australian academic in Colombo (noted above). She has served continuously as President since the inception of the Association and is more than glad to have found a successor to fill this position. E-mail: cynthia.v@westnet.com.au

Additional Committee Members in the Region

India

Dr. N. Bindu (Madras) Dr. Suneetha Rani (Hyderabad), Dr. Keya Majumdar (Jamshedpur); Prof. Indibar Mukherjee (Patna); Prof. Mani Meitel (Manipur); Dr. Jagdish Batra (MDU); Dr. V. Sangeetha (Tamil Nadu), Arindam Das (Kolkata); Dr. Julie Mehta (Kolkata); Dr Suman Bala (Delhi); Prof. R.K. Dhawan (Delhi); A/Prof. Pavan B P (Mysore); Dr. Neeta Sashidharan (Kerala); Prof. Ravishankar Rao (Mangalore)

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Professor Kirpal Singh, Singapore Management University.

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Jean Arasanayagam, Writer.

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Institutional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone No _____

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Special interest in Australian/NZ Studies (Publications/Research/Teaching)

Signature

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PLEASE ADDRESS APPLICATIONS TO THE PRESIDENTS OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF EITHER THE ASIAN OR AUSTRALASIAN BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION, DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU ARE LOCATED. (Email addresses provided above)
