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# ASAA NEWSLETTER

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**Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia**  
Website: [www.asaa.net.au](http://www.asaa.net.au)

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Jeanine Leane at "Readings: Poetry in Indigenous Languages" at HLF 2017

In January 2017, I was invited to participate in the Hyderabad Literary Festival by Prof. T. Vijay Kumar, a director of the festival and President, ASAA (Asia). With financial assistance for travel from my university and hospitality provided by the festival authorities, it was a pleasure to accept. This year's festival had a special focus on minority languages and the special guest nation was the Philippines. It is planned that the 2019 festival will have Australia as the special guest nation and my

visit was a kind of trial-run for that upcoming event.

The festival featured an impressive line-up of performances, presentations and readings from invitees from India and from several countries all over the world. I made two presentations during the festival. The first of these was at a panel of readings from poets of minority languages that was shared with Welsh, Galatian and Filipino writers. The second event, chaired by Ishmeel

Kaur was shared with the Australian poet Kathryn Hummel. We explored current trends in 'Writing Down Under'. (See Ishmeet's account of this event.)

In November 2017, my second volume of poetry *Walk Back Over* will be released. *Walk Back Over* is a collection of poetry inspired largely by events in the 'real world' of politics, especially the political climate in Australia from the 1990s onwards. It takes much of its inspiration from the Australian media reportage on Aboriginal issues. The work also articulates a substantial critique of Australia's official history and the research methods of western historians in their telling of 'other peoples' histories.

In December 2016, I wrote an essay entitled "Other Peoples' Stories" in *Overland* (Summer 2016, pp. 41-45; <<https://overland.org.au/previous-issues/issue-225/feature-jeanine-leane/>>). This was written as a response to the comments made by the American settler-author Lionel Shriver (at the Brisbane Writers Festival, 2016) claiming that 'political correctness and charges of cultural appropriation rob authors of their right to establish vital empathy with people from different cultural backgrounds'. The essay won considerable attention and has become recommended reading in a number of Creative Writing courses at Australian Universities.

**Jeanine Leane**  
Monash University

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### **"Writings from Down Under", Panel on Australian Writing at the Hyderabad Literary Festival 2017**

The Hyderabad Literary Festival offered a meeting point for writers from across the world to come together. Extremely well organized and a showcase of excellence, the festival offered to bring in substantial debates of current critical issues concerning literature, arts, film, creative writing, theatre. A special panel was dedicated to Australian writing: "Writings from Down Under." Australian Aboriginal writer and academic (currently Australian President of ASAA) Jeanine Leane and Australian poet Kathryn Hummel both addressed the audience regarding critical issues in Australian literature. Jeanine gave a very comprehensive introduction to issues relating to the Aboriginal community in Australia, their way of life, knowledge systems and Aboriginal writings. On a personal note she spoke of how her Auntie's stories had inspired her to write her book *The Purple Threads* (2011). Jeanine had the opportunity to read selections of her poems to the audience.

Dr Kathryn Hummel, from Adelaide, is an exemplar of the interest in travel writing amongst contemporary Australian poets/writers. She shared her experience of ethnographic research in collecting women's stories from Bangladesh and also read poems from her collection "Bangalore Set" and "Poems from Here". The session was moderated by Ishmeet

Kaur, who had travelled down to the conference from Gujarat. She was glad to avail herself of the opportunity to meet again with Jeanine who is one of the participants in Ishmeet's research project reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Ishmeet Kaur**  
Central University of Gujarat

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### **Forging New Ties – Australia and Africa: Karen King-Aribisala**

One of West Africa's best-known contemporary writers, Karen King-Aribisala visited Perth for the first time in December of 2016. She was invited to present a paper and read from some of her works at the 39th African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) Annual Conference, "Africa: Moving the Boundaries", held in Perth from 5-7 December 2016. The conference programme originally had little space for literature and Karen's presence along with that of Yvonne Uwuafor (Kenya) filled an important gap.

Karen is author of several award-winning works: novels, *The Hangman's Game* and *Kicking Tongues*, short story collection, *Our Wife and Other Stories* and poems. She is the winner of the Commonwealth Prize for Literature: Best First Book (African Region 1990/91); winner of the Commonwealth Prize for Literature: Best Book (African Region 2008); long listed for the IMPAC Literary Dublin Prize and shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for

Literature. She is Professor of English at the University of Lagos, one of the leading educational institutions in Nigeria.



Karen with Keith Truscott, academic, Indigenous pastor and ASAA member

Although she spent only a week in Perth, live-wire Karen was able to meet several persons from the West Australian literary and arts community. Professor Glen Phillips invited her to visit the Katharine Susannah Prichard Centre a nerve-centre for creative writing in the West. Karen met with other long-standing ASAA members: Julia Gross (originally from ECU) who is writing a biography of a distinguished family member at the Centre and also Keith Truscott (Curtin University) another long-standing member of ASAA and contributor to ASAA publications. She was also interviewed on radio by Franco Smargiassi. Hear it at: (<<https://soundcloud.com/franco-smargiassi/global-chat-radio-karen-king-aribisala>>).



Karen was fascinated with her encounter with the black swans of Perth and intrigued to realise that Perth was the only place in the world in which they were a native species (see pictures). Karen was hosted by Cynthia vanden Driesen at her home in Perth. Despite her busy schedule as an academic and award-winning writer she has agreed to be ASAA's first representative in West Africa; she looks forward to continuing her friendship with Australia.

**Cynthia vanden Driesen**  
University of Western Australia

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### GIAN Workshop Report

Tony Simoes da Silva attended a two-week workshop at Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar as part of a Global Initiatives of Academic Networks (GIAN) Fellowship (22 August - 2 September 2016). Funded by the Indian government through its Ministry for Human Resource Development, the award was sponsored by Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar to support a course entitled 'Marginality and Literature: Text, Context and Emerging Perspectives,' jointly taught with Dr. Ishmeet Kaur, of Central University of Gujarat. Completed by 60 students, and

often audited by many more, the course focused on minority literatures and other forms of cultural production from India (Adivasi), Australia (Aboriginal) and by African-Americans.

Other speakers included academics from Delhi University, the University of Hyderabad and of Central University of Gujarat, and scholars such as Professor Rachel Bari and Professor William Robert da Silva. Special lectures were delivered by invited Professors, Dr. Suneetha Rani, University of Hyderabad, Professor Uma Chakravarthy (Retd.), University of Delhi. Characterised by committed, informed and frequently passionate discussion on a range of topics, the workshop enabled students at the Central University of Gujarat and other Indian Universities to come into contact with cutting edge research in a number of diverse fields. Ishmeet and Tony will co-edit a book of essays that capture some of the excellent work generated by the workshop.

**Tony Simoes da Silva**  
University of Tasmania

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### The Busy Schedule of Satendra Nandan

In December 2016, Satendra Nandan (Emeritus Professor, University of Canberra) was invited to take up a Visiting Fellowship at the Humanities Research Centre of The Australian National University (ANU) to write a novel set in Suva, Canberra, and

Delhi. The novel is set during the indenture period in Fijian history and concludes with the two Fijian Parliamentary coups in 1987. (There is an autobiographical element in the novel: Satendra was a cabinet minister in the Bavadra Coalition government of that time).

In February this year, Satendra was appointed Adjunct Research Professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University. One of the projects he will be working on is tentatively titled *Gandhianjali*, a long poem on the *Gita*, Girit history and Gandhiji.

He was a keynote speaker at the Girit Centennial commemoration of the Abolition of Indian Indenture, 1917-2017, in Fiji (22-27 March 2017). He gave readings from his works as well as launched his fifth volume of poems, *Across the Seven Seas* and his fourth collection of essays, *Dispatches from Distant Shores*, both published in March 2017 by IVY Press International Publishers. In April 2017 Satendra will be in Singapore giving presentations at the WEE KIM WEE Creative Centre at the Singapore Management University. *Across the Seven Seas* will be launched at this venue by Kirpal Singh.

Professor Nandan is currently completing a book of Fijian short stories titled *Ashes and Waves* to be published later this year. He also writes a weekly column, 'Literary Corner' in *The FijiSun*, the South

Pacific's most widely-read daily.

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Vijay Kumar Tadakamalla was an invited speaker at the International Workshop-Meeting on "A Mobile World Literature and the Return of Place: New Diasporic Writing Beyond the Black Atlantic", held at the University of Eichstaett, Germany on 9-10 Dec 2016. He presented a paper titled "Women, Nation, and Diaspora: South Asian Diaspora in Africa".

He has also been recently nominated as Member, Advisory Board of *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* (ZAA) a leading, peer-reviewed German academic journal of English and American language, literature and culture for a three-year term (2017-20).

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In 2016 Jane Ralph Crane from the University of Tasmania and Jane Stafford and Mark Williams from Victoria University in Wellington published an edited volume of the Oxford History of the Novel in English. *The World Novel to 1950* includes essays on India, Australasia and even Antarctica among many others. Mark also published *A History of New Zealand Literature*, an edited collection of essays published by Cambridge University Press, and an essay in PMLA, entitled "A Bicultural Education". Both Jane and Mark spent several weeks in China as visiting professors at Jinan University's School of Translation Studies in Zhuhai. Jane Stafford's *Colonial Literature and the Native Author: Indigeneity and Empire*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) includes a chapter on Toru Dutt and Sarojini Naidu, an early version of which was presented at a conference jointly organised by University of Tasmania's Centre for Colonialism and its Aftermath and Osmania University in Hyderabad in 2007.

**Jane Stafford and Mark Williams**  
Victoria University of Wellington

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**International Conference on the  
Emergence of Globalization:  
Towards Transnationalism  
(16-18 February 2017)**

The Ambassador of Ireland to India, His Excellency Dr Brian McElduff, was the Chief Guest at the international conference on "The Emergence of Globalization: Towards Transnationalism" organised jointly by the Indian Society for Commonwealth Studies (ISCS) and Osmania University Centre for International Programmes (OUCIP), Hyderabad. In honour of the Ambassador's visit, the first day of the Conference was devoted to Irish Literature in the context of globalization. Prof RK Dhawan, (President, ISCS) played a key role in inviting the Ambassador of Ireland to deliver the inaugural address. Prof A Karunaker (Director, OUCIP) welcomed the guests and traced the distinguished history of the OUCIP. Prof Ch Gopal Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University, who presided over the inaugural function, described the English language as supplying the

motive power to the forces of globalization. Prof RK Dhawan outlined the objectives of the ISCS and lauded the devoted efforts of Dr Suman Bala, Executive Secretary of the ISCS, in the organization of the Conference. Dr. Brian McElduff also released the latest issue of the journal *The Commonwealth Review*, (Volume 24, No. 2, 2017). Dr Suman Bala informed the delegates that a special number of *The Commonwealth Review* devoted to Irish literature would be brought out shortly. Seamus O'Heaney, Beckett, Yeats, Derek Mahon, Paul Duncan, Michael Longley, and Thomas Kinsella were among the Irish writers whose works were discussed.

This session was followed by an invigorating reading of the poems of Heaney and Yeats. Generally, writers on whom papers were presented were remarkably diverse: Mahasweta Devi, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Kiran Desai, Githa Hariharan, Jaishree Misra, Arundhati Roy, Coetzee, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu who attended were Professor Frank Deena, (University of East Carolina, USA), Professor Christine Williams (Director, Centre for Arts, Sydney) and Professor Joel Kuortti, Turku University, Finland.

What added a special grace to the Conference was its venue: the historic OUCIP with its vast resources; an institution which is so well patronised by younger scholars who are drawn to it as a place of academic pilgrimage.

**Suman Bala**  
(University of New Delhi)

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**ASAA Remembers a Good Friend:  
John McLaren (1932 - 2015)**

Members of the ASAA will be saddened by the news of the death of John McLaren in Melbourne on 4 December 2015 at the age of 83.



John and Shirley McLaren in 1996

He had been a strong supporter of the Association from the beginning, welcoming the initiative of Cynthia vanden Driesen at the ACLALS conference in Sri Lanka in 1997 and agreeing to serve on the founding committee. Some of the older members will recall meeting the genial, unpretentious, white-bearded scholar at the conference held in Kerala. He always enjoyed conference-going, both in Australia and abroad, and responded enthusiastically to the work of those scholars whom he met on such occasions.

John McLaren, who was born in Melbourne, spent his life as a teacher in Victoria, apart from a three-year stint in Toowoomba, Queensland. He started in secondary schools, later moving

into the tertiary sector and eventually becoming Professor of Humanities at Victoria University.

Although committed to a full-time career in education, John had, from his undergraduate days, a taste for journalism. He was the founding editor of *Australian Book Review* (second series), and for 27 years was associate editor of the left-wing literary journal, *Overland*, which he then edited for three years. The motto of that journal—'Temper, democratic; bias, Australian' (adapted from Joseph Furphy's description of his novel, *Such is Life*)—exactly described his outlook on life and literature. He was a political activist, once standing unsuccessfully for parliament, and was especially interested in the intersection of literature and politics in Australia. Although a strong nationalist, he was outward-looking, with an interest in other literatures in English that grew over the years.

A prolific writer, he published over a dozen books, as well as many papers. Probably his most important work was *Writing in Hope and Fear: Literature as Politics in Postwar Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), which surveys a half-century of profound change in Australian culture. His last book, *Melbourne: City of Words*, a history of Melbourne in the words of writers, was published by Arcadia as recently as 2013.

**NOTE:** John was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014 for

his services to literature and education in Australia.

See also the official tribute in *Overland* the Australian journal with which his name became most closely associated over a long period of time: <https://overland.org.au/2015/12/john-mclaren-remembered/>

**John Barnes**  
La Trobe University

### The Ashley Halpé legacy



Ashley Halpé (1933-2016)

... Ashley Halpé, Emeritus Professor of English, multi-faceted creative being, teacher, educationist, thinker, scholar, critic, poet, painter, theatre-person, musical aficionado/performer, translator, student counsellor/mentor [and]..., so much else?

There are some things about Ashley that unfailingly recur in all [accounts of him]. Foremost among them, his deep instinctive humanity, ...In his ordinary everyday dealings with people, [it] expressed itself in an unfailing courtesy and kindness and

gentleness..., his many students... respected and admired him, but also held him in great affection, close to their hearts.

Who will ever forget his selfless compassionate ministrations to many of the students who had to bear the brunt of the harsh self-protective measures taken during the southern insurgencies by a panic-stricken leadership of the nation state and its institutions ... And how too can anyone who cares for our land sufficiently thank him and his small group of fellow staff members ... for the brave leadership role they took on themselves in early 1983 in trying to restore to the University the glorious multi-ethnic/linguistic/religious ideal that it had for so long and with such just pride microcosmically affirmed for the entire country... It is to the glory of Ashley and his small band of inspired fellow-leaders that they showed the indefatigable commitment, perseverance and, also, heroic fearlessness to ensure that some semblance of sanity and normality would be restored...

Ashley brought to his task as Professor and Head of the Department a rich endowment – ... that had been handed over to him by its great founders E.F.C. (Lyn) Ludowyk, Hector Passé and Doric de Souza, his own teachers, who had, moreover, taught most members of his team too..... The challenges he faced were the familiar ones of the post-colonial endeavour of national restoration... that was under way in many former colonial countries of the

world... complicated even more by the fact that they could not be carried out except within the realities of the larger global world ...The demands made on the discipline of English Studies in this respect were impossibly compounded by..., the intense suspicion and hostility directed, at this time of national recovery ... towards the world of English... Partly fuelled by the historical association of the language with the erstwhile rulers...

...

No longer did Ashley's Department have the near-monopoly of the leadership of the English world in Sri Lanka that it had enjoyed for so long... Ashley's triumph here was built on his labours to ensure, first and foremost, that the tradition of English Studies he had inherited...For, it had, after all, produced in its time a galaxy of stellar personalities, including Ashley himself, part of the so-called "Peradeniya generation", who had contributed so creatively and with such distinction to the community around them in so many spheres of activity...

Ashley pursued his mission, at times following highly progressive directions pointed to him by the founders even from out of their own less than conducive times, but a lot of the time breaking out imaginatively and with daring innovativeness on his own... Among the more striking of [these measures was], his introduction as part of the Special Degree programme of a course on Sinhala

and Tamil Literature, conducted by specialists in those fields. This reflected a profound, healthful insight; namely, that any effort by students of the Department to understand, in ways that would truly carry meaning and value for them within their own realities, even the English literature that was, rightly, one of its primary foci would be greatly enhanced by an inwardness with the literatures that gave the most immediate expression to the deepest drives and concerns of the mass of the people among whom they were actually making and living their lives.

... [Other] forward-looking initiatives he launched [were] the study of other literatures beyond just the British, such as the European, American (including Black American) and "Post-colonial".... He himself remained to the end steadfastly committed to the great humanist ideals of education, but instead of retreating in fearful defensiveness from this thinking to the reassuring safety of the conventional, the revisionary and the reactionary, he created through his syllabuses an academic playing field on which the different viewpoints involved could contest each other openly and illuminatingly.

Time and space do not permit the completion of the particular academic story being told. But what we have already seen suffices to tell us why we need to be grateful to Ashley for the legacy he left behind for his students, his

colleagues, ..., also, his country. His academic successors, particularly, would want to bless him for handing over to them a wholesome living thing full of possibilities and promise and hope, deep-rooted in the soil of its realities (immediate and remote) and yet endowed with the resilience, vitality and energy to yield to them, under equally imaginative and innovative nurturing, abundant blossoms, fruit and sustenance, whatever the challenges that an inevitably changing life will certainly raise before it....

#### NOTE

##### Thiru Kandiah

Formerly Professor of English,  
University of Peradeniya (2000-  
2003)

I was one of the very first students [Ashley] taught when he started as youthful Assistant Lecturer [and] at the other end of that career, I was the successor to him in the Professorial Chair he had occupied for some 32 years when he retired; in between, I served on Team-Halpé as a colleague on the staff of his Department for well over half of the period of his stewardship of it.

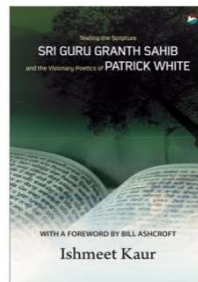
*[Reasons of space do not permit inclusion of more of this moving tribute. Interested readers are welcome to contact the editor of the Newsletter for the complete version of this Paper delivered at a Memorial Service for Ashley]*

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#### New Publications

*Texting the Scripture: Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Visionary Poetics of Patrick White* by Ishmeet Kaur. Cinnamon Teal Publishing, India, 2016. ISBN: 9789385523830

The book is a comparative study of two very different canonical texts, from different genres and drawn from widely disparate cultures, Indian and Australian. Often, sacred scriptures



are read and regarded as wholly sacred with no attention accorded to the literary nature of their evolution. On the other hand, literature is often approached with a skepticism as to whether they could be of spiritual value. This book suggests that there are unifying patterns discernible in the surface diversity of these two works: *Sri Guru Granth Sahib* offers wider interpretative possibilities for appreciating Indian literature of the seventeenth century; for Patrick White (1912-1990), the Nobel Laureate of Australia, religion is the pivotal force in his oeuvre. It is surprising and interesting to see how diversities can also project a sense of commonalities.

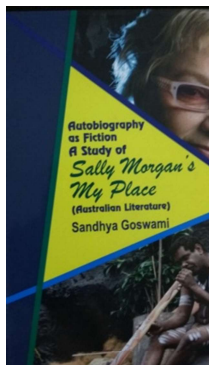
The study establishes connections in order to complement the similarities and dissimilarities between widely different literary cultures as a mode of arguing that the basic unity of human values and yearning for spiritual insight

remains at the centre of all cultures. The study has immense relevance particularly in this era when differences have led to so much conflict and disorder around the world. The book has a foreword by Bill Ashcroft.

Ishmeet's earlier works on Australian literature include an edited volume of essays on Patrick White with a foreword by distinguished Australianist John Barnes: *Patrick White: Critical Issues*, Atlantic Press, 2014. ISBN 978-8126918997.

Ishmeet has also translated a volume of poems *Dark Secrets: After Dreaming (AD) 1887-1961* by Australian Aboriginal writer Jeanine Leane into Punjabi (2015).

*Autobiography as Fiction: A Study of Sally Morgan's My Place* by Sandhya Goswami.



Sandhya attended the ASAA Conference held in Kandy, Sri Lanka (2008) along with a small contingent from India led by RK Dhawan and Suman Bala, long-time committee members of the Association and supporters of Australian literary studies in India. The Civil War in Sri Lanka was in its closing stages and many potential participants stayed away because of the uncertainty of the times; yet Sandhya picked up the challenge and travelled all the way

from New Delhi to Kandy. Subsequently, she worked under Dr Suman Bala's supervision to complete a doctoral thesis on the work of one of Australia's best known Indigenous writers, Sally Morgan. ASAA is glad to announce the publication of her book on the subject. [Thank you, Suman for sending us the information.]

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*Slings & Arrows*, Vols 1 & 2 by Glen Phillips.

Awarded actor, producer, writer Jenny Davis launched Glen Phillips's 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> books at The Moon Café, Perth on 8 Apr 2017.



Glen reading from *Slings & Arrows*



Glen's wife, fellow poet, ASAA member Rita Tognini applauds

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**Current Research Project:  
Synergies, Commonalities and  
Contrasts: Female Voices –**

### Writing by Aboriginal Australians and by Indian Adivasi, Dalit and DNT

Ishmeet Kaur visited (Melbourne and Adelaide) Australia in November 2016 under the International travel grant scheme of ICSSR, India for the purpose of interviewing a number of Australian women writers of Aboriginal descent for her project as, named above. She interviewed prominent writers Jeanine Leane (Wiradjuri woman) Jane Harrison (Muruwari from New South Wales around the area Bourke and Brewarrina), Dylan Coleman (Kokatha Aboriginal/ Greek woman), Ali Cobby Eckermann (Kokatha Kunga/ Yankunytjatjara woman), and Claire Coleman (South Coast Noogar).

The project aims at constructing a highly personalised, and detailed context mainly through extended interviews with these writers, their families (particularly the female

figures, mothers, aunts, grandmothers) and others who they claim have influenced their work and literary development. The visit also facilitated exploration of the socio-historical context from which their works emerge. The visit was valuable for the insights afforded by a visit to the country and the opportunity to interview the writers personally.

**Ishmeet Kaur**

Central University of Gujarat

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#### New Issue

*Indialogs: Spanish Journal of India Studies* has published its latest issue Vol 4 (2017): "Indic Crossings". View the Table of Contents at <<http://revistes.uab.cat/indialogs/issue/view/v4>>

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## ASAA TEAM

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**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. Email: 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. 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 currently on a UGC Research Award 2014-2016. Email: 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. Email: [ishmeetsaini@gmail.com](mailto:ishmeetsaini@gmail.com)

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cynthia.v@westnet.com.au)

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## Application for Membership of ASAA

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Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_

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