
EDITORIAL

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Like most literary journals in Australia, **LiNQ** has recently suffered from the effects of the massive changes in work conditions within Australian universities. If you see an academic who looks extra frazzled, you're likely to find that they're trying to edit a journal in their ever-diminishing minutes of "spare" time. Going spare seems more likely than finding "spare" hours in any academic week.

But it's not the first time that **LiNQ** has experienced change and pressure ... and survived. This double issue is rather special because it marks the 29th year of **LiNQ**'s publication. If we are fortunate in this year's round of funding, then we will achieve our 30th birthday in 2000. That will be an event truly worth celebrating.

I wonder how many authors have had their work first published in **LiNQ**? How many new writers it has helped to achieve a publication record that makes them eligible for a first government grant? How many hours of reading pleasure it has provided diverse writers, thinkers and other readers?

My editorship has been only a small part of that history, I've only been in it since 1995. The greatest credit for this achievement of dedicated publishing must go to Associate Professor Elizabeth Perkins. She started the journal back in 1970 and has been the steady hand which has kept it going. I wonder how many hours she has spent reading submissions, writing articles and reviews, commissioning contributions, editing and proofreading, cajoling printers and others to get each issue out? It makes me feel both awe and a little bit of exhaustion to think of all those hours and all that dedicated energy. It must have seemed appealing to her to just give up at some point, to say "I've done my bit" and let **LiNQ** languish as so many other small journals have done since their enthusiastic beginnings in the late 1960s and early 1970s. But Elizabeth has sustained her commitment and I am sure there are many writers, academics and other readers who would wish to join with me in thanking her for the strength and depth of her vision in this enterprise. Elizabeth will officially retire from James Cook University at the end of this year, though a mind like hers could never truly be said to retire from the world of literature to which she has contributed so generously.

To mark this special occasion this double issue is dedicated to Elizabeth. In it you'll find some fascinating testimonials to her from a variety of people with

whom she has worked, as well as an engaging record of Elizabeth in conversation with long-term friend and colleague, Dr Cheryl Taylor. I do hope that you enjoy them, as well as all the other goodies contained in here ... and once again, THANKYOU Elizabeth for all your hard work in bringing this kind of pleasure to Australia's writing community over so many years.

Gina Mercer, General Editor, September, 1999