ARC Cultural Research Network

Annual Meeting
27th - 28th October 2008
Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne
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General Information

Welcome to the 2008 Annual Meeting of the ARC Cultural Research Network. We hope this will be an enjoyable and productive time, and to ensure the smooth running of the event we have provided some general information here. If you have any further questions please talk to John or Angela.

Accommodation: All accommodation at Rydges on Swanston is covered by the CRN. This includes your room, breakfast, lunch, and morning and afternoon teas. It does not cover incidentals such as the mini-bar or in-room movies. These will have to be paid for separately. Please be aware that check-out time is 10:00am.

Meetings: Sessions on both days of the Meeting will be held in the Lincoln Room. We have access to a break-out room that will be used for the Networking Sessions, as well as some other events during the two days. This is the Queensberry Room, just across the corridor from the Lincoln Room.

Breaks: Morning and afternoon teas will be served in the Prime Restaurant. Lunch on both days will be a full buffet served in the same place (which is also where breakfast is served). We have provided the hotel with details of any specific dietary requirements, and these will be catered for. Please ensure that you are wearing your nametag at lunch so that hotel staff know that you are not a free-loader.

The hotel will be quite crowded on the Monday, and if there is no available seating in the Prime restaurant, you are welcome to take your meal into the Lincoln Room.

Monday Evening Function: We have arranged for a short cocktail gathering in the Prime Bar on Monday from 5:30pm to about 6:30pm. You’ll need to buy your own drinks, but we are providing a light selection of antipasto, dips, and tempura vegetables. After the reception we
recommend that you avail yourselves of the many establishments that make up the
gastronomic paradise of Lygon Street, which is only a couple of blocks away (see map).

Return Flights: We will give you a list of flight times so that you know who will be on each flight. We would encourage you to share taxis to the airport.

**Annual Meeting Schedule**

**Monday 27 October**
12:00noon – 1:00pm: Buffet lunch in the Prime Restaurant
1:00pm – 1:30pm: Welcome and short address by Graeme Turner: The Way Forward
1:30pm – 3:30pm: Project Reports
3:30pm – 4:00pm: Afternoon Tea in the Prime Restaurant
4:00pm – 5:30pm: Networking Sessions (Lincoln and Queensberry Rooms)
5:30pm – Drinks in Prime Wine Bar

**Tuesday 28 October**
9:30am – 10:00am: Morning Tea in the Prime Restaurant
10:00am – 11:30am: Networking Sessions (Lincoln and Queensberry Rooms)
11:30am – 1:30pm: Business Meeting, including Node Reports
1:30pm – 2:30pm: Buffet lunch in the Prime Restaurant
2:30pm – 3:30pm: Business Meeting (continued) and Open Discussion with issues for Members
3:30pm – 4:00pm: Afternoon Tea in the Prime Restaurant
3:30pm: Meeting ends

**Business Meeting Agenda**

11:30am – 1:30pm
1. Welcome to new participants
2. Convenor’s report
3. Project officer’s report
4. Financial Reports
5. Management committee reports
6. Endorsement of Management Committee Recommendations
7. Node Reports

1:30pm – 2:30pm Lunch

2:30pm – 3:30pm
7. Reports from the Nodes (Continued)
8. Open Discussion

3:30pm – 4:00pm Afternoon tea
Networking Sessions

These sessions will run on Monday 4:00pm – 5:30pm and Tuesday 10:00am – 11:30am in the Lincoln and Queensberry Rooms. You are welcome to join whichever group you are interested in.

**Australian Radio Audio Researchers Association**: John Tebbutt

**The Ethics of Consumption**: Tania Lewis

**GLAMM (Games, Location, Art & Mobile Media)**: Larissa Hjorth and Ingrid Richardson
(Monday session only)

**Mobile Screens**: Susan Luckman
(Tuesday session only)

**Internet Studies**: Mark McLelland, Gerard Goggin

**The Listening Project**: Justine Lloyd, Tanja Dreher, Cate Thill

**Nature Cultures**: Emily Potter, Gay Hawkins

**Rural Cultural Research**: Chris Gibson, Kate Darian-Smith, Andrew Gorman-Murray

**The State of the Industry Conference**: Melissa Gregg, Emily Potter, Clifton Evers

There will also be a closed meeting of the Australian TV and Popular Memory group, led by John Hartley.

Convenor’s Report

With one more year to run, plus change, the network seems to have settled happily into largely viral mode of operation. Where the first year or two saw an awful lot of pump-priming workshops as well as a burst of what Greg Noble has labelled masterclass-orama, this last year most of the activity seems to be gathered around specific projects, or programs of connected projects. That is pretty much what I had hoped would happen. It doesn’t produce perhaps the sense of novelty that came early on when we would be meeting for the first time and discovering that someone else was actually interested in the same thing as us. And I don’t find myself being called on to give the academic equivalent of the half-time rev-up any more. But, I think the CRN now is what we are entitled to call a mature network in which groups of people with shared interests are able to find each other, meet and get on with it.

That said, not everyone has the same level of investment in the network, and not everyone feels that they have benefited to the same extent. My impression, for what it’s worth, is that the investment and the benefits have been pretty widely distributed and that people have found that their involvement has been useful. The benefits include such tangible outcomes as the recent ARC results, in which 15 CRN-ers (three of them twice!) feature in the 10 Discovery and 2 Linkage Grants awarded to members of the network. Several of these grants have come directly from network projects and it is particularly pleasing to see two of our ECRs winning APD’s: Larissa Hjorth and our Rural Cultures project officer, Andrew Gorman Murray. Congratulations to all of those successful applicants—it was a tough year to be competing.

A pleasing development over the last year has been the increasing take-up of the ‘open door’ meetings where senior CRN-ers are invited to come and talk to postgraduates and junior staff at another university, as well as the one-on-one mentoring meetings we have been funding where early career researchers meet with a senior participant to discuss career development...
issues. The capacity to do this kind of thing has always been there but it only recently that its usefulness has been appreciated, I suspect.

The focus for the next year is to maximise the benefits of our remaining funding by investing it in the ongoing and developing research projects. So, do make use of the networking sessions during this meeting; we have expanded the amount of time available in response to requests from participants in order to allow each of us the time to talk to more than one research group. We are planning a large event at the end of the final year – a final annual meeting/wake, and an innovative conference run by our ECRs, called ‘The State of the Industry’, attempting to map the state of play in the teaching, research and public engagement dimensions of our work. We will be talking more about this event during the meeting.

In terms of the formal accounting for our activities over the year, you will find that much of the information in this booklet will provide people with some sense of what we have been up to. I’d urge you to look particularly at the list of new members, the 2008 activities, and the list of successful ARC grants.

Thank you all for coming along to this penultimate annual meeting of the Cultural Research Network. I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible over the next two days.

Graeme Turner

Project Officer’s Report

As we approach the final year of funding for the CRN the questions we must now start to ask are along the lines of “Where to now?” A large focus of this meeting will be on looking to the future through the optic of the past four years, and planning for the final twelve months and beyond. From where I sit, it seems that we have produced some fine outcomes and genuinely valuable research, and it would be a pity if the momentum we have generated didn’t lead any further.

This year has been very productive in terms of the number of projects underway, and the types of activities being run. You’ll find lists of these things elsewhere in this report. I would encourage everyone to make use of the CRN website as much as possible in order to keep up with all these activities. I am starting to put reports of past events on the website as well as notices for forthcoming events and information about the running of the Network.

I am currently looking for ways to manage this avalanche of data that doesn’t mean filling everybody’s inbox with spam. As a first step I’ve started using the “News” box on the CRN homepage more actively, and this will point to upcoming events, notices, and reports. I’ve also set up an RSS feed on the news box: if you are into that sort of thing, I’d urge you to subscribe to the feed and have the updates delivered directly to your favourite feed reader, or live bookmark tool.

My main focus over the next twelve months will be keeping a close eye on the finances. While the primary aim will be to ensure we don’t over-spend the budget, the related problem will be ensuring we don’t under-spend! I will be working closely with the Node Convenors and project coordinators to make sure that we maximise the value of our remaining funds. The timely acquittal of project funding will become paramount as we move into the final year of the Network’s formal existence.

As you will remember, I took three months leave without pay at the beginning of this year in order to work on my thesis. I am very grateful to Graeme for allowing me this time off, and to the Faculty of Arts at UQ whose provision of a scholarship made it possible. Thank you also to the many people who expressed best wishes to me at this time. No, I haven’t submitted as yet, but I hope to have good news on that front early in the new year. I particularly want to acknowledge the work of Lisa Gunders, who as acting project officer kept the engines turning
and the Network on course. While in the job she set up procedures that made my return very easy (and contributed to the belief that maybe I should have stayed away!) She also found time this year to submit her own PhD thesis, again proving that she is better at this game than I am.

This meeting would not have run as smoothly as it has without the organisational skills of Angela Mason, who has done most of the preparation and bookings. I’m very pleased that Angela has been able to attend the meeting this year, and that you’ll get a chance to meet her face to face.

Finally, as always, I am grateful to each of you for your encouragement, generosity, and forbearance of my continual emails and requests for information. It really is a pleasure to be associated with such a great group of people.

John Gunders
## Financial Statements

### 2008 Forecast Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Non-academic Salaries</strong></td>
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<td>Administration Officer (F/T)</td>
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<td>Administration Officer (P/T)</td>
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<td>Centre Manager (10%)</td>
<td>$7,445</td>
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<td>Administration Officer (casual)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Shared Research Resources</strong></td>
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<td>Centrally Managed Events</td>
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<td>Travelling Fellowship Scheme</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bringing People Together</strong></td>
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<td>Network Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Management Committee Meetings</td>
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<td>Node Convenors Meeting</td>
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<td>Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Central Travel Budget</td>
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<td>Disbursement of Node Funding</td>
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<td>Institutional Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$380,700</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td>Network Office Maintenance</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$582,106</td>
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<td>Surplus/Deficit</td>
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<td><strong>Account Surplus/Deficit</strong></td>
<td>$201,473</td>
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### Forecast Summary

#### Income

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Institutional Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$302,750</strong></td>
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#### Expenditure

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<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
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<th>2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-academic Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared Research Resources</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bringing People Together</td>
<td>$331,500</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,804</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$494,023</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,567</strong></td>
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#### Surplus/Deficit

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficit</td>
<td>-$191,273</td>
<td>-$23,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry Forward</td>
<td>$214,686</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Account Surplus/Deficit</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,413</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$154</strong></td>
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</table>

Please note that the figures in this table are fairly speculative and provided for indicative purposes only. Salary costs are usually quite accurate, as is the amount we can expect from the ARC Funding Grant. Other line items are subject to considerable variation, but after four years we are seeing recurrent costs settling into predictable patterns and I don’t expect the final budget for 2009 will be significantly different to the summary provided here.

On the advice of the Management Committee I have included a $20,000 “strategic reserve” into the budget for 2009 (included here in the carry-forward for 2010) to allow a small carry-forward that will maintain the Project Officer position for two or three months in 2010 in order to wrap-up the administration of the Network.
Management Committee Reports

Due to a number of reasons, much of the Management Committee business was conducted via email during 2008. This meant that only two formal meetings were held, in March and July.

19 March 2008, The University of Queensland

In attendance were Graeme Turner, Elspeth Probyn, John Gunders, Kate Crawford, and Angela Mason. Chris Healy was contacted by telephone for the early part of the meeting, and Melissa Gregg was invited to report on plans for the 2009 ECR conference. Chris Gibson was on paternity leave.

The ECR group is organising a major conference for 2009 and Melissa Gregg was invited to report. The plan is for a three day conference dealing with issues of research and teaching, with a third day of engagement with the community. Keynote speakers would be sourced from with the CRN. The day three discussion would revolve around cultural research, and the way in which we articulate with special interest groups within the wider community. It is hoped that the media will be invited to cover the event. We are discussing ways in which the CRN Annual Meeting could be accommodated within the conference.

Membership applications were approved for Andrew Gorman-Murray, Kane Race, Jean Burgess, and Catherine Thill.

Project proposals were received from most nodes, and were discussed. There are several initiatives that will be advertised in the coming months.

It was decided that it should be advertised that CRN members are able to ask for funding to travel for one-on-one meetings with senior colleagues. This model will be advertised in the next Newsletter.

There was brief discussion about the conduct of the 2008 Annual Meeting. John reported that it will almost certainly have to be held in Melbourne, due to the Rugby League World Cup being held in Sydney and Brisbane. It was thought that if the meeting started slightly earlier than last year, we could have the node reports first, followed by broad discussion and networking. Day two should include a discussion of options following the end of the Network.

Day One
11:00am Node Reports
2:00pm Discussion and Networking in breakout rooms
5:00pm Function

Day Two
Business Meeting
“Where to Next?” roundtable

Groups who want to hold node or project meetings are to be invited to arrive on Sunday afternoon.

22 July 2008, The University of Queensland

In attendance were Kate Crawford, Chris Healy, Chris Gibson, Elspeth Probyn, Graeme Turner, John Gunders and Angela Mason.
There were questions about the future of network funding, but no information has been received, although it is assumed that the review run by Krishna Sen has been completed. Likewise, there is no news on the future of the Centres of Excellence program. Graeme chaired a review of the NCRIS program, and the signs there are positive.

John Gunders presented a financial report on the 2008 forecast and 2009 budget. The 2008 figures are showing as over budget, but this is not a problem considering the large carry-forward. It was noted that the only major area of budget flexibility for 2009 is in the node disbursement, and the financial situation in the nodes will need to be carefully monitored.

Approved Membership Nominations: Dr Michelle Duffy

There were project acquittals provided for the Morley & Brunsdon Tour; the Bobby Allen Tour; the GIS Workshop; the Doing Rural Cultural Studies workshop; the ANZCA travel Bursaries; and the Mobile Technologies workshop. Details are available on the CRN website.

There were several new proposals for activities presented, and the committee is currently working with the coordinators of these projects to clarify some of the details. These projects will be notified shortly.

There was also some discussion about planning for the 2008 Annual Meeting, and we will publish the programme in the next month or so.

The next Management Committee Meeting will be on 27 October, just before the AM.

**Node Reports**

**Cultural Histories and Geographies**

This has been a very active year for the Cultural Histories and Geographies Node, with a range of activities and forthcoming projects, as outlined below.

Administrative support for some Node activities has been provided by Kelly Butler and we are very grateful for her assistance.

---

Chris Gibson
Kate Darian-Smith

**Rural Cultural Research Program**

**Previous Events**

**GIS Workshop**

On March 18-19, the workshop "Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Cultural Research" was held at the University of Wollongong. Organised by Chris Gibson, Andrew Gorman-Murray and Kate Bowles (UOW), and with able assistance from Beth Herbert, the workshop attracted three visitors from the United States (Dr Sarah Elwood, University of Washington, Prof. Bobby Allen, UNC Chapel Hill, A/Prof. Jeff Klenotic, University of New Hampshire) and approx. 20 other academics and postgrads from around Australia. The workshop comprised keynote presentations by Dr. Elwood and A/Prof. Klenotic, and a roundtable discussion on innovation in cultural research, led by Dr Bowles, Prof. Allen and Prof. David Marshall (CRN, UOW), with Kate Darian-Smith (CRN).

In addition, a series of computer workshops was conducted in UOW's Spatial Analysis Laboratories on different applications of GIS technologies for cultural research. The event
dovetailed with another, "Innovation and interdisciplinarity in media history research", led by Kate Bowles and Prof. Allen, also at UOW (sponsored by the CRN's Media Histories Node). Discussions are underway about research outcomes spanning from the GIS workshop, including new research projects, integration of GIS into existing projects, and a possible book on GIS for Cultural Research.

**Cultural Amenity**
Kate Bowles attended the CRN mobile screens workshop in Adelaide organised by Susan Luckman. There is potential for a collaborative engagement between mobile screens and rural cultural research on the impact of mobile and digital networking on the everyday experience of cultural amenity in rural Australia, as well as the changing nature of rural employment. The history of cultural amenity is a really important part of this, as it is rarely understood that "universal service obligation", for example, has clear historical precedent in the rollout of twentieth century communications infrastructure.

As an outcome of this event, Kate Bowles proposes that the two groups meet after the CRN AGM to discuss collaboration. The groups will also hold a planning meeting in Wollongong in Nov/Dec 2008 with core industry and community partners, and, will work towards a research development workshop on Regional Cultural Futures in April 2009, involving major regional media and cultural stakeholders.

**Bega Community Research Audit**
Following the CRN workshop in Bega in 2007, Gordon Waitt and Kate Bowles have just secured a small amount of UOW funding to conduct an audit of research being carried out in the community, to assess the viability of building a community participatory research centre, which would potentially involve other universities. This pilot audit is an outcome of CRN investment in rural cultural research and community relationships in Bega, and we hope to be able to extend it to other areas.

**Four Winds Festival**
Also as a result of the CRN workshop, Gordon Waitt is now working with the Four Winds Festival (in association with Michelle Duffy, CRN, University of Melbourne) and Kate Bowles is working with the Bega-Littleton exchange committee, developing community-focused research projects.

**‘Doing Rural Cultural Studies’ Workshop**
The 'Doing Rural Cultural Studies' workshop, held at UNSW in March, was an extremely successful event that brought together ECRs and postgraduate students engaged in this growing research field. It provided an opportunity for an invited group of emerging scholars to develop their ideas, and some of the written results of this will appear in a themed issue of *Cultural Studies Review* in March 2010. In effect, the workshop created a cohort of rural researchers who will collaborate on future projects; the group hopes to meet again before the end of the year. The PG/ECR development node is committed to supporting academics from regional universities, as well as those at urban campuses: participants in this event came from Southern Cross University (Rob Garbutt, Terry Maybury, Kim Satchell), University of New England (Rae Dufty), University of Wollongong (Andrew Gorman-Murray), University of Tasmania (Michelle Gabriel), University of Western Australia (Kim Atherley), University of Melbourne (Michelle Duffy, Deb Anderson, Emily Potter), RMIT (Lisa Slater), University of Queensland (Melissa Gregg), and UNSW (Clifton Evers).

**"Who Do You Serve?: Early Career Researcher CRN Rural and Regional Cultural Studies Workshop.**
Convened by Emily Potter, Clifton Evers and Andrew Gorman-Murray and organised by Alison Huber, this workshop was held on Friday 17 October 2008 at the University of Melbourne, and focused on a highly charged aspect of the process and outcome of rural cultural research: the ethical question of ‘who do you serve?’ Ross Gibson joined us to participate in the day’s debates and share his expertise. A range of issues relating to the ethics of rural cultural research were discussed by participants, which included Deb Anderson, Kim Atherley, Chris Brennan-Horley, Michelle Duffy, Clifton Evers, Rob Garbutt,
Ross Gibson, Brenda Glover, Andrew Gorman-Murray, Tanya King, Emily Potter, Kim Satchell, Lisa Slater.

Publications
A special issue of *Australian Humanities Review* on Rural Cultural Research will be published in November. It has been co-edited by Kate Darian-Smith, David Carter and Andrew Gorman-Murray, with a number of essays which include those by Kate Bowles (on collaborative rural research); Kate Darian-Smith, Andrew Gorman-Murray and Chris Gibson (on scale the rural); and Deb Anderson (a PhD student with Kate Darian-Smith) on narratives of endurance and drought.

Forthcoming Events 2008-2009

Making Do
Susan Luckman and Kate Bowles are developing a project on the processes and practices of 'making-do' in rural communities and this will be developed further in 2009.

Music Festivals and Social Impact Workshop
Michelle Duffy has organised a workshop to bring together CRN members (Kate Darian-Smith, Gordon Waitt), University of Melbourne researchers (Sarah Wilson, Neil McLachlan, Dean Lusher – all School of Behavioural Sciences) and industry partners (Baw Baw Shire, Bega Valley Shire, musical festival coordinators) to build on and develop research models to determine the social impact of musical festivals on rural communities. The even will take place on 14 November in Warragul, further discussions are being planned with industry partners with the aim of submitting an ARC Linkage project on rural festivals and social impact during 2009.

Grants
Members of the Rural Cultural Research Group were part of the research teams on three successful ARC Discovery grants in the 2008 (for 2009) round.

DP0984223 Dr CA Driscoll; Dr K Bowles; Prof K Darian-Smith; A/Prof CR Gibson; Dr D Nichols; A/Prof G Waitt
*Cultural sustainability in Australian country towns: amenity, mobility, and everyday life*

DP0986041 A/Prof G Waitt; A/Prof CR Gibson; Dr NJ Gill; Prof LM Head
*Making less space for carbon: cultural research for climate change mitigation and adaptation*

DP0986666 Dr AW Gorman-Murray
*Men on the home front: spatialities of domesticity and masculinity*

Details of these and other successful grants can be found on page 33.

Naturecultures
The Naturecultures group have continued their productive research collaborations in 2008. A writing workshop was held in May at the University of Melbourne that brought members of the NC group (Gay Hawkins, Stephen Muecke, Zoe Sofoulis and Emily Potter) together with four postgraduate students to workshop papers presented at the 2007 CSAA conference. The day enabled these papers to be developed for publication in a special issue of *Australian Humanities Review* on the theme of Naturecultures that will be guest edited by Emily and Gay (July 2009).

In June, Emily Potter and Stephen Muecke presented papers at the 'Creating Value' conference in Brisbane. This was an opportunity for them to develop and present material related to their book in progress, *Culture Lab*. This book explores the experimental methods and practices in the humanities that are enabled by natureculture thinking. Emily and Stephen will continue their collaboration on this book in 2009.
In September, Zoe Sofoulis, Stephen Muecke and Emily Potter presented a Naturecultures panel in the School of Writing and Cultural Studies at UTS. This was followed by a further seminar panel presented by Zoe, Gay and Emily in the Department of Gender Studies at the University of Sydney in October. These were opportunities for members of the group to consolidate recent research, and continue to explore further different and complimentary facets of natureculture theory in dialogue with an interested audience.

In November 2008, Gay Hawkins and Kay Anderson are convening a workshop with visiting cultural geographer Professor Sarah Whatmore on ‘more-than-human methods’. Other Naturecultures members will participate in the two day workshop, as well as invited CRN members and other scholars. This workshop has a central ECR and postgraduate component, with four postgrads from Melbourne University chairing an afternoon session that will explore methodological issues that have arisen in the process of writing their theses.

**Cultural Memory and Narrative Group**

**Planning meetings**
Various discussions were held this year involving Kate Darian-Smith, Chris Healy, Paula Hamilton, Sue Turnbull, and others, and more are planned for the remainder of 2008 about holding events in 2009 in the area of memory and media – including memories of television. This marks the start of a potential collaboration between this Node and the Media Histories Node.

**ECR Workshop**
This event emerges out of the ECR/postgrad masterclass with Dr Susannah Radstone held in late 2007 and aims to build on the desire of participants for a more focused discussion on possibilities of interdisciplinary memory research. Planning is underway for an interdisciplinary ECR and postgraduate workshop focused on exploring future directions in memory research, to be organised by postgraduate Kelly Butler (University of Melbourne) with support from Kate Darian-Smith.

**Cultural Identities and Communities**

There were three main activities in the I&C Node this year. At the beginning of the year was a mega-event: the visit by Professor David Morley (Goldsmiths, UL) and Professor Charlotte Brunsdon (Warwick) in February. For David Morley, this involved a Masterclass and seminar at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney, and a public lecture at the University of Melbourne. Charlotte Brunsdon gave a Masterclass – in ‘Television in Transition’ – at the CCCS University of Queensland, and a seminar at the CCR, UWS. The visit was a great success. Morley’s Masterclass – ‘Mediations: Demographies, Geographies and Technologies’ – at the CCR was well attended and received glowing feedback from the students. The joint seminar at the CCR had one of the largest attendances in our seminar series.

In March, Professor John Eade (Roehampton) returned to the CCR, UWS, following his participation in the ‘Superdiversity’ symposium in 2006. This visit included a workshop on ‘Researching Transnationality’ for scholars on current research in transnationality. This event piggybacked on a separate, CCR-organised stay involving the development a proposal for an ESRC/ARC research grant on transnationality and professionals with Greg Noble.

The third activity (jointly funded with CH&G node) involves two events on The Ethics of Consumption organised by Tania Lewis, Emily Potter and Elspeth Probyn. These invitation-only events focus upon the rise of green consumerism and the attachment of specific ethical values to consumer behaviours. They consist of a closed local workshop that brings together the domestic contributors to the edited collection to workshop papers (late 2008), followed by a larger workshop (August 2009) that will bring international contributors together with local participants for finalising of the collection and development of future research projects.
A fourth event – the Publics and Communities workshop (Noble and Hawkins) – has been held over to 2009 due to problems of workload, time and pregnancy. Another activity – the visit by Profess Don Ihde as part of the Container Technologies proposal (Sofoulis et al., jointly funded with CT node) – has also been held over to 2009 because of health problems.

Greg Noble

Cultural Literacies

The major program of activities for 2008 has been under the Listening Project, coordinated by Tanja Dreher, Justine Lloyd and Penny O'Donnell and administered by Project Officer, Cate Thill. Details of other projects follow.

The Listening Project

The Listening Project is centred on ‘listening’ as a way of reframing debates in Media and Cultural Studies around media practices and interventions. The Project situates established and emerging Australian researchers within an increasing international focus on the practices, politics and ethics of listening. The Project convenors have drawn on their own expertise and ongoing research both to link with other scholars and establish a research agenda that engages scholarly research on these issues with practitioners in the field.

The Project has had an very active program for 2008, with five workshops on substantial sub-themes of Listening and a further ‘publication’ workshop in November:

**Workshop One:** The Media, Multiculturalism and the Politics of Listening workshop was an extremely successful event in April 2008 that brought together media practitioners and community activists as well as established, ECR and postgraduate scholars working across this emerging field. Dr Tanja Dreher (CRN, UTS) and Prof. Gay Hawkins (CRN, UNSW) convened the workshop, which attracted CRN members (Mark Gibson, Justine Lloyd, Greg Noble and Catherine Thill), participants from SBS (including Amrita Cheema, presenter of World News Australia), the Auburn Poets and Writers Group (Alissar Chidiac), Information & Cultural Exchange (Lena Nahlous) and academics across the fields of media, communications, journalism and multiculturalism.

The innovative format of the workshop was particularly effective in opening a space for engagement between the diverse interests of participants involved. Prior to the workshop, the conveners circulated readings and a booklet that included framing questions for the discussion. Instead of beginning the workshop with a discussion of how individual people’s research projects fitted with the workshop themes all participants were asked to prepare a two-to-three minute response to the framing questions. This enabled practitioners and researchers alike to participate.

Additionally, the workshop was an opportunity for the project conveners—Tanja Dreher, Justine Lloyd and Penny O’Donnell—to begin a dialogue with CRN members and others interested in working across multiple strands of the Listening Project. The result is a shared research agenda that is being further developed through both the planning stage and discussion within subsequent workshops. One of the initial outcomes of this workshop has been ongoing collaboration with Alissar Chidiac as part of Tanja Dreher’s Listening Across Difference project (which has resulted in an UTS ECR grant application, supported by Stephen Muecke, Gay Hawkins and Graeme Turner as nominated advisers).

**Workshop Two:** The Technologies of Listening workshop was convened by Dr Justine Lloyd (CRN, Macquarie) and A/Prof. Kate Crawford (CRN, UNSW) at the end of July 2008 at the University of Technology, Sydney. It incorporated sound artists Alex Davies, Caleb Kelly and Pierre Proske, as well as academics working across the fields of technologies, new media and cultural histories. As part of both the CRN-sponsored Listening Project and Jonathan Sterne Speaking Tour, the workshop featured papers by A/Prof. Jonathan Sterne, Dr David
Goodman and Dr Ingrid Richardson (CRN, Murdoch) with response from Dr Zoë Sofoulis (CRN, Western Sydney), Dr John Tebbutt (CRN, La Trobe), Dr Jean Burgess (CRN, QUT) and Prof. Stephen Muecke (CRN, UTS).

The crossover between the workshop and the Jonathan Sterne Speaking Tour meant that broad areas of shared research interest elaborated during the workshop could be further developed in other contexts such as the highly productive and intellectually generous ‘Open Door Days’ convened by Kate Crawford and held by Jonathan Sterne in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. In addition, the workshop format of distributing papers and framing questions beforehand was again very effective in generating sustained and engaged discussion throughout the daylong event.

Papers and compositions from workshop participants will be published in a special edition of the Transforming Cultures eJournal in 2009.

Workshop Three: The Conflict, Democracy and Listening workshop, on 26 September 2008, was convened by Dr Mark Gibson (CRN, Monash) and held in partnership with the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum. It involved John Kean, Caroline Martin and Elizabeth Suda from the Museum; CRN members Kate Crawford, Tanja Dreher, Justine Lloyd and John Tebbutt; Program Convenor Penny O’Donnell; and a number of other participants (Anne Barnes – UNSW, Clare Coburn – Latrobe, David Goodman – Melbourne, Lisa Gunders – UQ, Amelia Johns – VU, Aneta Podkalicka – Swinburne, Andrea Witcomb – Deakin and Dugald Williamson – UNE).

The workshop followed a similar open format to Workshop 1, with contributors responding to a set of prepared questions and readings. This again proved successful, with valuable cross-disciplinary exchanges between cultural studies, history, conflict resolution theory and museology, as well as between scholarly and practitioner perspectives.

Workshop Four: The Disability, Democracy, Media and Listening workshop was convened by Prof Gerard Goggin (CRN, UNSW) and Rosemary Kayess (UNSW) and held on 10 October 2008 at the University of New South Wales. A full report on the workshop is still to be received, but by all accounts it was another highly successful even.

Workshop Five: The Listening Practices workshop was convened by Dr Penny O’Donnell (Sydney) and Dr Juan Salazar (UWS) and held on 17 October 2008. At the time of writing, a report on the workshop is still to be received.

Workshop Six: A final Publications workshop, convened by Dr Tanja Dreher, Dr Justine Lloyd and Dr Penny O’Donnell, is to be held on 14 November at the University of Technology, Sydney. An introductory morning session will focus on overall themes, style and process for publication from the Listening Project. An afternoon session will pair senior researchers with ECRs, and ECR contributions will be circulated for feedback and editing which will be discussed in a collegial setting. This will further enhance the quality of ECR participation, and allow for a supportive environment for research training and development based on a practical outcome.

Multiliteracies

2008 also saw a continuation of the Multiliteracies project. A workshop The Space Between: Languages Translations and Cultures was held on 11 February 2008 at the University of Melbourne, following on from discussions initiated at a workshop on Multiliteracies held in June 2006 and two Roundtable discussions in December 2007 at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Participants were from the University of Technology, Sydney and the University of Melbourne and included a number of CRN members. The Program appears below.

The outcomes of the workshop included: extension of the network of scholars interested in the exploration of multiliteracies, career planning and mentoring for early career researchers,
plans for a special issue on ‘The Space Between: Languages, Cultures and Translations’ for the journal PORTAL: Multidisciplinary Journal of International Studies, ongoing discussions on future collaborations.

**The Space Between: Languages, Translations and Cultures Workshop Program**

Monday 11th February 2008
Jessie Webb Library
University of Melbourne

10.00 ~10.15 Welcome & Coffee

10.15 ~ 11.15 Panel One
Chair: Vera Mackie, Melbourne
Angela Giovanangeli, UTS: ‘Universal’ space – the desires and the realities of the French language.
Emi Otsuji, UTS: Performing third culture and identities
Commentator: Jacqueline Dutton, Melbourne

11.15~11.30 Break

11.30~12.30 Panel Two
Chair: Heather Benbow, Melbourne
Elena Sheldon, UTS: Identity construction through linguistic performance: first and second language
Ikuko Nakane, Melbourne: Pragmatic equivalence and interpreter identity in police interviews
Commentator: Jun Ohashi, Melbourne

12.30~1.30 Lunch

1.30~2.30 Career Planning for Early Career Researchers (Discussion facilitated by Vera Mackie, Melbourne)

2.30~2.45 Break

2.45~3.45 Future Collaborations (Discussion facilitated by Stephanie Donald, UTS)

**Cyermoholla**

This project featuring Shveta Sarda and Priya Sen from the internationally recognised Sarai collective, was planned for mid 2008, but has now been postponed to early in 2009. It may also now be incorporated as an event within the Listening Program.

**Digital Literacy**

There were no funded activities of this project in 2008, but is worth noting an outcome from the symposium held at Queensland University of Technology in March 2007: Kelly McWilliam, John Hartley and Mark Gibson (eds.) ‘Digital Literacies’, Special Issue of Media International Australia No.128, August 2008.

Mark Gibson
**Cultural Technologies**

**Internet Histories II: Asia-Pacific**

‘Internet Histories II: Asia-Pacific’ was a one-day workshop, part of a two-day event organised in conjunction with the 'Media Histories' node, and held in Perth. 'WA Media Histories' was held on Friday 13 June, and 'Internet II' followed on Saturday 14 June 2008.


‘Internet Histories II’ received excellent feedback from participants and strong interest from a range of researchers nationally and internationally unable to attend. We felt that the event served its purpose of discussing the state of the art in this important area of cultural research. It was especially useful to have a substantial international perspective provided by the distinguished Korean Internet and mobiles scholar, Professor Shin Dong Kim (Hallym), as well as Japan-based Internet history scholar, Dr Leslie M.Tkach-Kawasaki (Tsukuba). In addition to participants, we were delighted that CRN member Associate Professor Wanning Sun (Curtin) attended, and reported her view that the workshop was very worthwhile.

The area of Internet histories is an especially underdeveloped area of Internet and cultural technologies research internationally, and this Internet Histories II research confirmed the sense that: 1) Australia is notable in having a number of scholars already completed or undertaking substantial cutting-edge work; 2) Australian cultural researchers being uniquely placed to offer perspectives on how Internet histories are understood internationally, and especially how Australian Internet histories fit into the Asia-Pacific region; 3) that cultural research around Internet histories has much to add to general public discussions of Internet, its policy, and development as well as how innovative methods and technologies from the Internet can be used in the next wave of (digital) humanities work; 4) that cultural researchers in this area are well-placed to enter into discussions with cultural and collecting institutions (National Library; various archives) about what materials should be collected and curated, and the forms this could take (especially with networked technologies).

Concrete outcomes from the workshop envisaged and well on the way to being achieved are:

Publication: We are now finalizing a book proposal on *Internet Histories* to send to Routledge (who are interested) so we hope to have such a collection contracted by end of 2008, and published by the end of 2009.

National competitive grants: Goggin & McLelland will submit a large ARC Discovery grant on Australian and Asia-Pacific Internet histories in the March 2009 round. Planning has also commenced for further workshops to develop a Linkage project, with other Internet Histories participants, the Academy of Humanities, and cultural and collecting institutions.

Internet histories and implications for cultural and collection institutions: We would like to continue to collaborate more purposefully across the Media Histories and Cultural Technologies Nodes especially, for instance, in the engagement of cultural and collecting institutions, like galleries, museums, and libraries. Here we are planning a workshop in the second half of 2009, to be held in Canberra, seeking participation from the National Library, National Museum, interested state libraries and museums, National Film and Sound Archive, CRN members, and other researchers.

**James Katz masterclass and visit**

This project sought to develop cultural research on mobile, wireless, and digital technologies through a series of masterclasses and public lectures from the leading mobiles scholar today, Professor James Katz, Rutgers University.
The visit included:

- Sydney masterclass and public lecture, hosted by the Centre for Social Research in Journalism and Communication, University of NSW, Sydney, on 4th and 5th June 2008
- Brisbane seminar, hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (held 6th June 2008).

The aims of the project were:

- to hear about and discuss the most recent developments in mobiles and wireless research from an acknowledged expert in the field;
- to provide an opportunity for Australian doctoral and early career researchers to receive feedback and advice on their work;
- to build links between Australian cultural researchers and their work, and international mobiles and wireless researchers.

The project related directly to the CRN Mobiles Screens working group activities. Overall the project was quite successful. The Sydney masterclass especially was a great success: it attracted a wide range of PhD, ECR and even senior researchers in mobiles, many of whom had not previously met each other, nor had access to any conference on mobiles research let alone advanced training. There was an excellent exchange between Katz and the Australian researchers present, which is likely to lead to further connections. The public lecture the following day was also a successful event, which drew in a wider audience of researchers, as well as attendees from industries and community.

Following the Sydney event, Professor Katz gave a generally well-received Brisbane seminar, hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries—which provided an opportunity for Brisbane-based mobiles researchers, including a number of CRN members, to hear from and interact with Katz.

Overall, the outcomes of the project were well realized—offering CRN members and other cultural researchers direct access and dialogue with someone who is a leader in the field and very much put Australian research on the agenda internationally, especially that being undertaken by emerging researchers, confirming its quality, originality and importance. It also underscored that the potential for the Australian contribution to the field to be one that is distinguished by being located in innovative cultural research.

This will be registered in a publication outcome from the project, namely that Professor Katz will author an Afterword to a special “Placing Mobile Communication” special issue of the Australian Journal of Communication (to which a number of the Masterclass participants will be contributing). This will be a capstone to an important collection of papers on the state-of-art of mobiles research in Australia and New Zealand. Though the planning for this special issue was well-advanced, the Katz project catalysed the volume significantly, spurring interest and contributions, and also, with Katz’s contribution, ensuring it will be a timely consideration of research agenda. (The special issue will also include a contribution from Dr Susan Luckman, the CRN “Mobile Screens” working group convenor).

Gerard Goggin

Jonathan Sterne tour

Professor Sterne toured Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in July /August of 2008. There were three key events:

1. Keynote speaker at the ‘Technologies of Listening’ day in Sydney (held at UTS) on July 31
2. Presented a seminar on ‘Format Theory’ at the University of Melbourne on August 7
3. Presented a seminar on 'The Historical Emergence of Perceptual Coding' at the University of Queensland, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies.

In addition, Prof Sterne participated in three 'Open Door Days':
University of New South Wales (August 4)
University of Melbourne (August 8th)
University of Queensland (August 12).

These days were designed to maximise his engagement with ECRs and postgraduates, allocating 30-50 minute sessions for one-on-one mentoring, critical reading of ECR work, and career advice.

The tour was an overwhelming success. It was the first time Prof Sterne had been in Australia, and we were pleased by the strong level of interest in his work. The events brought together a wide range of interested researchers from the disciplines of cultural studies, media studies, history, musicology, physics, sound engineering and philosophy. In summary:

a) The one-day Technologies of Listening workshop, undertaken in conjunction with The Listening Project, drew on Sterne’s work and he became a focal point for the day. The workshop was fully booked, and it will now result in a dedicated special issue with articles confirmed from Jonathan Sterne, Zoe Sofoulis, Stephen Muecke, Ingrid Richardson, Jean Burgess, Kate Crawford and Justine Lloyd.

b) The seminars at the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland were well attended, and generated many cross-disciplinary discussions. For example, the seminar at the University of Melbourne was held in a large room that was at full capacity, and featured many Australian researchers including Sean Cubitt, Chris Healy, Ros Brandt (composer), and many ECRs and postgrads.

c) Another important outcome from the tour was the strong response generated by the Open Door Days. In total, 22 people met with Prof Sterne in Open Door sessions, and the feedback was unanimously enthusiastic. Of that group, 18 were ECRs or postgrads, others were more senior academics. Several sent in chapters or papers for Prof Sterne to read before the appointment, and he (somewhat remarkably!) read and annotated them all. For early career researchers, the dedicated and focused attention that he gave their work was invaluable.

Kate Crawford

Mobile Screens (formerly Mobile and Wireless Working Group)

June 12 MOBILE SCREENS (Working Group) WORKSHOP(with a focus on remote, rural and regional digital mobility), UniSA (Susan Luckman)

This workshop brought together people from the academy, government and industry to discuss some of the key research problems facing us in terms of mobile phone and wireless use and access, especially, in a large sparsely populated country such as Australia, beyond built-up urban centres. A number of issues were considered including the effect of infrastructure (or the lack of it) on access and opportunity; current best practice using mobile and wireless technology in remote, rural and regional areas; and a consideration of how physical proximity to other people and the presence of absence of personal space impacts upon screen cultures

July 10 and 11, MOBILE SCREENS Haptic technologies WORKSHOP, RMIT (Larissa Hjorth and Ingrid Richardson)

This 2 day workshop was a considerable success generating much interest in the area and a number of ongoing projects (see under outcomes/indicators). The working group will be setting up a blog to create a taxonomy or repository for projects and research. This part of the network/WG has been named G.L.A.M.M. (Games, Location, Art & Mobile Media) and one of
the aims will be to investigate 'communities, practices and contexts' within three areas/platforms: 1. domestic, 2. institutional, 3. art.

This two-day workshop aimed to stimulate discussion, debate and research into the burgeoning area of mobile gaming, with a particular focus on extending discourses around 'screen cultures' into the realm of the haptic. In particular, the project sought to counter the notion that our experience of screens (and digital media more generally), is largely ‘virtual’ and disembodied – or at most exclusively audiovisual. From location-aware gaming (using GPS) to casual games accessed on the mobile phone, the realm of mobile gaming is becoming increasingly prevalent in contemporary culture. Mobile gaming highlights the ongoing importance of the local, the contextual and the embodied in determining definitions of mobility, play and place.

With these issues in mind, the workshop—The game of being mobile—brought together Australian experts (researchers, educators and practitioners) in mobile gaming and mobile media to discuss past, present and future outcomes for the convergent role of mobile technologies and game cultures as part of socio-cultural practices. In particular, the workshop aimed to combine philosophical, new media and ethnographic approaches as a means of critically interpreting the growing correlation between mobile gaming and emerging haptic screen cultures.

The itinerary of Day 1 ran according to plan, with welcome and introductions in the morning (where participants were asked to speak about their current research interests and how they correlated with the workshop themes). Following lunch, participants divided into smaller groups to discuss specific themes, and then reconvened to report back. This format was very successful and generated animated discussion and debate.

On Day 2, rather than return to small group discussion around set themes, we instead asked each participant to propose a project or publication idea. This allowed everyone to consider potential synergies and collaborations, which 'set the scene' for the afternoon session (discussion of publication, project and grant proposal outcomes and possibilities).

Overall, the workshop both fulfilled and exceeded our aims; from the workshop we have generated a research group, GLAMM (Games, Location, Art & Mobile Media), and (thanks to Ian McColl) have set up a blog (http://blog.glamm.org/) through which to create a taxonomy or repository for projects and research into mobile gaming (see below for more details).

Having participated in a several workshops, we agreed that usually the paper driven presentation format operates to create more structured dialogue. However, we tightly organised the itinerary around specific themes breaking the workshop into small groups and then reconvening. This format helped provide contexts for different character types to have a chance to speak, and for individuals to explore their specific interests. We used the first morning for long introductions; this is essential when dealing with an interdisciplinary group of researchers, theorists, educators and artists. This provided a space to interrogate different deployments of words and frames of reference. Moreover, participants were asked to expand upon their current research and how it intersected with the workshop’s themes.

The usage of small themed groups worked well.

One of the activities that demanded the most strenuous chairing and leadership on the behalf of the organisers was in the last session of day 2, organising future directions and initiating working parties. We felt it was crucial to confirm participation for future projects, as it was unlikely we would all meet face-to-face again. This process also divides the talkers from the doers, and eventually we locked people into future projects via small working parties. It was also important for the longevity of this project to ensure people were given clear job responsibilities that did not overburden them (especially these days where everyone is increasingly time poor).
Outcomes/Performance Indicators

Out of the two initial Mobile Screens workshops this year, a number of trajectories/projects emerging. Eventually these will form their own project teams and will approach the node directly for event funding. At the June event, there was a lot of interest in the idea of 'work-arounds', and both the longer term discussions focus around this notion, albeit in different ways:

One outgrowth from this is a focus on youth practices of making do and/or innovating and that discussion will continue among Larissa Hjorth, Ingrid Richardson, Mel Gregg, Susan Luckman and Julia de Roeper (and anyone else who is interested). A meeting of this group is planned for the morning of October 29 at RMIT.

The other outgrowth from this was an interest in rural/remote/regional 'making dos', especially in the absence of decent national broadband and mobile phone infrastructure. So this dialogue will also continue between Kate Bowles, Mel Gregg, Susan Luckman, Rob Morsillo, Sarah Wilson and Chris Gilbey (and, again, anyone else who is interested). This group will be meeting at the CRN AGM to plan future activities, including a grant application.

From the haptic workshop in July, 4 GLAMM working parties been formed:


3. Community, digital storytelling and sustainability: Location games in Avoca project (building mobile games that reflect the particular community experience of this rural setting. This is project aims to create a community-driven location game that resonates within the communities experiences and histories. Working party: Jen Lade and Helen Stuckey

4a. Educagames: A case study of University orientation location games: setting up a template/taxonomy of location aware games to help students build knowledges of the specific place and people. This project will also result in an Australian comparison of the games played at university and the different interpretations and outcomes. Working party: Chris Chesher, Deb Polson and Larissa Hjorth.

4b. M-learning and G-learning: the role of games in secondarily and primary education and sustaining creative and active methods of these socio-technologies. WP: ANAT, Fee Plumley.

The Database of Australian Researchers of Mobile and Wireless Media is now online at: http://www.uq.edu.au/crn/screens/researchers.html

Only 6 people are presently included as we’re still awaiting completed forms from quite a few researchers. If you or someone you know of should be here and isn’t please contact susan.luckman@unisa.edu.au. Time is of the essence as among other things, this database will form the basis of an article: 'The Mobile Screens Research Agenda in Australia and New Zealand', in an upcoming edition of the *Australian Journal of Communication*.

Susan Luckman

Forthcoming and new projects supported by the Cultural Technologies node in late 2008 and 2009

‘Online news, interactivity and participation’
(co-ordinators: Gerard Goggin and Terry Flew; funded to be requested)
UNSW, Sydney 8th December 2008

What is the state of art of research on online news and journalism, and its cultural, social and political implications? Bringing together leading European researchers (through COST 298)
with their Australian counterparts, this workshop will offer an opportunity to hear about the latest, comparative research on online news, and to discuss issues, concepts, and \( \text{Online@Asia-Pacific} \) approaches -- and to identify possibilities for research collaboration.

\( \text{(co-ordinator: Larissa Hjorth)} \)

A workshop about online communities and networks in the region

RMIT University, Melbourne

10th December 2008

What does it mean to think about the Asia-Pacific region in terms of online communities and networks? How is Web 2.0 demonstrating new regionally-specific forms of media literacy, creativity, intimacy and labour? And how do these phenomena provide us with new insights into our region in the 21st century?

Comprising of a one-day workshop, Online@Asia-Pacific will draw from the growing pool of media scholars in Australia who are exploring Australia’s links within the region. The project aims to stimulate discussion, debate and research into the burgeoning area of online communities in the Asia-Pacific. This workshop will be followed by a European Union cofunded CRN/COST 298 one-day workshop Participation in the broadband society: emerging modes of digital storytelling, interactivity and being online. The Participation in the broadband society introduces ICT and Internet experts from Europe and the UK to Australia’s Asia-Pacific researchers.

\( \text{Participation in the broadband society: emerging modes of digital storytelling, interactivity and being online} \)

(\( \text{Co-ordinator: Larissa Hjorth} \))

RMIT University, Melbourne (Australia)

11th December 2008

What does it mean to speak of “participation in the broadband society”? What parallels and divergences can be drawn between broadband issues in Australia and those of the Asia-Pacific and Europe? How can Australian researchers learn from the European models? In turn, how do the unique challenges faced by Australia’s participation in the broadband society within the context of the Asia-Pacific region provide insight for European researchers?

This one-day workshop will address theories and methodologies for conceptualising “participation” in the far-from-even global phenomenon of the broadband society, as well as fostering international relationships and synergies between the Australian research community and the EU-sponsored COST 298. COST 298 brings together Europe’s leading ICT and Internet experts to explore the challenges and possibilities of “participation in the broadband society.” In particular, this workshop provides an international platform for Australia’s significant cohort of new media and cultural studies experts to create and develop international collaborations around the notion of engaging in the broadband society.

‘Mobile Methods’

(\( \text{co-ordinators: Kate Crawford and Gerard Goggin; funding to be requested} \))

30 April, 2009

UNSW, Sydney

This activity is a one-day workshop on methods, concepts and agenda for mobiles cultural research. To be held at the University of New South Wales, it will draw together leading Australian mobiles researchers, with key industry, regulatory, and government stakeholders, to focus upon:

- discussion and debate of methods being used for current large mobile research projects in Australia
- innovative methods and approaches in other Australian and international work
- identifying gaps in mobiles research agenda in Australia
- identification of possible future mobiles and cultural technology projects
• the intersection between cultural research and other kinds of research around mobiles.
• exploration of how to strengthen international links, networks and research partnerships in mobiles to mount large-team, large-scale mobiles projects.

The workshop will also feature two international participants, Dr Genevieve Bell (Intel, t.b.c.) and Professor Christian Licoppe (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications) (t.b.c.)

'Listening' project Cultural Technology node to contribute funds, as agreed

'Internet Histories, Cultural Research, and the Implications for Archives and Collections' (co-ordinators: Gerard Goggin, Mark McLelland and Sam Hinton, UC) Canberra, September 2009

**Media Histories**

*Australian Media History database*

http://www.amhd.org.au

My research assistant, Liz Gould, and I periodically created new and updated content for the site, which was uploaded by John (and Lisa) Gunders. A flyer about the database was distributed at the Australian Media Traditions Conference in November 2007. The database continues to be promoted via Australian and international listservs, and my own personal contacts.

By October 2008, 129 researchers undertaking work in the field had entered details of 105 projects currently underway. In early 2008 and in October 2008 these researchers were contacted and invited to update their entries.

With the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University, Liz Gould has now begun compiling a bibliography of internationally published work about the Australian media.

*Australian Media History listserv*

http://listserv.mq.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/amhlist

The listserv continues to be hosted by Macquarie University, with me as moderator. By October 2008 it had 136 subscribers.

*Program for Australian Television History (PATH)*


Following a meeting of interested researchers at the CRN AGM in October 2007, the Program for Australian Television History (PATH) page on the CRN website was updated to include a list of related projects currently being undertaken by CRN members. Future activities and directions for PATH will be discussed at the Television and the National Conference in Melbourne on 19-21 November 2008.

*Australian Media Traditions Conference*


This conference, with the theme Distance and Diversity: Reaching New Audiences, was held at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, on 22-23 November 2007. The Node advertised two subsidies of $750 each to allow two ECRs/postgraduate students to present a paper at the conference. With a fellow judge, I decided to award the subsidies to:
• Jeannine Baker (PhD student, University of Melbourne): “All the glamour of the East”: The *Australian Women’s Weekly* and the AIF in Malaya, 1941.
• Heather Stewart (postgraduate student and ECR, University of Queensland): “The more things change ...”.

This subsidy initiative was supported by the Early Career Researchers and Postgraduates Node.

**Visit by Professor Robert C. Allen**

Professor Robert C. Allen (University of Carolina, Chapel Hill) gave two public lectures on the topic “‘Going to the Show’: Representing the Spatio-temporality of Film History”: the first at the University of Queensland on 11 March, the second at the State Library of NSW on 13 March. Both were warmly received. The lecture was digitally recorded and will be podcast on the website of the Centre for Media History, Macquarie University: www.humanities.mq.edu.au/cmh

On 14 March Professor Allen led a two hour workshop on historical research for 15 postgraduates and ECRs at Macquarie University. He then travelled to the University of Wollongong to give the closing presentation to the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop, and lead the Media History ECR/PG workshop.

Professor Jeffrey Klenotic (University of New Hampshire) gave a presentation on his experiences using GIS to map the social history of cinema-going in New Hampshire since the turn of the twentieth century. Professor Allen then joined the closing session of the workshop as the lead presenter in a roundtable discussion on the nature of innovation and interdisciplinarity in media history, chaired by Professor David Marshall (CRN, UOW).

The following day, Professors Allen and Klenotic led a very successful workshop on new research methods emerging in the field of media history, attended by 20 ECRs and PGs from UOW and the wider CRN network. The day’s discussion focused on the practical issues involved in achieving collaborative interdisciplinary work in the field of media history, and in the afternoon included contributions from media historians Professor Richard Maltby (Flinders University) and Professor Jill Matthews (ANU).

**Western Australian Media Histories workshop, Perth**

Professor Gerard Goggin and Dr Mark McClelland from the Cultural Technologies Node joined with the Media Histories Node to organise a two-day workshop in Perth on Friday 13- Saturday 14 June 2008. Day 1, ‘Western Australian Media Histories’, was designed to explore the current state of play of, and future directions for, researching the history of the media in Western Australia. It aimed to bring together scholars and media practitioners interested in the history of the media in Western Australia, and solicited offers of papers on all aspects of Western Australian media history, with an emphasis on the news media rather than on film. Day 2 was devoted to ‘Internet histories in the Asia-Pacific’.

The Call for Papers for Day 1 solicited offers on a diverse range of topics. Papers ranging from the nineteenth century Fremantle *Herald*, to Paul Hasluck’s journalistic career and WA’s role in the Australian television market, were accepted. Speakers at the workshop were Dr Rod Kirkpatrick, Professor Bob Reece, Dr Leigh Edmonds, Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Professor Richard Nile (CRN member), Professor Tom O’Regan (CRN member) and myself. Regrettably, Professor Brian Shoesmith was a late withdrawal due to illness. However, he attended the workshop, along with Dr Scott Fitzgerald, Andrew Gill and Associate Professor Gail Phillips.

**Histories of Australian Media Reception: A Colloquium**

With colleagues from the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University, Dr Michelle Arrow and Associate Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, I convened Histories of Australian Media Reception: A Colloquium, at the State Library of New South Wales on 26 September
2008. The call for papers, which was widely distributed, yielded an abundance of quality offers. Unfortunately only nine could be accepted for the day. A selection of papers will appear in the May 2009 issue of *Media International Australia*.

Twenty-one scholars, including the three convenors, attended the invitation-only event. The Media Histories Node paid for the participation of nine CRN members: Associate Professor Frances Bonner, Dr Kate Bowles, Professor Kate Darian-Smith, Associate Professor Paula Hamilton, Dr Meredith Jones, Professor Catharine Lumby, Professor Tom O'Regan, Associate Professor Sue Turnbull and myself.

The Node advertised two subsidies of $750 each for two ECRs/postgraduate students to present a paper at the conference. Liz Gould, a PhD candidate at Macquarie University who lives in Canberra, was awarded a subsidy to present 'Beyond media “platforms”? Talkback, radio, technology and audience'. Margaret Van Heekeren, a fractional lecturer at Charles Sturt University and PhD candidate at Macquarie University, was awarded one night’s accommodation in Sydney to attend the event.

**Remapping Cinema: Remaking History Conference**

The Film & History Association of Australia and New Zealand Conference, with the theme of *Remapping Cinema: Remaking History*, is being held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, on 27-30 November 2008. The Node advertised two subsidies, each worth $1,250, to two Australian postgraduate students, or Early Career Researchers, presenting a paper at the conference.

Fourteen applications were received. Due to the volume and quality of the applications, Dr Kate Bowles and I decided, with Professor Graeme Turner’s concurrence, to award four subsidies:

- Stephanie Hanson (PhD candidate, University of Wollongong): ‘“Electrical Wonders of the Present Age”: Cinema-going on the Far South Coast of NSW and rural perceptions of modernity’.
- Maija Howe (PhD candidate, University of New South Wales): ‘Imaging Film for the Cine-Illiterate: The Amateur and the Subject of Ontology’.
- John Finlay Kerr (PhD candidate, ANU): ‘Be Kind Rewind: Remaking film and history’.
- Susie Walsh (PhD candidate, University of New South Wales): ‘Warrior Worriers and Babbling Battlers: Representations of Combat Trauma in the American War Film’.

Some of the additional expenditure is drawn from unspent funds from the tour of Professor Robert C. Allen.

**Future projects (2008-2009)**

**Television and the National Conference**


This conference is being held at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne on 19-21 November 2008. It builds on the Television Studies conference (University of Queensland, Brisbane, 2000) and the Television History Conference (Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, 2005), and the activities of PATH.

The conference will bring together researchers to discuss a broad range of topics in the following strands: television history and historiography; television and the national; television and the transnational; television and genre; and television comedy. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Andy Medhurst (University of Sussex) and Professor Graeme Turner (University of Queensland).
Media International Australia special issue

Dr Michelle Arrow, Associate Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington and I will edit a special issue of Media International Australia in May 2009. The issue will be based on papers presented at Histories of Australian Media Reception: A Colloquium, co-sponsored by the Media Histories Node and the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University.

Australian Media History database

John Gunders, Liz Gould and I will consider options for expanding the bibliographical capabilities of the Australian Media History database. The Centre for Media History at Macquarie University is willing to take over hosting the database when the CRN is wound up.

Bridget Griffen-Foley

Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Development

This year, the node has coordinated three major events, begun planning on a fourth for 2009, and contributed funding to seven other endeavours.

ongoing: Outreach

We have been working to find ways to expand the reach of the CRN to include a larger range of PG/ECRs who can benefit from the CRN, its expertise, and its funding opportunities. The key way that we have addressed this issue this year is to initiate the ‘Outreach’ program, which started in the second half of this year, and will continue into 2009. The rationale behind this scheme is to broaden networking and mentoring opportunities by running ‘open door’ sessions (an idea first suggested by Kate Crawford) with visiting scholars and members of the CRN. In this model, postgraduate students and ECRs are able to make meetings with a senior researcher (whose travel and accommodation has been funded by the node), who they might otherwise not be able to meet or speak to; we’ve been keen to include regional universities in this program. The first series of sessions was held by Jonathan Sterne in August during his speaking tour, and he saw students in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The feedback from these sessions was overwhelmingly positive, and those who participated were excited to have the opportunity to discuss Jonathan’s work—and their own—in a one-on-one context. More recently though Catharine Lumby visited the University of Tasmania and the response was overwhelmingly positive, and (after this report was written), Kate Darian-Smith visited the University of Southern Queensland, and we are eager to hear how this visit went. In November Graeme Turner is also kindly visiting the University of South Australia to meet with ECRs and PGs. We think that this model is an interesting and effective way of establishing contact between senior CRN members, visiting scholars and PG/ECRs, that does not rely on the ‘Masterclass’ format that has also been used successfully by the node. We think this is an excellent use of funds for the fact that it uses a small amount of money to benefit a large group of people (ie, funding one person to visit many, rather than funding many to visit one—as in the Masterclass model). If any CRN members are interested in participating in this scheme, please contact Clif Evers.

March: Doing Rural Cultural Studies Workshop

The ‘Doing Rural Cultural Studies’ workshop, held at UNSW in March, was an extremely successful event that brought together Early Career Researchers and postgraduate students engaged in this growing research field. It provided an opportunity for an invited group of emerging scholars to develop their ideas through peer discussion, and some of the written results of these discussions will appear in a themed issue of Cultural Studies Review in March 2010. In effect, the workshop created a cohort of rural researchers who will collaborate on future projects. The PG/ECR development node is committed to supporting academics from regional universities, as well as those at urban campuses: participants in this event came from Southern Cross University (Rob Garbutt, Terry Maybury, Kim Satchell), University of
New England (Rae Dufty), University of Wollongong (Andrew Gorman-Murray), University of Tasmania (Michelle Gabriel), University of Western Australia (Kim Atherley), University of Melbourne (Michelle Duffy, Deb Anderson, Emily Potter), RMIT (Lisa Slater), University of Queensland (Melissa Gregg), and UNSW (Clifton Evers).

**October: ‘Who do you serve? Thinking about the ethics of research practice in rural cultural research’** *(NB: This event was held just before the AGM and after this report what written)*

This one-day workshop, supported by the Cultural Histories and Geographies Node, built on the ‘Doing Rural Cultural Studies’ workshop organised by the node, this time turning its attention to a specific and highly charged aspect of the process and outcome of rural cultural research: the question of ‘who do you serve?’ This time a senior researcher in the field—Ross Gibson—was invited to join the original participants of the March workshop to share his experience and provide commentary on the day’s proceedings. The outcomes of this day-long workshop include a recording that will be available widely online, and the planning of a seminar on the topic of ethics and rural research to be taken to the rural communities in which the participants pursue their research.

**Planning for 2009: State of the Industry**

The State of the Industry conference is the major event the node will coordinate, and will be held on 23-25 November 2009. The ambition of the conference is to bring together stakeholders from the community, the media, industry and academia to discuss the work of cultural research today. We have three themed days planned which, for convenience, we’re placing under the themes ‘teaching and learning’, ‘research’ and ‘outreach’. While we all recognise that these are dimensions of our work, it's not often that we get a chance to talk about each at length and in turn. The conference aims to be controversial, to short circuit some of the assumed structures of knowledge and power in the academy, to interrogate the status quo, and ask difficult questions about what it means to research culture—and be involved in a research culture—in the university today. Some of the key concerns that we imagine might be pertinent to those who attend include: the politics of labour and cultural research; different models for teaching and research; the place of industry partners in academic work; intellectual property; the notion of ‘academic expertise’ and its currency; the roles of academics beyond the academy; the future of academic labour; and the contemporary ‘career path’ of the PhD graduate.

The organising committee (Melissa Gregg, Emily Potter, Clifton Evers, Alison Huber) has met several times this year already. We are developing a conference model that is organised around short provocations (rather than papers) to which invited speakers will briefly respond, followed by discussion amongst the general group. The aim of this conference is conversation, so in the spirit of this aim, we would welcome further ideas/visions/themes enthusiastically.

**Funding contributed by the node for:**

- ANZCA postgraduate publishing forum student bursaries
- postgrad attendance at the Japanese Fandom workshop
- financial support towards masterclasses held by Robert Allen, David Morley, Charlotte Brundson
- postgrad/ECR attendance at the Listening Workshops in Sydney
- ten x $1000 bursaries for postgrad/ECRs without institutional support to attend the 2008 CSAA conference
- ‘CONTACT: an interdisciplinary challenge in Cultural Studies’ postgraduate conference

Emily Potter
Clift Evers
2008 Events

Masterclasses

Masterclass with Prof David Morley, “Mediations: Demographics, Geographies and Technologies” (February 2008)
Cultural Identities Node

Cultural Identities Node

Masterclass with Prof James Katz, “Mobiles: Demographics, Geographies and Technologies” (4 June 2008)
Cultural Technologies Node

Workshops

Doing Rural Cultural Research Workshop. A gathering of ECRs and postgraduates who work on rural issues in cultural studies (7 March 2008)
Postgraduate and Early Career Research Development Node

“GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Workshop for Rural Research.” How GIS has been used in cutting-edge cultural research, Wollongong (18-19 March 2008)
Rural Cultural Research Project

“Innovation and Interdisciplinarity in Media History Research.” A one day workshop with Professor Robert C. Allen and Associate Professor Jeffrey Klenotic, Wollongong (19 March 2008)
Media Histories Node

Listening Project Workshop, “Media and the politics of listening in multicultural societies,” UNSW (16 April 2008)
Cultural Literacies Node

Mobile Futures Workshop, A two day workshop with a focus on remote, rural and regional digital mobility, Adelaide (12-13 June 2008)
Mobile Screens Working Group

Media Histories Symposium, Perth (13 June 2008)
Media Histories Node

Internet Histories 2 - Australia and Asia Pacific: Research Workshop, Perth (14 June 2008)
Cultural Technologies Node

The Game of Being Mobile: Mobile Technologies, Gaming Cultures and the Haptic, A two-day workshop to stimulate discussion, debate and research into the burgeoning area of mobile gaming (10-11 July 2008)
Mobile Screens Working Group

Listening Project Workshop, “Technologies of Listening,” UTS (31 July 2008)
Cultural Literacies Node (with Cultural Technologies)

Listening Project Workshop, “Conflict, democracy, and listening,” Monash (26 September 2008)
Cultural Literacies Node
Cultural Literacies Node

“Who do you serve? Thinking about the ethics of research practice in rural cultural research,”
Uni Melbourne (17 October 2008)
Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Development Node

Listening Project Workshop, “Disability, Democracy, Media, and Listening,” UNSW
Cultural Literacies Node

More-than-Human Modes of Inquiry, A Workshop with Professor Sarah Whatmore
(17-18 November 2008)
NatureCultures Group

“Online@Asia-Pacific Workshop,” A workshop about online communities and networks in the
region, RMIT (10 December 2008)

“Participation in the Broadband Society Workshop”, emerging modes of digital storytelling,
interactivity and being online, RMIT (11 December 2008)
Cultural Technologies Node

Lectures and Seminars

Public Lecture with Professor James E. Katz, “Perpetual contact? Family life in an age of
mobile communication” UNSW, Sydney (5 June 2008)
Cultural Technologies Node & the Journalism and Media Research Centre UNSW

Cultural Technologies Node

Public Lecture with Dr Jonathan Sterne “Format Theory” University of Melbourne (7 August
2008)
Cultural Technologies Node

Seminar with Dr Jonathan Sterne, “Sound Reproduction After Noise: MP3 and the Limits of
Perception” Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Brisbane (12 August 2008)
Cultural Technologies Node

Conferences

Histories of Australian Media Reception: A Colloquium, Sydney (26 September 2008)

Conference on Television and the National, Melbourne (19 - 21 November 2008)

Other Activities

The ARC Cultural Research Network Awards - Support for postgraduate students to attend
the CSAA Annual Conference (Annual)
Postgraduate and Early Career researcher Development Node

Support for postgraduate students to attend the annual ANZCA conference
Media Histories Node

Australian Media History Database - This database is designed to provide details of media
history projects conducted in, or about, Australia
Media Histories Node

Mobile Screen Research Database - Information, background, and communication opportunities for a network of scholars involved in cultural research into mobile and wireless media technologies
Mobile Screens Group

Current CRN Projects

**Australian Media History Database**
For much of 2007 the existing Media History Database was developed and expanded. As well as containing searchable listings of over 100 projects by more than 120 researchers, the site now acts as a portal to a variety of information on media history in Australia, including other databases & indexes, libraries & archives, media associations, undergraduate and postgraduate study options, and upcoming events.

Media Histories node
Contact: Bridget Griffen-Foley

**Australian Media History Listserv**
The Australian Media History Listserv provides a mechanism for disseminating information about events, new publications and education courses in Australian media history; an outlet to share information about resources for researching Australian media history; a means for posting queries about research and gaps in the field; and a place for discussing broader research and epistemological issues pertaining to Australian media history.

Media Histories Node
Contact: Bridget Griffen-Foley

**Australian Radio Audio Researchers Association**
Growing out of a 2006 CRN-sponsored workshop entitled “Making Histories: Radio as Cultural Technology”, ARARA has formalised a network of researchers who had been loosely working together since 2004. The association recognises that radio is quickly becoming a function of a broader audio culture that features a range of digital distribution formats including podcasting, audio streaming and digital audio broadcasting. Questions regarding policy, commercial research strategies, community participation and programming will become increasing important over the next decade and need to be seriously addressed by academic and independent researchers. In 2007 subsidies were paid to allow researchers to attend the Radio Conference at the University of Lincoln (UK) in July.

Media Histories Node
Contact: John Tebbutt

**Australian Television and Popular Memory**
Despite its importance to our everyday lives since the 1950s, there is no history of television's role in Australian popular culture. This project will develop a series of collaborative histories that focus upon the popular experience of television and in particular its role in forming national culture. The research will not only involve conventional academic sources, but also those connected with 'the people': memories, memorabilia, personal collections as well as the full range of popular and ephemeral publications which support the popular engagement with the medium.

Media Histories Node and Cultural Technologies Node
Contact: John Hartley

**Communities versus Publics**
The Communities versus Publics workshop is an activity that has been discussed at Cultural Histories and Geographies/Cultural Identities and Communities roundtables in 2005 and 2006.
and attracted a lot of interest. It weaves together many shared interests amongst CRN participants—cultural diversity, media and the public sphere, and everyday life. At this stage, a clear focus for a joint research project has yet to emerge.

Cultural Identities and Communities Node
Contact: Gay Hawkins/Greg Noble

**Cultural Memory and Narrative Group**
This is a loose grouping of members with an interest in the intersections between cultural history and cultural memory, who have met to discuss common research problems and explore the possibilities for future collaboration. Members of the group were instrumental in organising the visit and masterclass by Dr Susannah Radstone in November 2007 from which further collaboration is planned in 2008.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node
Contact: Kate Darian-Smith

**Distributing Cultural Literacies via Digital Media**
The initial intention of this project was to initiate a discussion about what initiative could be developed around the question of cultural literacies. Specifically, the development of digital media poses basic questions of understanding, first, 'what is literacy, today, in a digital media environment?' and second, what is the potential for significant 'industrial' applications in enhancing Australia’s potential to participate in an emerging knowledge or creative economy.

Cultural Literacies Node
Contact: Kelly McWilliam

**Internet Studies**
This project comprises a series of workshops, seminars, and publications which consider areas of Internet studies often overlooked by other researchers, such as investigations into non-anglophone branches of the Internet, and Internet history. Outcomes have included a series of international conferences, international publications, and the development of the Wireless Technologies group of researchers.

Cultural Technologies Node
Contact: Mark McLelland/Gerard Goggin

**Japanese International Fandom**
This project has brought together the large number of Network members working on Asian studies topics with those working on media and new media. It investigates the different ways in which originally Japanese genres, aesthetics and styles have been taken up, deployed and transformed by female fans transnationally. Comparisons will be made between Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean and English appropriations of Japanese popular culture and the exchange of imagery and narratives that takes place between them.

Cultural Literacies Node
Contact: Mark McLelland

**Listening Project**
The project will examine ‘listening’, an emerging focus in media studies and citizens’ media interventions. Habitual critiques of representation and the politics of ‘speaking’ (or giving voice to the voiceless) are giving way to investigation of more dynamic and active possibilities for social inclusion and social change based on recognition, dialogic engagement and acceptance. This is a genuinely new direction for media studies, and a significant proportion of the network’s members have expressed an interest in it. There is a series of workshops planned for 2008 from which we expect a series of projects to develop.

Cultural Literacies Node
Contact: Catherine thill
Mobile Screens Working Group
This group brings together CRN members and associated researchers working on projects related to mobile and wireless technologies. The plan is to use the various members’ current projects as a starting point from which to discuss intersections and convergences between various projects, and plan further the working group’s activities. They have also begun compiling a database of Australian researchers working in the field as a preliminary to planning a larger research project. One collaborative ARC project in this area is already under way, with one more competing in the 2008 round.

Cultural Technologies Node
Contact: Susan Luckman

Multilingual Literacies
This project grows out of a concern about the English-language centrism of much cultural studies, and an attempt to connect with research within language departments and ESL programs. At this stage there has been one exploratory workshop and a subsequent meeting is planned to develop a research programme.

Cultural Literacies Node
Contact: Stephi Donald

Nature Cultures Group
Borrowing the term ‘naturecultures’ from Bruno Latour, the group aims to harness the immense interest and concern with ecological matters as the numbers of studies and linkage opportunities proliferate. At the same time it seeks to focus once again on some fundamental concepts and narratives, such as the western conception of nature as background to ‘cultures’, the decentering of the human, ethical and political engagements of the human and non-human, the agency of real empirical relations, and a mytho-poiesis of things. This group has presented their work at international conferences in the US, the UK, and Taiwan, and have one ARC funded project under way. Several more large collaborative projects are in development from this group.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Cultural Histories sub-node)
Contact: Emily Potter, Gay Hawkins, Stephen Meucke

Program for Australian Television History (PATH)
PATH allows television historians to share resources, findings and problems, and to identify historiographical gaps in the field. It provides a link between television historians and relevant cultural organisations, especially collecting and exhibiting agencies such as the ABC Archives, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Powerhouse Museum, and the National Archives of Australia. PATH also feeds into the Australian Media History database and listserv, works co-operatively with other more well-established media history groups in Australia and overseas, and participates in events such as the biennial Australian Media Traditions conferences. It has one large collaborative ARC funded project under way at present, as well as several individual ARC projects with an Australian television focus.

Media Histories Node
Contact: Chris Healy

Queer Asian Sites
The purpose of the conference was to support the burgeoning number of young scholars now researching Asia’s queer cultures and histories and to provide networking and support to ECRs and postgraduates who often face indifference or hostility towards this field of research in their home institutions. This is an area where Australian research has led the field and where it has attracted major international interest and influence. There are several ARC projects in this area, largely with individuals rather than as collaborative projects but the possibility of collaborative projects continues to be explored.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node
Contact Mark McLelland
**Rural Cultural Research Program**
The Cultural Histories and Cultural Geographies sub-nodes have combined to develop a three-year (2006-2008) program of activities in rural cultural research. This will include a program of workshops, symposia, masterclasses for postgraduate and ECRs and other activities over the three years. Outcomes include a substantial web-based resource database, grant applications, and publications. There is a large collaborative project currently before the ARC for the 2008 Discovery round.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node  
Contact: Andrew Gorman-Murray

**Superdiversity, Diaspora and Media**
This project’s key focus was a 2007 symposium which brought together a select group of international scholars with research interests in exploring the relations between cultural diversity and media in the complex communities of the twenty-first century. Focusing on current research into transnationalism and the formation of diasporic public spheres, the symposium began to foster research connections, share research data and set future research agendas. Further international collaborations are developing.

Cultural Identities and Communities Node  
Contact: Greg Noble

### ARC Grants commencing in 2009

**DP0984223** Dr CA Driscoll; Dr K Bowles; Prof K Darian-Smith; A/Prof CR Gibson; Dr D Nichols; A/Prof G Waitt

**Cultural sustainability in Australian country towns: amenity, mobility, and everyday life**

By exploring the everyday experiences of culture and cultural amenity in three country towns, this cross-disciplinary project provides the first comprehensive documentation of the complexity of cultural sustainability within rural Australia. We will explore issues of demographic mobility; individual and community relationships to places and histories; social and economic adaptability to local, national and global cultural influences; and the role of cultural infrastructure and heritage in community well-being and sustainability. Project outcomes include scholarly publications and presentations; a series of community-driven digital cultural maps; and feedback for community and government on the impact of culture on sustainability.

**DP0987083** Prof EC Probyn

**Taste and Place: the transglobal production and consumption of food and drink**

This project will explore the challenges and potentials that the transformations in production and consumption of food and drink pose to Australia. We have an enviable reputation for our wine and the quality of our food produce. But we have stiff competition from around the world. This is exacerbated by economic and cultural trends, which are changing the face of how and what we eat and drink. The homogenisation of mass-market consumption is producing a widespread dissatisfaction with our diet, and obesity. This cross-cultural project will result in important information about how we can best respond to these challenges.

**DP0988187** Dr G Morgan; Dr G Noble

**The Just-in-Time Self: Young Men, Skill and Narratives of Aspiration in the New Economy**
Employers and policy-makers frequently lament the 'skills gap': the shortage of workers with the skills required to perform the available jobs. This cannot be solved simply by funding more vocational training courses. To improve participation in training it is important to understand how vocational aspirations are formed. This research will demonstrate how, through their involvement in collective creative projects, young men from poor backgrounds, develop skills and inclinations that might move them beyond the traditional model of manual labour to develop the flexibility required of workers in the 'new economy'.

**Culture in Transition: Creative Labour and Social Mobilities in the Asian Century**

Australia's role in the Asian region is changing with the rise of China and India. This Project will benefit Australian communities by increasing knowledge about how the emergence of these nations impacts upon economic growth and innovation, intercultural relations and efforts of social inclusion. The Project will develop new media strategies to inform citizens about how labour relations and mobilities are shifting in this regional context. It will also increase public awareness of the changing forms of global urbanism in Chinese and Indian cities and reposition Australian cultural research and policy in ways adequate to the economic and social challenges posed by the so-called Asian century.

**Men on the home front: spatialities of domesticity and masculinity**

This project promotes 'good health and well being for all Australians'. Case studies 1 and 2 investigate the factors underpinning self-reliance and family support in a time of changing household structures. They seek to understand how the domestic lives of men both living alone, and in families, can better contribute to social well-being and wider community interaction and cohesion. Case study 3 focuses on a group of men marginalised from wider society and the care networks servicing the aged community, thus providing knowledge that will improve the mental and physical capacities of older gay men.

**Making less space for carbon: cultural research for climate change mitigation and adaptation**

The project meets the pressing need for a national response to climate change. The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework identifies a number of cultural changes needed within the next five years to adapt to existing climate change. Profound cultural transformations are also urgently needed to mitigate future change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The true national benefit of this work should be assessed in terms of the costs of not funding it. Australia's capacity to adapt will only ever be partial without the new and fundamental insights provided by cultural geographic research.

**Policy Notes: Local Popular Music in Global Creative Economies**

In providing the first comprehensive analysis of how music policy is created, the project assesses the viability of local music industries in a time of rapid, global technological change. It forges new ways of planning the different needs of producers, audiences and government in cultural production; and contribute to the economic and cultural health of Australian popular
music industries. The project fills a major gap in Australian and international cultural policy studies in relation to the effectiveness of popular music policy and practice, particularly for industries situated outside the predominant centres of music production in Europe, the U.S. and Asia.

DP0986998 Ms L Hjorth; Dr MV Arnold

**Online@asia/pacific: A comparative study of online networks in the Asia-Pacific**

APD Ms L Hjorth

In the 21st century, the role of the Internet will increasingly become part of everyday life - for individuals, communities, businesses and government agencies. Thus it is imperative that we have a robust comparative understanding of online life in Australia and across the region, and its relation to local life offline. Such an understanding is fundamental to Australia's technology and cultural sectors, thus contributing to National Research Priority 3 through one of the strongest currencies in 21st century global market, web 2.0, as well as contributing to the broader long-term project of locating Australia in the region.

DP0985337 A/Prof AT Kenyon

**Defamation and Privacy: Law, Media and Public Speech**

This project investigates important recent legal changes in defamation and privacy, laws which can considerably limit public speech. It addresses the urgent need in law for a more sophisticated understanding and evaluation of the practices of media professionals. It will assist lawyers and judges apply the changed laws, contribute to scheduled reviews of legislation, assist publications and journalists deal with risks of legal liability, develop critical academic and legal debates about the media, and clarify the parameters of lawful public speech. It promotes better legal understanding of popular media forms, which have key roles in contemporary economies and public debate.

DP0987349 Dr Al Yue; Dr OS Khoo; Dr BM Smaill

**The History of Asian Australian Cinema: Diaspora, Policy and Ethics**

This interdisciplinary project will develop a history of the representation of Asians in Australian cinema. Understanding this history promotes an engaged citizenry, facilitates intercultural communication and strengthens Australia's social fabric. It will enhance Australia's capacity to engage in the Asian region. Examining the creative film developments of Asian Australian filmmakers will promote an innovative cultural economy. The study on how film agencies and archives have managed Asian Australian cinema is a resource for policy and film makers in the industry. The new diasporic cinema studies framework developed will consolidate Australia's established reputation in cinema studies and advance international film scholarship.

LP0989302 A/Prof N Papastergiadis; Prof SR Cubitt; Dr S McQuire; Prof RJ Gibson; Ms D Choi; Ms C Cmielewski; Dr Al Yue

**Large screens and the transnational public sphere**

With over 8 million annual visitors, Federation Square, Melbourne, is emblematic of the new public sphere emerging at the junction of physical space and media networks. Fed Square's large screen is integral to 70 large-scale cultural events hosted at the site each year attracting an average of 30,000 people. This project will establish a partnership between Fed Square, the Australia Council and Art Center Nabi in Seoul, pioneering the exchange of technology and cultural content. The empirical research will generate fresh insights into public
interactions with large screens, providing a prototype for future cross-cultural events and offering new theoretical perspectives on the use of public space.

LP0989930 Ms SA Nathan; Dr CW Evers; A/Prof LR Jackson Pulver; Dr CS Duncan; Dr R Henley

Social Cohesion through Football

This project will help strengthen Australia's social and economic fabric, one of the priority goals aimed at promoting and maintaining good health for all Australians. The proposed interdisciplinary study will provide new evidence on how sports programs can foster community building, social inclusion and social cohesion, helping families and individuals to live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. The proposed study will provide critically needed guidance on best-practice for governments and communities to develop and evaluate sport-based and related programs to address social cohesion and social inclusion. The result will enable humanitarian refugees to overcome barriers that hinder their participation in Australian communities.

Forthcoming Events

Many activities for 2009 are still in the planning stage. Here is a selection of some of the events that will be coming in 2009 and beyond.

Publications Workshop: the Listening Project, Tanja Dreher, Justine Lloyd and Penny O'Donnell, 14 November 2008

Music Festivals and Social Impact Workshop: Rural Cultural Research Program, 14 November 2008 in Warragul

Television and the National Conference, PATH, 19-21 November 2008 at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne


Online@Asia-Pacific: Cultural Technologies Node, Larissa Hjorth, RMIT University, Melbourne 10th December 2008

Participation in the Broadband Society: Emerging Modes of Digital Storytelling, Interactivity and Being Online: Cultural Technologies Node, Larissa Hjorth, RMIT University, Melbourne 11th December 2008

Making Do in Rural Communities: Rural Cultural Research Program, Susan Luckman and Kate Bowles, 2009

Publics and Communities Workshop: Cultural Identities and Communities Node, Greg Noble and Gay Hawkins, 2009

Container Technologies: Cultural Identities and Communities and Technologies Nodes, Zoe Sofoulis et al. 2009 (postponed from 2008 due to health issues)

Sarai Project: Cultural Literacies Node, Justine Lloyd (postponed from 2008)

Mobile Methods: Cultural Technologies Node, Kate Crawford and Gerard Goggin, 30 April, 2009 UNSW, Sydney
**Internet Histories, Cultural Research, and the Implications for Archives and Collections**: Cultural Technologies Node, Gerard Goggin, Mark McLeod and Sam Hinton, UC, Canberra, September 2009


### CRN Participants

<table>
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<tr>
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Assoc Prof Ramaswami Harindranath, Media and Communications Department, University of Melbourne

Dist Prof John Hartley, Creative Industries, Queensland University of Technology

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Dr Christopher Healy, English, University of Melbourne

Ms Larissa Hjorth, Games Programs, RMIT University

Dr Shane Homan, School of English, Communications and Performance Studies, Monash University

Assoc Prof Jason Jacobs, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, University of Queensland

Dr Meredith Jones, Institute for Interactive Media and Learning, University of Technology Sydney

Assoc Prof Michael Keane, Creative Industries Research and Applications Centre, Queensland University of Technology

Prof Andrew Kenyon, Centre for Media and Communications Law, University of Melbourne

Dr Olivia Khoo, School of Media, Culture & Creative Arts, Curtin University

Dr Tania Lewis, Sociology Program, La Trobe University

Dr Justine Lloyd, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

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Dr Rowan Wilken, School of Culture & Communication, University of Melbourne

Dr Jason Wilson, Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Amanda Wise, Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University

Dr Audrey Yue, English, University of Melbourne

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New Members in 2008

Dr Katherine (Kath) Albury
Kath is an ARC postdoctoral Fellow in the Journalism and Media Research Centre, at the University of New South Wales. Her research focuses on sexuality in media and popular culture. She has a special interest in the areas of sexual health, sexual ethics and sexual negotiation. Kath is a co-author of The Porn Report, with Alan McKee and Catharine Lumby (Melbourne University Publishing, 2008). Her first book Yes Means Yes: Getting Explicit about Heterosex was published by Allen and Unwin, 2002. Kath is a member of the NSW Health Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and STIs, Health Promotion Sub Committee.

Dr Jean Burgess
Jean is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation, Queensland University of Technology. Her research is concerned with cultural participation and user-led innovation in relation to new media technologies, focusing on digital photography, online video and digital storytelling. As part of her research, Jean has regularly worked as a facilitator in community-based and digital storytelling projects. With Joshua Green, she is the co-author of YouTube: Online Video and the Politics of Participatory Culture, forthcoming from Polity Press in 2008.

Dr Michelle Duffy
Michelle is a lecturer at the Australian Centre, The University of Melbourne. She is a cultural geographer, with specific research interests in the ways non-representational processes such as performance, music, dance, and sound can be used to articulate and understand notions
of place, identity, belonging, community cohesion, alienation, and social well-being. Other research interests include the policies and practices of local government with regards to cultural practice, Australian-Asian cultural relations, Australian Indigenous cultural practices, tourism and festival policies and practices, multiculturalism, and contemporary cultural theory.

**Dr Andrew Gorman-Murray**
Andrew is a Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong. Andrew is a social and cultural geographer with a keen interest in the interlinking of place and identity, particularly how sexual and gender identities are expressed through spatial activities and place-making processes. He has specific expertise in feminist, queer and poststructuralist approaches to space, place, and identity.

**Associate Professor Ramaswami (Hari) Harindranath**
Hari is Associate Professor, Media and Communications, in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. He has worked on funded research projects on television and film audiences, and has published books, articles and chapters, and presented conference papers in areas such as audience research, media globalisation, nationalist politics, the politics of media representation, and cultural imperialism. Hari’s research interests include global media, economy and cultures; qualitative audience research; ‘race’ and representation; the aesthetics and cultural politics of exile and nationalism among diasporic communities; and South Asian media and society.

**Dr Meredith Jones**
Meredith is lecturer and MIM Course Advisor in the Institute for Interactive Media and Learning at UTS. She lectures in and coordinates the core subjects “Digital Media in Social Context” and “Digital Graphics and the Still Image” in the Masters of Interactive Multimedia. She has taught subjects at UTS and also at the University of Western Sydney about Media Theory, Visual Design, Culture and Technology, Online Environments, and Media Arts. Meredith’s research is based around theories of culture and technology, popular media studies, and feminist theories of the body. In 2008 she published *Skintight: An Anatomy of Cosmetic Surgery*, and her new research is about cosmetic surgery tourism.

**Dr Tania Lewis**
Tania is based in the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University. She has taught in media studies and cultural studies and has conducted research in a variety of areas including: lifestyle media, culture and consumption; popular experts and celebrity intellectuals; the intellectual history of cultural studies; the network university; and health and lifestyle information on the internet. Tania worked as a medical practitioner in NZ before retraining in the humanities.

**Dr Kane Race**
Kane is Senior Lecturer in Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney. He has participated extensively in the social response to HIV/AIDS in Australia and has published widely on questions of risk, government and ethics in the context of HIV prevention, sexual practice and drug use. He maintains an interest in the principles and politics of harm reduction and, more generally, critical encounters between gender, sexuality and medicine. His research interests include gender and sexuality, popular culture and consumption, sociology of health and biomedicine, Foucault’s ethics, biopolitics, citizenship, social policy, body technologies, and queer theory.

**Dr Catherine (Cate) Thill**
Cate is a Project Officer in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at UTS, where she is working on a project entitled “The freedom to become responsive citizens: Reflections on welfare to work policy in the United Kingdom and Australia” as well as the CRN’s “Listening Project”. She has research interests in Childhood, citizenship and listening, Feminism, Gender and Cultural Studies, and Cultural politics.

**Dr Rowan Wilken**
Rowan works in the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne. His research interests include investigating the interconnections and interactions between ICTs
and notions of place and community, and a project that is concerned with tracing the passage that media and communications technologies take as they pass from 'new', to ubiquitous, to semi-invisible.

**Dr Jason Wilson**
Jason retains a part-time appointment in the Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology, despite just having take up a organising position with Project Democracy, part of the community advocacy organisation, GetUp. He researches new media, videogame studies, new media history, mobile media, and online and citizen journalism, and until this year was engaged as a Research Associate and Project Manager for the ARC Industry Linkage Citizen Journalism Project.

**Contributing Institutions**

Macquarie University  
Monash University  
Queensland University of Technology  
University of Melbourne  
University of New South Wales  
University of Technology, Sydney  
University of Western Sydney  
The University of Queensland  
The University of Wollongong

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**Cultural Histories and Geographies**  
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Dr Emily Potter, University of Melbourne  
Dr Clifton Evers, University of New South Wales

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Assoc Prof Chris Gibson, University of Wollongong (Node convenors representative)  
Dr Christopher Healy, University of Melbourne  
Professor Elspeth Probyn, FAHA, University of Sydney  
Professor Graeme Turner, FAHA, The University of Queensland  
Mr John Gunders, Project Officer (ex officio)

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