

Editorial

This issue of *Queensland Review* coincides with the tenth anniversary of its host institution, the Queensland Studies Centre at Griffith University. In its first decade, the Centre has mounted a large number of seminars, conferences and exhibitions on a wide range of issues related to Queensland history, art, literature, politics and society for a constituency which includes individuals from Queensland universities, the teaching profession, libraries, museums and public service departments, as well as independent researchers. The Centre acts as an umbrella organisation which facilitates research into Queensland's history, politics, society and culture by maintaining a database of Queensland researchers, and involving researchers across the state in cross-disciplinary projects and partnerships. It also acts as a public education resource through answering requests for information and through the provision of public seminars on matters of contemporary interest. In addition to *Queensland Review*, the Centre also produces Occasional Publications.

We encourage readers of *Queensland Review* to become involved in the activities of the Queensland Studies Centre. Our ability to act as an umbrella organisation and to develop research partnerships depends on having accurate, up-to-date information on Queensland researchers, particularly contact details, areas of expertise and institutional affiliation. Please contact us if you would like to be included in the database of Queensland researchers, or if you wish to update your existing profile. Readers who simply wish to receive information about our conferences and publications should also send us their details. Information about how to contact the Queensland Studies Centre is given at the front of the journal.

Over the next few years, *Queensland Review* will continue to publish a range of papers drawn from diverse research studies on Queensland, but readers will note a particular focus on three broad research clusters: cultural history and heritage; race, ethnicity and identity; and journalism, reading and representation. The contents of this issue touch on all three areas.

Music and musicians have played a major role in shaping our culture and civic organisations, yet have been largely ignored by cultural historians. Australia's musical heritage is the most neglected of all the arts, and music in Queensland is particularly under-researched. This issue of *Queensland Review* opens with an important article by Karl Neuenfeldt and Steve Mullins, entitled "'The Saving Grace of Social Culture": Early Popular Music and Performance Culture on Thursday Island, Torres Strait, Australia'. The authors consider the social dimension of music in colonial Thursday Island, demonstrating that it is a site of cultural convergence which is deeply implicated in transnational cultural flows. Neuenfeldt and Mullins are currently investigating 'how Thursday Island's early popular music and performance culture influenced the indigenous outer Torres Strait communities, and how the product of

that mixture made its way back to [Thursday Island]'. We look forward to publishing the results of this further stage of an important project which sheds light on distinctive local cultural forms, as well as participation of the colony and state of Queensland in global cultural movements.

This issue continues the literary focus of the last few issues. 28 August 2001 was the centenary of Eleanor Dark's birth, and my article, "'Writing from the Hinterland': Eleanor Dark's Queensland Years" commemorates the work of this major Australian writer by exploring the influence of the time she spent farming in Montville (1951-1957) on her last book, *Lantana Lane*. Patrick Buckridge's article, 'Irish Poets in Colonial Brisbane', looks at the contribution of two earlier writers – Mary Eva O'Doherty and Cornelius Moynihan – to Queensland writing, with particular reference to its Irish connections.

The articles which follow publish some of the initial results of a large-scale collaborative project on the history of Queensland literature, undertaken by the Queensland Studies Centre with funding from the Australian Research Council. In 'Shaping a Regional Identity: literary non-fiction and shorter fiction in North Queensland', Cheryl Taylor examines the way in which writers, from the 1860s onwards, have brought North Queensland to international and national attention, and at the same time contributed to the internal mythology of the region. Philip Neilsen, writing about the neglected area of Queensland writing for children and adolescents, argues that the representation of the state in this literature has had three main physical sites – the reef, the bush and the city – all of which have contributed to a distinctive elaboration of the recurring themes of quest and mystery. Finally, Vivienne Muller's article looks at writing by Queensland women from 1939 to the present day. She argues that in this body of work a sense of place intersects in complex ways with explorations of female subjectivity, and demonstrates how gendered relationships are implicated in women's experience of the local place and culture.

The issue concludes with an article by Robin Trotter on the Cubberla and Witton Catchments, which lie between Mt Coot-tha and the Brisbane River. Trotter here outlines an interpretive framework for historical landscape studies. Her study takes account of geological formations and recent land usage, and intersects with debates about city formation. It demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the environment.

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