A Warm Welcome to Professor Andrew Wells, Dean of the Faculty of Arts

Conradtions and a warm welcome to Andrew Wells on his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, commencing on 1st September 2003.

Andrew has a MA (History & Politics) from Monash University and graduated with his PhD from Australian National University in 1986. In the early part of Andrew’s career he tutored and lectured in Politics and in History at the University of Melbourne. Andrew was appointed at the University of Wollongong shortly after his graduation from the ANU. Since then he has held many positions and been an active member of innumerable committees within the Faculty of Arts and in the wider University community.

Andrew’s research interests have been primarily labour history - at first, in an Australian context but more recently in a global milieu. At present he shares a large ARC grant with Jim Hagan and Rob Castle researching and comparing labour relations in the plantations of Southern and South East Asia, and in the cattle industry of Northern Australia 1880 – 1940: a common theme is the direction and control of Indigenous labour by firms situated in Europe.

Andrew, with Jim Hagan, is also a recipient of an ARC Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities (LIEF) grant for the purpose of digitizing regional archives at the Universities of Wollongong, New England and Newcastle.

Office of Research news

A reminder - Monday 15th September is the deadline for application submissions to the URC Small Grants Scheme 2004. Guidelines and Applications forms can be downloaded from the Office of Research website. Please forward one (1) original plus fifteen (15) copies of your application to Jodie Murrell in the Office of Research.
Should you require any assistance with your URC Small Grant application – please remember June Aspley is available for help with proof reading, budgeting and formatting. June can be contacted on Ext 5581 or via email on june@uow.edu.au.

Congratulations to colleagues who have recently had their work published and/or accepted for publication: i.e.

**Anthony Ashbolt**


**Sharon Beder**

QuickTime™ and a Planar RGB decompressor are needed to see this picture.


*Power Play* explores the battles between private and public ownership of electricity in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia since the early 20th Century, and the powerful agenda-setting and public relations strategies used to secure victory for private interests. The book investigates the way that developing countries such as Brazil and India have been forced to allow foreign investors to exercise a stranglehold over their electricity systems. And it uncovers the campaigns waged by think tanks, corporate interests, and multinational companies such as Enron to swindle the public in dozens of countries out of rightful control over an essential public service.

**Guy Davidson**

Guy has recently been advised of the acceptance of his paper "Homosocial Relations, Masculine Embodiment, and Imperialism in Robert Louis Stevenson’s The Ebb-Tide" for publication in the journal *English Literature in Transition* 47: 2 due out in January 2004.

**Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase:**

Congratulations to Ruchira on the following recent publications:

- “Paradoxes of Globalization, Liberalization and Gender Equality: The Worldviews of the Lower Middle Classes in West Bengal” in *Gender and Society*, August issue.

Brian & Wendy’s book addresses the power of popular non-violent action against repression, aggression, and oppression. A crucial aspect of effective nonviolent action is communication. Activists need to be able to contact each other and to mobilize support from other parts of the world. However, within the nonviolence literature, communication has been almost entirely neglected, while within the communication literature, nonviolent action is seldom mentioned. This is the first major study to focus on the joint dynamics of nonviolence and communication.

Three cases studies are examined in the book: the popular action that forced the resignation of Indonesian President Suharto in 1998, the successful people’s resistance to the Soviet coup in 1991, and the successful internationally coordinated campaign against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment in 1998. In each case, special attention is given to the role of communication in the struggle. Martin & Varney’s research for this book involved the analysis of surveys made of nonviolence and communication theories, and probed for insights relevant to the nonviolence-communication nexus. Gradually they develop a model for analyzing people’s communication. The insights from theory are used to pose a set of steps by which activist groups can analyse communication and develop effective communication strategies.

Tim Scrase

Congratulations to Tim on the publication of the co-edited book:

Timothy J Scrase, TJM Holden and Scott Baum (eds), Globalization, Culture and Inequality in Asia. ISBN 1 876 843 888

Contemplating globalization from a sociological perspective, it is without doubt that a major site for social, political, economic and cultural change in the new millennium lies in the Asian region. The underlying theme of the book is the multi-dimensional way in which globalization - in the form of ideas, practices and technology - have introduced social inequalities in specific contexts. The book draws on studies from several countries in the
region and covers such areas as gender, class, labor, media, identity, cities and urbanization. Tim has one sole-authored chapter and two co-authored chapters in the book.

**Tim** has also recently had his journal article “Precarious Production: Globalisation and Artisan Labour in the Third World” published in *Third World Quarterly*, 24 (3) pp. 449-461, 2003.

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**Paul Sharrad**

Warm congratulations are extended to **Paul Sharrad** on the publication of his book “Albert Wendt and Pacific Literature: Circling the Void” through the Manchester University Press in association with Auckland University Press.

![ALBERT WENDT: AND PACIFIC LITERATURE Circling the Void](image)

Featured on the cover of Paul’s book is the “Black Rainbow” print series by Maori artist Ralph Hotere protesting nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Albert Wendt is the leading writer and exponent of Pacific Literature. His work is consistently different in style, politically challenging, and ranges across essays, plays, poems, stories and novels, two of which have been filmed.

Paul’s book is the first full-length study of Wendt’s work. It places it in cultural and historical context, tracing archival sources of themes and key influences, and offers close readings of all the major texts. There is an introduction to Pacific Literature as a whole and to Wendt’s Samoan background. Textual commentary relates each phase of production to key motifs from Polynesian culture and to literary movements of the time in New Zealand and abroad. There is an extensive bibliography of works by and about Wendt. Wendt’s writing is positioned within key theoretical debates in postcolonial literary studies. This book argues that he makes a significant contribution to arguments over identity and indigenous agency from a determinedly non-metropolitan Pacific standpoint.

Pacific Literature is now being taught in Australia, the US, New Zealand, Canada, France, Germany, the UK and the Pacific Islands. The book is regarded as a much-needed addition to the critical resources in this growing field of Pacific Literature, and will be an invaluable aid to students of both Pacific writing and postcolonial studies in general, from the level of high school through to teaching and research.

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**Gerry Turcotte:**

Congratulations to **Gerry Turcotte** on the publication of his collection of poems “*Hauntings: the ‘Varuna’ poems*” through Five Islands Press. This collection follows on from Gerry’s earlier poetic publications: *Neighbourhood of Memory* (1990) and *Winterlude* (2001).
As the sub-title of Gerry’s publication suggests the poems are dedicated to the two occasions when Gerry has sought inspirational solace at the house called ‘Varuna’ (The Writer’s House) situated in Katoomba.

Varuna is the former home of renowned Australian author Eleanor Dark and her husband Dr Eric Dark. The house, designed by Eleanor, was built in 1939 and, in 1989, was donated by Michael Dark, the son of Eleanor and Eric, to the Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd for use as a writers' centre.

Gerry’s writings celebrate his visits and experiences at Varuna, as well as his conversations with the local people he met during his stay.

Adrian Vickers:
Adrian and his colleague Linda Connor have had their article "Crisis, Citizenship, and Cosmopolitanism: Living in a Local and Global Risk Society" published in the journal *Indonesia* 75 (2003) pp153-180.

Forthcoming Conference/Symposiums:

Friday, 29 August - 2.00 - 3.30 pm Room 19.1080
**Louise D'Arcens** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) "'Where no Knight in Armour has ever Trod': The Arthurianism of Jessica Anderson's Heroines'

Monday, 1st September – 12.30 – 2.00 pm (venue to be confirmed)
The School of Social Sciences, Media & Communications have invited Alexandra Halkin to the Faculty to present a video screening and discussion.

**Alexandra Halkin**, International Coordinator of the Chiapas Media Project (CMP) will present videos from the Project and will discuss the role of indigenous and campesino produced alternative media in the context of the current political situations in Chiapas and Guerrero in Southern Mexico. Alexandra will also discuss a new CMP media centre recently funded by the MacArthur Foundation that will document human rights violations in the “Montana” region of Guerrero.

Thursday 4 September - 12.30 pm Rm 19.2002
**Karen Daley** (Spanish Program in School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages) "The Mediaeval-Spanish Discourse of Travel"
Friday, 5 September - 10.30 - 12.00 in Room 19.2043
**Greg Melleuish** (School of History & Politics) "The Melian dialogue"

Thursday 11 September - 4.30 - 6.00 in Room 19.1003
**Michael Flood** (Australian National University) presenting paper in the Institute of Social Change & Critical Inquiry seminar series
Title of paper to be advised

Friday 12 September - 10.30 - 12.00 in Room 19.2043
**Adrian Vickers** (School of History & Politics) "Our colonial children: Paedophilia and modernity in Bali"

Friday 12 September - 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Room 19.1080
**Paul Sharrad** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) "Translations: Texts and Textiles in PNG"

Thursday 18 September 12.30 pm Rm 19.2002
**Shooshi Dreyfus** (ELS in School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages) "When there is no speech: describing the multimodal communication of a child with an intellectual disability" (to be confirmed)

Friday 19 September - 10.30 - 12.00 in Room 19.2043
**Susan Engel** (School of History & Politics) "The Early Years of the World Bank: Theory and Practice"

Friday 19 September - 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Room 19.1080
**Guy Davidson** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) “Microscene, Minor Literature: Fiona McGregor’s *Chemical Palace*”

Friday 24th October 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Room 19.1080
**Nicola Evans** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) “Size Counts”

Friday 7th November 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Room 19.1080
**Monique Rooney** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) “Destructive Creation: Representing Gangs in South Central LA”

Friday 14th November 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Room 19.1080
**Gaetano Rando** (Identity & Cultural Difference Research Group) “Elements & Influences of Popular Italian Culture & Language in Italo-Australian Literature”

Monday 6th October – 12.30 – 2.00 pm (venue to be confirmed)
**Associate Professor Paul Kauffman** (ISCCI & Arts Visiting Professorial Fellow) from the Faculty of Management & Law at the University of Canberra will present his paper: “A social indicator comparison between Indigenous people in Australia and Canada, and approaches to redress the balance”.
Paul Kauffman researches multinational companies and indigenous policy issues in Australia and North America and advises governments and ATSIC on economic and social programs.

Friday 10th October 10.30 - 12.00 in Room 19.2043
**Natalie Peters** (School of History & Politics) “The Neo-liberal moment”.

Wednesday 12th November – 10.30 – 2.00 pm in Room 19.1080
**War and State Development Research Group** present a two-day conference on "Peacekeeping in the Asia Pacific"
Venue, times, speakers and titles of papers to be advised

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Page 6
Arts Research Newsletter No.4 Spring 2003
Conference papers presented by Faculty of Arts academics

ICAS3 - The International Convention of Asia Scholars

A number of our colleagues including Adrian Vickers, Tim Scrase, Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase, and Julia Martinez have left this week to attend the Third International Convention of Asian Scholars being held at the Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore.

ICAS3 - The International Convention of Asia Scholars - is one of the largest regular gatherings of scholars whose research centres on Asia and/or Asians, especially in the humanities and social sciences. In 2003 (19-22 August) ICAS3 is jointly hosted and organised by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore.

Tim Scrase will be presenting his paper "Artisan Labour in Asia: Trends, Issues and Problems"; and Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase will be delivering her paper “Discourses of Global Efficiency and its impact on Local Workplace Cultures: A Case Study from West Bengal, India” to the ICAS3 conference.

CAPSTRANS Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Work Segmentation in the Asia Pacific

CAPSTRANS has recently successfully hosted a workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Work Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, which included visits from some eminent colleagues from the City University of Hong Kong (Kevin Hewison, Vivienne Wee, and Stephen Frost). A number of our colleagues participated in the workshop with papers delivered by Rosy Antons-Sutanto (Visiting Fellow with Arts), Anne Loveband (Phd candidate), Adrian Vickers, and Professor Ken Young.

Kate Bowles and Nancy Huggett
Kate and Nancy (recent CCS PhD graduate) co-presented their paper "Cowboys, Jaffas and Pies: researching cinema-going in the Illawarra", to the American Cinema in Everyday Life conference at University College London in June 2003.

Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase has recently presented a paper “Victims And Agents: Young People’s Understanding Of Their Social World In An Urban Neighbourhood In West Bengal, India” to the XV International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Florence, Italy from 5-12 July.

David Mercer presented his paper “EMF think tanks and the vertical integration of expertise” at the Australian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science (AAHPSSS) conference at the University of Melbourne in July 2003.
Henri Jeanjean presented a seminar titled ‘Language diversity in Europe: can the EU prevent the genocide of the French linguistic minorities?’ at the National Europe Centre at the ANU on 18th July.

Henri’s seminar at the National Europe Centre proved pertinent as it coincided with an announcement by the French Culture Ministry banning the use of the English term “e-mail” in all government ministries, documents, publications or Web sites – the latest movie aimed at curbing the invasion of English words in the French language. While such policies are designed to ensure that the French language and culture remain vibrant, Henri’s presentation used similar examples to highlight the elitist and discriminatory nature of French language policy, arguing that by placing restrictions on the use on non-French languages in France, the French government simultaneously suppresses minority languages and cultures in France.

Tim Scrase recently presented a conference paper "Life On The Edge: Survival Strategies Of Indian Artisans In The Era Of Globalization" at the 15th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, 4-12 July 2003 in Florence, Italy.

Research News Bits & Pieces

Tim Scrase has recently taken up a 18 month, 0.5 Research Fellowship in CAPSTRANS – and to replace Tim in Sociology until the end of 2004 we welcome Dr Richard Howson, a recent PhD Sociology graduate – so congratulations on two counts, Richard, your graduation and your appointment with Sociology.

The Swinging Sixties live on ……

A number of Faculty of Arts staff are dedicated enthusiasts of the music, fashion and philosophies of the 1960’s … and to some that era is but a vague memory clouded by the effects of various herbal remedies.

Hearty congratulations are extended to Anthony Ashbolt on the success of his musical performance at the National Folk Festival (thankfully, he did not provide the music!): "No More Song: Phil Ochs and the Sixties", written and narrated by Anthony and performed by Jeannie Lewis, Maurie Mulheron, Deanne Dale and Tom Bridges; held at Exhibition Park, Canberra, on April 18, 2003. As many of you will know, the National Folk Festival attracts performers of national and international repute and draws a very large audience.

Should you be interested in having Anthony’s autograph on any personal items of clothing, please negotiate with June Aspley.
At the July 2003 Annual Conference of the Australasian Association for the History Philosophy and Social Studies of Science (AAHPSSS) held at the University of Melbourne, David Mercer was voted onto the AAHPSSS Executive as a regional vice president. His membership of the National Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science of the Australian Academy of Sciences was also confirmed for another year.

Arts Public Seminar Series

The Faculty of Arts Public Seminar series has proven a great success thus far with both events drawing crowds of 50 people or more.

The first in our Public Seminar series was Associate Professor John McQuilton with his talk on his long-standing research interest in the life and legend of the Australian bushranger, Ned Kelly on the evening of 14th May.

John spoke of the latest film version of the story of Ned Kelly noting its decidedly mixed reviews, and letters to the editor after its release in Australian cinemas. Some of the critics were outraged by the treatment of the Kelly story. There were allegations of 'Americanisation', notions that a young and rising Australian star had somehow betrayed his nation's history and the usual laments from some that yet again Kelly was portrayed in a heroic light,” he said. John said the response to the film reflects one simple and curious fact – that Ned Kelly has always provoked vigorous debate in Australian society. Was Ned a man more sinned against than sinning? Was he simply a brutal, murderous thug? And why do Australians keep returning to the life and legend of a man who was hanged for murder in 1880?

John’s paper attracted a very large and appreciative audience of 53 people. Since the presentation of John’s seminar he has been interviewed by ABC Radio and has appeared on ABC TV’s Big Picture on Wednesday 6th August.

Well done and many thanks John!!

Professor Sharon Beder presented the second of the Arts Public Seminars with her talk “The Great Electric Con Trick: Privatising and Deregulating our Electricity”.

Prior to Sharon’s talk on the evening of 7th August was the launch of Sharon’s latest book ‘Power Play: The fight for control of the world’s electricity’.
As the title of Sharon’s paper would suggest the talk centred on worldwide electricity privatization and deregulation causing havoc with electricity rationing in Brazil, blackouts in California, New York, South Australia and New Zealand. Sharon discussed the control of electricity being wrested from public hand to create profit opportunities for investors and transnational corporations; and how an essential public service has been turned into a speculative commodity in the name of ‘reform’.

Sharon’s book launch and talk attracted an enthusiastic crowd of more than 50 people. Since her presentation, Sharon has been interviewed by the *Illawarra Mercury*, and by ABC and 2 VoxFM radio stations.

Many thanks, Sharon!

The next in the Arts Public Seminar Series will be **Associate Professor Brian Martin** presenting his paper “When attacks backfire”. The public seminar is scheduled for 5.30 pm on Tuesday 16th September.

When Los Angeles police beat Rodney King in 1991, the spectacle was captured on videotape and broadcast on TV, causing a massive backlash against the police. This is an example of how attacks can backfire if they are perceived to be unjust. Attackers use a variety of methods that can inhibit this backfire effect, including covering up the attack, devaluing the target, reinterpreting the events, referring the matter to official channels, and intimidating or bribing participants. The dynamics of backfire will be illustrated by a range of examples, from censorship to torture technology, with emphasis on the Rodney King beating and the 2003 attack on Iraq.

### Items of research news

Should you have any item of news relating to your research (i.e. forthcoming conference/seminar events and/or papers; recently published materials; invited visiting speakers etc.) please contact June (june@uow.edu.au or Ext 5581) and your news item can be included in forthcoming editions of this Newsletter.

### Distribution of newsletter:

The Arts Research newsletter is distributed to all staff and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts. It is also available on the UoW Faculty of Arts website.