

Notes on Contributors

Karen Argus

Karen Argus has been an early childhood literacy and art teacher for over 15 years and has worked as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, learning advisor and learning support teacher in the state, private and tertiary education systems. She is currently undertaking a Master of Philosophy (Creative Arts) (Res) under the supervision of Prof Ryan Daniel and Dr Allison Craven and is mentored by artist Julie Rees. Her research around self, combines a mash of semiotic genres and sees Karen entering the visual arts field. Karen also volunteers her time as a graphic designer for the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA).

Barbara Cheshire

Dr Barbara Cheshire (College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University) is a visual artist and arts educator. Her PhD and Masters research both focused on the visual language of Christian spirituality. Over the course of Barbara's life she has considered the recognition of a complete human experience; the marriage of the physical and spiritual connection through various cultural symbolic methodologies. Barbara's practice has slowly shifted to an experiential encoding which has opened up a very different form of visual communication.

Sathyabhama Daly

Sathyabhama (Bhama) Daly nee Gopal was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She trained as a Registered Nurse in London in the 1970s, and migrated to Cairns in 1978 with her husband Simon. She has two sons. Her PhD thesis titled *Quests and Labyrinths: The Search for the Sacred in Six Contemporary Australian Novels* is about the ways in which myths and traditional stories provide meaning in contemporary life. She worked as a Learning Adviser at James Cook University, and is currently an adjunct research fellow in the College of Arts, Society and Education. Her research interests are in literature, creative writing and academic skills writing.

Ryan Daniel

Professor Ryan Daniel (College of Arts, Society and Education James Cook University) is a senior researcher in creative arts and creative industries at James Cook University, Australia. His research is published in *Creative Industries*, *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education*, *CoDesign*, *Music Education Research* and the *British Journal of Music Education*.

Michael Davis

Michael Davis has a strong interest in histories of encounter and the role of environment and environmental knowledge in these. He is an independent writer and historian, and an Honorary Research Fellow with the Sydney Environment Institute, The University of Sydney.

Robyn Glade-Wright

Robyn Glade-Wright is an artist and arts educator. Glade-Wright's research interests include imaginative significance, beauty and the visual communication of her concerns about vulnerable species and the loss of species due to extinction.

Ute Haring

Ute Haring is a doctoral candidate in Education, examining children's drawings from disasters. She holds a Graduate Certificate in Research Methods (GCRM), as well as degrees in Education, Art and Psychology, and taught for many years in Germany, Papua New Guinea and Australia. While undertaking the GCRM, Ute developed the Content-Interpretive-Developmental (CID) method for interpreting children's drawings. Her current research focuses on children's drawings from the Holocaust, Queensland cyclones and Child Abuse.

Richard Lansdown

Richard Lansdown is Associate Professor of English in the College of Arts, Education and Society at James Cook University and has taught at the Cairns Campus since 1997. He is the author of *Byron's Historical Dramas*, *The Autonomy of Literature*, *Strangers in the South Seas: The Idea of the Pacific in Western Thought*, and *The Cambridge Introduction to Byron*. He edited Henry James' *The Bostonians* for Penguin Classics, and the *Critical Review* between 1993 and 2002. His most recent publication is a new selection of Byron's letters and journals for Oxford University Press. He is currently working on an anthology of the writings of John Ruskin, also for Oxford University Press.

Carol Libke

Carol Libke completed a Bachelor of Journalism at JCU Cairns in 2006. Her passion for local history began when she was commissioned to write: *'Our Club': The History of Ellis Beach SLSC 1957-2007*, published in 2007. Her short stories are published in six Tropical Writers anthologies and she is a regular contributor to ABC Open Online. Carol's play *Angus* was short-listed for the Short & Sweet Festival in Brisbane and Sydney in 2009 and her story: "Patrolling the Far North" appeared on ABC television in August 2014. Carol is a long-term member of the Tropical Writers group and served as its President from 2010 – 2013. She has been involved in the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival since its inception in 2008. In 2012,

during the National Year of Reading, Carol was engaged to run children's writing workshops for the Cairns Regional Council. In 2013, she coordinated Brisbane Writers Festival events, staged in Cairns. Carol is currently Liaison Officer for the Queensland Writers Centre and has received a Concept Development and Regional Arts Development Grant to collate this research into a book.

Laurel McKenzie

Laurel McKenzie is a current PhD candidate, conducting practice-led research which investigates the persistence of stereotypes in the representation of women in contemporary visual art. Her practice acknowledges the role that art has played in the objectification of women. It employs mediated representations of women to create installations which embody new meaning.

Angela Meyer

Angela Meyer has a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the University of Sydney 1990; a Master of Creative Arts from James Cook University, 1999; and submitted her PhD at JCU in 2015. She is a Sessional Lecturer in Painting, and was a Tutor in Art History and Theory at JCU 2007-09. She is also a practising visual artist with work in public and private collections.

Jocene Vallack

Jocene Vallack is a former actor, writer, director and drama teacher, who worked mostly in TV Education (Channel 7, Melbourne) and then for four years in theatre-in-education with Polyglot Puppet Theatre and No Strings Puppet theatre, touring throughout Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. She completed a PhD in Education and worked in higher education. She worked for some years in curriculum and staff development at Swinburne and Latrobe Universities in Victoria. This often involved identifying the professional development needs of staff and facilitating appropriate workshops and training sessions, as well as supporting and mentoring individual lecturers. She has now turned her attention to writing and producing theatre as academic research, and works as a Lecturer at JCU.

Pauline Sherlock

Pauline Sherlock is a PhD student at James Cook University, in Cairns. After completing her degree with honours in performance, Pauline has been exploring the process of becoming a stand-up comedian. With a history in performance as a singer-songwriter Pauline made the switch to comedy to fulfil a long-time ambition. She has performed comedy at several events and staged a solo comedy show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (2015). Through the accumulation of practical experience, combined with theoretical and academic research, Pauline aims to develop a clearer understanding of stand-up comedy praxis. Living in the Tropics presents a variety of challenges, one of those being the tyranny of distance,

Pauline shares some of the insights gained from attempting to overcome this distance and staging a show in one of the world's major comedy festivals.

Reesa Sorin

Reesa Sorin is Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education and Arts Education at James Cook University and a practicing visual artist. Her exhibitions include "Stranger to the Tropics", a series of paintings exploring her move from a sub-arctic climate to the tropical climate of far north Queensland. Her research includes: the role of the arts in learning, teaching and research; how the arts can be utilised to glean and enhance children's understanding of the environment; conceptualisations of childhood; and dogs in the learning environment.

Chrystopher Spicer

Chrystopher Spicer is the author of books on Australian history and film history, including *Duchess: The Story of the Windsor Hotel*, *Great Australian World Firsts*, and *Clark Gable: Biography*, and a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Melbourne*. Chrystopher currently lectures and tutors creative and academic writing at James Cook University. In his PhD research, he is investigating cyclones as a trope in Queensland literature. In a physical landscape impacted by some 207 tropical cyclones since 1858, Queensland writers have attempted to incorporate the terror and the sublime of the cyclone into their sense of place. As they have attempted to find context for the unpredictable, chaotic and destructive tropical cyclone, the cyclone has become a defining symbol of both the physical and literary Queensland. Some Queensland writers have perceived within cyclones the Burkean sublime or personal revelation, while others have seen it as motivation for community strength, co-operation and compassion. For some, the cyclone is divine retribution, for others, it's an apocalyptic event revealing a rare second chance for revelation and renewal.

Stephen Torre

Stephen Torre BA PhD *Qld* is Adjunct Professor in the College of Arts, Society and Education and James Cook University and a Research Fellow of the Cairns Institute. His research interests are in the short story, writing and culture in the tropics, and twentieth-century avant-gardes. Stephen has taught courses on Australian literature and culture, Avant-Garde/Modernist literature, and Short Story Writing. He is one of the judges of the Foundation for Australian Literary Studies annual Colin Roderick Award. He was the founding editor of *etropic: electronic journal of studies in the tropics* and is the convenor of the *Tropics of the Imagination Conference*.