
ASAA NEWSLETTER

Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia
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**Ishmeet Kaur Chaudhry greeting
the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee
at the Rashtrapati Bhavan**

President of India's In-Residence Programme for 'Inspired Teachers' of Central Universities

Ishmeet Kaur Chaudhry has recently been profoundly honoured as a teacher, and that at the highest national level. A member of staff from the Central University of Gujarat, she was selected as an 'Inspired Teacher' to attend a week-long President of India's In-Residence Programme from 6-12 June, 2015. This was an initiative of the President of India himself.

Thirty-one teachers from a total of forty Central Universities participated in this programme. The teachers stayed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for a week and participated in several events and initiatives carried

out at the august venue of the President's own estate.

This was an attempt to decolonise and demystify Rashtrapati Bhavan by opening it to a group of the common citizens of the country and is a democratic gesture extended by the Honourable President to the Indian people. This gesture could be regarded as a significant step in seeking to restore the respect that teaching seems to have lost against the glamour of more lucrative and prestigious jobs. For a nation to progress a teacher's work is most important. This gesture of the President's emphasises both the

responsibility of a teacher towards the nation, society and the individual; as well as the significance of the teacher as an important citizen of this country.

During the course of the stay in the most beautiful and prestigious house of the country, several activities were conducted. The teachers were exposed to the beauty and the opulence of the impressive halls designed by British architect Edwin Luytens. It was an amazing experience for the visitors to walk through surroundings blending ancient history with the present events of ceremonial power and highest prestige.



**Teachers with the President of India,
Shri Pranab Mukherjee**

A series of cultural events were organised. Begum Parveen Sultana's concert demonstrating the beauty of the composite culture of a secular India was a highlight. Cultural events organised by students of Jamia Milia Islamia and the wards of the Officers at the President's Estate were efforts to restore the endangered forms of Dastaangoi and ghazals of Amir Khusro and Faiz Ahmed Faiz. The latest Bollywood film "Piku" was screened in the presence of Padma Vibhushan awardee Amitabh Bachhan who is the protagonist of the film, along with the director, Soojit Sarkar and son Abhishek Bachhan, who is also a veteran Bollywood actor. The interactions with the President himself were stimulating and impressive.



Meeting with Amitabh Bachhan

The President, in his address laid stress on quality teaching. He defined an inspired teacher as a value-oriented, mission-driven, self-motivated and result-oriented individual who creates a positive impact around her. She links her own individual goals to society and nation. He quoted Greek philosopher Nikos Kazantzakis: "True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; and having facilitating their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own." He emphasised that the aim of the whole programme was the need to give dignity and recognition to teachers so that they could experience motivation, drive and pride in their work.

This programme further offered a platform to discuss policy matters and issues related to education with important bodies such as NITI Ayog, UGC, MHRD, the Secretary to the President and the President himself. Interactive sessions with the representatives of Education, from Intel, Microsoft, IBM, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM & IIT Kanpur provided new insights into use of technology, pedagogy and education on the whole. Important ideas regarding education and discussion on policy matters were initiated in these forums. The importance of Humanities and Pure Sciences *vis a vis* the dominance of Applied Sciences was a major concern for the academic fraternity.



During Interaction with the representatives of different institutions

Visits to inspect the initiatives taken by the President in opening a home for senior citizens, for children with special abilities, to the education hub dedicated to new commitments towards society left the participants with varied models and inspiring initiatives to be carried back with them.



Ishmeet Kaur addressing the gathering

The Teachers witnessed the oath taking ceremony of the newly appointed Chief Vigilance Commissioner Mr. K.V. Chowdary and Chief Information Commissioner Mr. Vijai Sharma and the inauguration of the underground sewerage plant at the President's Estate. The sewerage plant is unique in maintaining an ecological balance and waste recycling features.

The Teachers were each lavishly gifted with many books, one of which of which was the President's own work (and autographed by him, *Thoughts and Reflections*). A replica of the bust of the standing Buddha from the Gupta period that stands in the main Durbar Hall was also gifted to each teacher.

“Information Tour of Germany”; 8-16 Mar 2015

In March 2015, Dr Vijay Kumar Tadakamalla, Professor of English, Osmania University and Director, Hyderabad Literary Festival visited Germany at the invitation of the Goethe Institut, Berlin. The Goethe-Institut, in association with its counterpart in New Delhi, conducted this “Information Tour of Germany” from 8-16 March for a select group of organizers of literary festivals in South Asia. Eleven directors of literary festivals in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in the tour. During their stay, the group visited Berlin to interact with the organizers and curators of German literary festivals, and Leipzig to experience the “Leipzig Book Fair” (12-15 March). The meetings with the German festival organizers, cultural institutions, and government officials provided a wonderful opportunity to share information and explore collaborations.

The book fair was a totally exhilarating experience. An important component of the fair, the oldest in Germany, is the reading festival, “Leipzig Liest”, which is perhaps the biggest of its kind in Europe. This year, more than 3000 readings were held during the four-day event in over 400 venues. The speakers included literary heavyweights such as Amos Oz, Herta Müller, and Günter Grass. It was indeed poignant that Grass, whom we were thrilled to see at the fair, passed away just a month later.

The tour was highly beneficial for two reasons: it helped the South Asian group to open a dialogue with their German counterparts; by bringing together organizers from four neighbouring (but not always friendly) countries, it gave them a rare opportunity to bond with each other.

(A more detailed report on the Leipzig Book Fair at www.thehindu.com/books/literary-review/leipzig-book-fair-2015/article7067753.ece)

Anjali Roy – continues the Australian Connection

Professor Anjali Roy (IIT Kharagpur) recently spent, approximately a week in June (2015), in Perth, Western Australia. She attended a three-day international symposium hosted by the *Mobilities and Belonging Initiative* Research Cluster at the University of Western Australia, led by UWA academics from the Dept. of Social Sciences.

She was the only Indian scholar invited to participate in an ambitious and wide-ranging project entitled, “Community, Popular and Digital media in Migrant settlement, integration and resilience.” The chief investigators are Associate Profs. Rob Cover, Farida Fozdar, Loretta Baldassar, Dr Jo Elfving Hwang, all from the University of Western Australia; plus scholars from the disciplines of communications, anthropology/sociology, history, Asian studies, and public health.

Other Australian Universities involved are: Wollongong, Sydney, Adelaide, La Trobe Monash, Asia Research Institute. The group also involved international institutions: the National University of Singapore, Universities of Auckland and of Leeds

The project aims to bring together a group which will develop joint publications and grant applications addressing:

- The use of community-based media (e.g., ethnic magazines; ethnic community radio) by new and longer term migrants, including temporary and forced/refugee migrants
- The use of digital communications, locally and transnationally, by new and longer term migrants
- The relationship between media/communications use and resilience in migrants, particularly refugees.

The strength of the collaboration is in its drawing together

of scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds such as Sociology, communications, Asian studies, and public health, around a specific research issue of national strategic priority and of WUN priority challenge area, with public, policy, and scholarly outcomes.

Satendra Nandan will attend the International Conference of the European Centre for the International Study of Literatures in English, CISLE, being held at the University of Göttingen, Germany, from 27 -31 July. He will present a paper on ‘Literature, Politics and Human Rights’ and a reading from his new book *Brief Encounters: Literature and Beyond*, published in June 2015. The volume of essays will be launched at the CISLE conference by Professor Wolfgang Zach, the chair of CISLE.



Satendra’s book *NADI: Memories of a River*, published last year and launched in Canberra by Dr Tom Calma, AO, Pro-Chancellor, University of Canberra, on 13 November, will be released at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) Shimla in August where Satendra has been invited to be a Visiting Fellow. He will present a public seminar in Shimla on the Indian Diaspora in the Pacific.

Satendra Nandan writes a regular column for the South Pacific’s daily *Fiji Sun*, published from Suva, in

the Opinion Column, on a variety of subjects with special resonance for Fiji-Australia-India relations. Satendra is currently working on a meditative travelogue on his first visit to India, fifty years ago, as a teenager from Fiji, on a Government of India award.

***Death of an Australian
Poet: Friend of Fiji and
of Indian Writing in
English***

Syd Harrex (1935-2015)

Satendra Nandan

I had listened to the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas (1914- 1953) reading his vibrant poem to his father, “Do Not Go Gentle Into that Goodnight,” (written in 1951) in a recording at a friend’s place in Delhi in the early 1960—a marvellous experience. Nothing we experience is ever lost—it is simply buried in the depths beyond our living moments and one recalls these memories at 4 am in the morning when the very houses seem asleep, or in your dreams—you dream and die alone when the loneliness of the land becomes the solitude of the sea.

I was in such a mood when in the evening, a familiar voice rang—I hadn’t heard from him for a few years. The news was not good, he said, the day before, Syd Harrex, our poet- friend, had died in Adelaide. Syd was well-known to me since 1977. In almost forty years of acquaintance, he had helped several students from postcolonial countries including from Fiji to complete their studies in literature in Australia. In 1977 Syd established The Centre for Research in New Literatures in English (CRNLE) at Flinders University of South Australia. He was a pioneer in introducing new writings from many parts of the world. Indian writing and the flowering of literary abundance in India became his great passion at a time when few had read it seriously, especially in Australasia.

Syd Harrex invited me to be an Associate of the Centre in 1978 soon after I completed my PhD. With that began a rewarding and delightful friendship. His Centre published three of my books under its imprint. He wrote prefaces and reviews of others, including my daughter Kavita’s co-edited volume *Unfinished Journeys*, celebrating 50 years of Indian independence from an Australian perspective. *CRNLE Reviews Journal* gave publicity in its pages to many new writers. The journal is now on-line as *Transnational Literature* under the guidance of Dr Gillian Dooley.

Syd was both a critic and a poet of distinction. He published half a dozen books of poetry and introduced many writers from abroad to the Australian literary world. Many visited the Centre and enjoyed its rich and enriching ambience. I had the joy of spending a couple of weeks at the Centre soon after I came from Fiji after the two coups in 1987. I met Syd in India, Spain, Singapore, Malaysia, and a few other places where literatures in English were taught and written, conferences held—a whole new world was opening to us. Syd was always a creative catalyst with his wit and perceptive remarks. We always enjoyed his companionship and his many bottles of selected wines.

The highlight for many of us was three years ago, at the first Fiji Writers Festival, held at the Fiji National University (FNU) campus in Namaka, next to Nadi airport, Syd Harrex was a real presence. He had come from Adelaide, with Gillian Dooley and several other writers and critics from overseas, to support us in our first endeavour to organise a writers’ festival. Fiji’s three universities joined hands to make it a huge success. People came, at their own expense, from as far as London. Syd was the most prominent among us all. He was invited to open the Art Gallery at the campus: He delivered a deeply lucid talk on art and literature.

Syd loved Fiji because he had taught a few Fijian postgraduate

students; among them Som Prakash and Sudesh Mishra of USP. Both became his dear companions.

When he came to Fiji to celebrate Fijian writings at the festival, he was full of his usual creative *brio*. Although his sight had begun to fail. His mind remained as sharp as ever; while we gave readings, talks and listened to papers by young academics and writers, Syd sat through it all composing his perfect sonnets with a glass of Fiji bitter always within reach.

How does one cope with the death of a poet except through poetry? Death is the end of everything; but even this grim reaper cannot obliterate the memories of a good and creative life.

R. K. Dhawan in London



R.K Dhawan and wife Usha with Amitav Ghosh

R. K. Dhawan attended a number of India-related events while on a visit to London recently with his wife Usha. One event was two-day workshop at the University of London from 29TH May to 5th June 2015, on 'Hinglish' discussing the formation of new English words and their implication in use in both English and Hindi in daily interactions, films, writings and advertisements. About fifteen participants discussed and read papers that debated and discussed the latest trends and the increasing popularity in the use of 'Hinglish.'

A talk by Amitav Ghosh on his latest novel *Flood of Fire*, drew a large audience at the London School of Economics. Ghosh spoke brilliantly about his new novel and the art of

fiction. He emphasised that he did not want to write about history as he is more interested in people than in facts and figures. His talk evoked an enthusiastic response from the audience and was followed by a lively discussion.

Another event of interest was the opening of the musical version of the film "Bend it like Beckham." The film, produced by Gurinder Chadha was released in 2003 and set a new box office. It has now been turned into a musical comedy which has become the most popular live show of London, drawing large audiences. It is a fitting tribute to the Indian Diaspora in the UK.

Jeanine Leane to present a Second Plenary Address at ASAL

In July last year (2014) Jeanine was invited to present a plenary address at the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL) entitled, "Hectic and Bountiful: The David Unaipon Award and Aboriginal writing since 1988". Her focus was on an important event in Aboriginal cultural history. In 1988 amid the champagne popping and polarised politics of the settler bi-centenary, the University of Queensland Press established the David Unaipon Award for an unpublished Indigenous writer in any genre. From these beginnings, the David Unaipon Award continued throughout the 1990s and 2000s – decades that have witnessed increased Aboriginal resistance and activism and evidence of new energies within Aboriginal literature. In 2014 the award commemorated its 25th year.

Jeanine chose to analyse the Unaipon Award and to track critically and examine histories of Aboriginal writing, as well as to explore questions relating to the conditions under which new practices and cultures of writing develop. Based on the premise that literary awards can furnish unique insights into writing cultures, literary

imaginings and canon formation, Leane argued that the award has been a significant intervention in Australian literary history and culture and an important site through which to explore modes of memory, Aboriginal realism, histories, trauma and reconciliation in national literature.

This year, Jeanine will make a second plenary presentation, entitled “Networks of Survival and Continuance.” Her presentation will focus on the fact that when the first ships of the British diaspora sailed into the Eora lands and waters in 1788 Aboriginal literacy of land and storytelling practices came under threat. As subsequent fleets came Aboriginal populations were in many cases decimated with the survivors being pushed to the fringes of the lands now occupied by settler society. Unlike many other diaspora, the British quickly became an oppressive majority and active efforts were made throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to either eradicate or forcibly assimilate Aboriginal people and culture. Yet their stories survive.

This paper will explore the role of memory and testimony in Aboriginal writing today, the continuation of Aboriginal storytelling through networks of survival and the transition of story from oral to print culture.

Launch of new novel by Australian-Pacific writer



**Kavita Nandan reading from her first novel
*Home After Dark***

Kavita Nandan's first novel *Home after Dark* was launched on 7th May, 2015 at the Australian National

University's Humanities Research Centre in Canberra on 7th May, 2015. It tells the story of a woman struggling to cope with a disintegrating marriage and is set against the socio-political background of the first coup in Fiji.

The book is part of a series of novels by new Pacific women writers published by the University of the South Pacific Press. The Australian National University's Humanities Research Centre hosted the event at its Conference room. The event was attended by a large group- of university academics, literary personalities and friends. The book was launched by Professor Jacqueline Lo, Director of the Centre for European Studies and Associate Dean (International) ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr. Lo spoke movingly about how reading the book brought back many memories of her mentorship (she was Nandan's Ph.D. supervisor) and her personal friendship with the author, even though it was a work of fiction.

Fiction, after all, draws from our lives to reveal the deeper universal stories behind the surface of every life as, with all fictional works it drew on the author's life experience. The book, written from the point of view of a young woman embarking on a new marriage with hope, unfolds the struggle and eventual loss of a joint destiny, her anguish and her individual redemption.



Dr. Lo launching Kavita Nandan's Novel

The Fijian coup and its consequences for individual lives are poignantly reflected in the story, creating a strange

resonance with the internal ruptures in a person's soul that hold back their dreams of happiness.

This was followed by the author's commentary on her work. Nandan chose to highlight two *kairotic* moments in the narrative, both involving two Colonels, one who saved the life of a baby, and changed the trajectory of her fate; the other whose action changed a nation's destiny. The infant becomes the protagonist of the book. Nandan's conclusion however emphasised the fact that it was not the intent of others which ultimately determines our fate and takes us 'home after dark'. Writing a novel that weaves together historic fact and the mind's evolving perspectives on experience is, for a writer, such an act of intent.

Greg Battye's Scholarly Achievement Well Received

Greg Battye's book "*Photography, Narrative, Time: Imaging Our Forensic Imagination*" (Intellect: University of Chicago Press, 2014) was launched at the National Library of Australia bookshop on February 12 (2015) to an appreciative audience of about 80 people. The book had already been widely and favourably reviewed in the *Canberra Times* and *Sydney Morning Herald* (www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/book-review-photography-narrative-time-greg-battye-20140919-10app3.html) as well as in "*IM e-journal*," Murdoch University's interactive online media journal published by the National Academy of Screen and Sound (<http://imjournal.murdoch.edu.au/im-issue-10-2014/>).

More recently, an extensive review in the current (May 2015) issue of "*Art in America*," has described the author as a "humane, responsible writer, unstintingly generous to other critics, [who] thankfully does his best to tame the labyrinthine verbiage of structuralism and postmodern criticism, lucidly paraphrasing many opaque linguistic formulations."

Indialogs: Spanish Journal of India Studies

An initiative of the Spanish Association of India Studies (www.aeeii.org), *Indialogs* is the first electronic journal in Spain that focuses exclusively on the Indian Subcontinent. The journal covers a wide variety of disciplines, ranging from literature, culture and film to politics, history and environmental studies. The first issue, published in April 2014, contains a wide variety of themes ranging from music and literature to environmental concerns and gender and caste differences. Among the prestigious scholars who have contributed to Issue 1 are Bill Ashcroft, Augustín Pániker, Uma Parameswaran, Susie Tharu and Joan Martínez-Alier. Issue 2, published in April 2015, focuses on Indianness and its representation in literature, society, public institutions and other cultural manifestations, both in the subcontinent and the diaspora. Contributors to Issue 2 include Satendra Nandan, Nilambri Ghai, Andreas Athanasiades, Eric Vicario and Isabel Alonso.

Issue 3 will be published in 2016. It will focus on "Violence" and its many manifestations on the Subcontinent. Bearing in mind the complexity of the notion of violence, this special issue of *Indialogs* seeks to improve our understanding of its multifaceted manifestations and its multiple roles and functions in Indian and South Asian societies, both in the past and at present, as well as matters related to its prevention, description, processing, eradication and memorialisation.

For further information and instructions for authors visit: <http://revistes.uab.cat/indialogs>

Any queries may be addressed to the editor at revista.indialogs@uab.cat. Deadline for submissions: September 15th 2015. Articles may be submitted in English or Spanish.

**THE ASAA TEAM—
BLENDING TALENT AND EXPERIENCE**

Jeanine Leane—President, ASAA (Australia) is a Wiradjuri woman from South-West New South Wales. Formerly a Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, she currently holds a postdoctoral fellowship in the Australian Centre for Indigenous History at the Australian National University. In 2010, Jeanine's first volume of poetry, *Dark Secrets After Dreaming*: - won the Scanlon Prize for Indigenous Poetry and her manuscript, *Purple Threads* won the David Unaipon Award at the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and was shortlisted for the 2012 Commonwealth Book Prize. Jeanine is the recipient of an Australian Research Council grant for a project: "Reading the Nation: A critical study of Aboriginal/Settler representations in the contemporary Australian Literary Landscape." Having attended the ASAA Conference in India in 2012, she also attended a Symposium at Mysore University with Indigenous writers. A book of her poems was translated into Punjabi by Ishmeet Kaur. e-mail: jeanine.lean@anu.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. e-mail: 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. e-mail: 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 into English (with C Vijayasree) an early twentieth century Telugu classic *Kanyasulkam* (2002). 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. e-mail: tvk2k4@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. e-mail: 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 currently on a UGC Research Award 2014-2016. e-mail: paripavan@gmail.com

Ishmeet Kaur—Editor, ASAA Newsletter and 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. e-mail: ishmeetsaini@gmail.com

ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Noting the ASAA connections

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. e-mail: 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. e-mail: 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. e-mail: 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). e-mail: agera_99@yahoo.com

Satendra Nandan is Emeritus Professor at the University of Canberra. He is also widely known for his creative work 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

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Institutional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone No _____

E-mail Address _____

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

Signature

Date:

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)