

ARC Cultural Research Network Annual Meeting 2006

The Mercure, Sydney
13th and 14th November 2006

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General Information

Welcome to the 2006 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 Lisa.

Accommodation: All accommodation at the Mercure 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: All business sessions of the meeting, including the Symposium will be held in the Museum Room on Level Two. Morning and afternoon teas (with the exception of afternoon tea on Monday: see below) will be served just outside the room in the shared “pre-function” area. It is likely that there will be delegates from other functions using the same space, so the hotel has requested that we keep to the area immediately adjacent to our room.

Lunch: Lunch on both days will be a full buffet served in the Caboose Restaurant on Level One (which is where breakfast is also served). We will ensure that vegetarian and gluten-free options are available.

Dinner: We have arranged for a private room at the Regal Restaurant, Corner of Sussex and Liverpool Street (see map), with a Chinese banquet menu for \$30.00 per person, plus drinks. This dinner is optional, but we would encourage you to come along and enjoy the good company. If you have not already put your name down for the dinner, please see Lisa as soon as possible. The booking has been made for 7:00pm, and the restaurant is within walking distance of the hotel. At the time of printing, this was the menu:

ENTRÉE

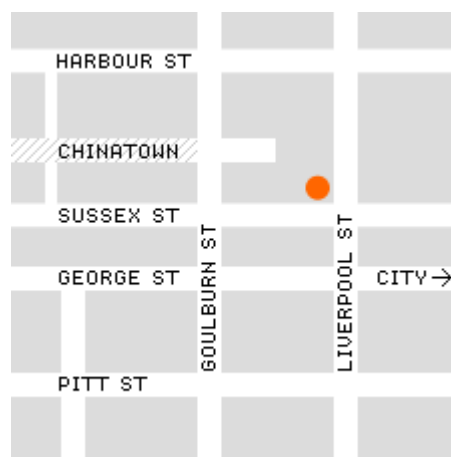
1. Mixed Entree
2. Chicken & Sweet Corn Soup

MAIN COURSES

3. King Prawns with Vegetable
4. Deep Fried Spicy Spare Ribs
5. Crispy Skin Chicken
6. Mongolian Lamb
7. Mixed Vegetable
8. Fried Rice

DESSERT

9. Ice Cream
10. Chinese Tea



Afternoon Tea Monday: Instead of tea and coffee outside the room, at 3:30pm Monday we will move to Eve’s Place Bar for champagne and snacks to celebrate the upcoming retirement of a certain Professor of Communication Studies. After this very informal ceremony the node convenors will return to the meeting room for a short discussion. Others are encouraged to use the time for formal or informal networking.

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 13 November: Network Committees and Symposium

9:30am – 11:30am	Management Committee Meeting
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch and Welcome
1:30pm – 3:30pm	Symposium: A Mid-term Stocktake
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon tea and retirement party
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Node convenors meeting
4:00pm – 7:00pm	Networking opportunity
7:00pm –	Dinner @ Regal Restaurant (optional)

Tuesday 14 November: Annual General Meeting

9:00am – 10:30pm	Business Meeting (see detailed agenda on page 17)
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning tea
11:00am – 12:00pm	Reports from the nodes
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm – 3:30pm	Discussion: Strategic issues for 2007
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon tea
4.00pm	Close

Symposium: ARC Cultural Research Network: A Mid-Term Stocktake

With the network heading into its third year now, and with some clear indications on what it can do easily and what it finds much harder, it seems a good time for us to take stock of what has been achieved, what remains to be achieved, which directions need to be confirmed, which directions need to be changed, and so on. Also, as we have a significant number of new participants, we need to provide them with an opportunity to play a part in determining the course the network takes over the next couple of years.

Consequently, the symposium this year will focus on the performance of the network itself to present something of a mid-term stocktake—of activities, strategies, structures and outcomes on the one hand, and of other options, alternative directions and unresolved issues on the other hand. As was the case last year, the symposium will be led by a panel of speakers who will make short presentations to feed into the broader discussion among all the participants.

The aim is to allow for a wide range of views as we consider our plans for the next couple of years. There may be many different perspectives on how the network has gone so far and this component of the annual meeting is directed towards creating space for the discussion of alternative perspectives—such as those emerging from the experience in other networks—as well as for the evaluation of the strategies we have followed so far. We hope that as many participants as possible can attend this important element of the annual meeting.

The symposium will be chaired by Graeme Turner who will present a brief overview of what the CRN has done so far. He will then introduce a panel composed of the following speakers:

Prof Stephi Donald, CRN member and China node convenor for the Asia-Pacific Futures network

Prof Stuart Cunningham, President of CHASS, CRN node convenor and Director of the Centre of Excellence at QUT.

Dr Chris Healy, CRN Management Committee and University of Melbourne.

The meeting will then be opened up to discussion from the floor.

CRN Achievements 2005 - 2006

Masterclasses	Place	Attendance
Masterclass with Professor Michael Herzfeld	Sydney, August 2005	25
Masterclass with Adel Iskandar	Sydney, August 2006	24
Travelling Masterclass with Professor Toby Miller	Melbourne May 2006	12
	Perth May 2006	9
Research Career Workshop with Professor Vera Mackie	Adelaide, June 2006	29
Travelling Masterclass with Professor Georgina Born	Brisbane, July 2006	22
	Melbourne, Aug 2006	24
	Sydney, Aug 2006	14

Workshops and Planning Meetings	Place	Attendance
Cultural History and Geography Research Roundtable	Sydney, June 2005	17
Creative Articulations Roundtable	Brisbane, October 2005	15
Cultural Literacies Roundtable	Sydney, October 2005	11
Nature Cultures Group	Sydney, May 2006	4
Games Research Workshop with Professor Toby Miller	Brisbane, May 2006	14
PATH Group Planning Meeting	Canberra, May 2006	20
Cultural History and Geography Annual Node Meeting: "Communities, Publics, and Practices"	Sydney, June 2006	18
Georgina Born, consultancy seminar with the ABC	Sydney, August 2006	40 ABC executives
Communicating Safer Sex Via Mobile and Online Technologies	Sydney, August 2006	10, including 2 international guests
Internationalising Internet Studies: Research Workshop	Brisbane, Sept 2006	40, including 11 presenters

Seminars (including Co-sponsored Seminars)			
Presenter	Seminar	Place	Attendance
Zhang Xiaoming and Desmond Hui	New Economies of Culture in East Asia	Brisbane, March 2006	10
Tara Brabazon	Postgraduate Development Seminar	Brisbane, March 2006	15
	Socrates with earphones: The ipodification of education	Brisbane, March 2006	40
Michael Curtin	Media Industry Development in East Asia	Sydney, June 2006	
	Screen Industries in the Global Era: Accumulation, Creation, and Socio-Cultural Variation	Sydney, June 2006	
	Screen Industries in the Global Era: Accumulation, Creation, and Socio-Cultural Variation	Brisbane, July 2006	12
Georgina Born	Digitising Democracy: Digitisation, Pluralism, and Public Service Communications	Brisbane, July 2006	40
	Public Service Broadcasting – the last decade and the future	Brisbane, July 2006	50
	Musical mediation: ontology, technology and creativity	Brisbane, July 2006	
	Public Service Broadcasting – the last decade and the future	Melbourne, August 2006	
	Seminar: Music, Mediation, and Creativity	Melbourne, August 2006	
	Getting the Measure of Academia: Audit culture and the politics of accountability	Melbourne, August 2006	
	Lecture: Anthropology Department	Melbourne, August 2006	
	Public Lecture: Public Sector Broadcasting - Lessons from the BBC & UK	Sydney, August 2006	80

	Digitising Democracy: Digitisation, Pluralism, and Public Service Communications	Sydney, August 2006	25
Adel Iskandar	Clashing Perceptions? Al-Jazeera's Challenge to Western Media	Sydney August 2006	
	Seminar at CCR	Sydney August 2006	
	Seminar at University of Melbourne	Melbourne August 2006	40
	Beyond Al-Jazeera: The future of alternative and independent media in the Arab world	Brisbane, August 2006	25
Helga Tawil Sourì	Checkpoints: On the Margins, New Centers of Palestinian Life	Brisbane, September 2006	32

Conferences and Symposia	Place	Attendance
How I do Cultural Research	Brisbane, September 2005	40
A conference on the History of Australian Television	Sydney, December 2005	110
Media and Identity in Asia	Malaysia, February 2006	2 participants funded
Uses of Richard Hoggart	Sheffield, UK, April 2006	5 participants attended, 3 were funded by CRN
Making Histories: Radio as a Cultural Technology	Melbourne, May 2006	18
Multilingual Literacy Workshop	Sydney, June 2006	20
International Geographers Union Conference	Brisbane, July 2006	80 attended the special session on Cultural Geography
Internet Convergences	Brisbane, September 2006	
Everyday Multiculturalism	Sydney, Sept 2006	Approx 100
Landscapes of Meaning	Oct 2006	

Forthcoming Conferences	Place
Cultural Studies in Asia Symposium	Brisbane, Nov 2006
Australian Modernities: Vernacular Performers and Consumers	Brisbane, Dec 2006
Queer Asian Sites Conference	Sydney, Feb 2007
Media, Diaspora, and Hyperdiversity symposium	Sydney, March 2007
English Teachers and Curriculum (proposed)	Brisbane, May 2007
Rural Cultural Studies Research Symposium	Wollongong (?), 2007
Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference	Shanghai, June 2007

Postgrad Support		
Event	Place	Attendance
Prefix Professional Development Day	Sydney, November 2005	approx 90 postgrads and ECRs
The ARC Cultural Research Network Awards	Canberra, December 2006	Eight postgrads given awards to attend CSAA conference

Postgrads Funded to CRN or Other Events		
Event	Postgrads	Total cost
Georgina Born Masterclasses (3)	13	\$8667
Internationalising Internet Studies	2	\$1500
Toby Miller Masterclass	7	\$5352
New Economies of Culture in Asia	1	\$500
CRN Awards to CSAA conference	8	\$10,000
Australian Modernities Conference (budgeted)		\$2,000
Total		\$28,019

New Members since 2005	
Name	Institution
Ms Kate Crawford*	University of Sydney
Dr Catherine Driscoll	University of Sydney
Dr Clifton Evers*	University of Sydney
Dr Melissa Gregg*	University of Queensland
Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley	Macquarie University
Dr Olivia Khoo*	University of New South Wales
Dr Justine Lloyd	University of Technology Sydney
Dr Emily Potter*	University of Melbourne
Ass Prof Jo Tacchi	Queensland University of Technology
Ass Prof Gordon Waitt	University of Wollongong
Dr Amanda Wise	Macquarie University
* ECR membership scheme nominee	

Professional Development		
Name	Role	Project
Dr Wayne Geerling	Admin Assistant	Cultural Histories and Geographies roundtable 2005
Dr Alison Huber	Contracted Research Assistant	ECR/PG Node
Mr Jonathon Dale	Casual Research Assistant	ECR/PG Node
Dr Allison Cadzow	Research Assistant	Australian Media History Database, Media History Sub-node
Ms Rayyar Farhat	Research Assistant, Admin Assistant	Australian Media History Database, Cultural Histories and Geographies Roundtable
Dr Tanja Dreher	Project Officer	Hyperdiversity Conference, Cultural Identities and Communities node

Dr Selvaraj Velayutham	Conference Convenor	Everyday Multiculturalism conference, Macquarie University
Dr Armen Gakavian	Conference administration	Everyday Multiculturalism conference, Macquarie University
Ms Lisa Gunders	Admin Assistant	CRN Annual Meeting
Appointed – to be announced	Project Officer	Rural Cultural Studies Program
Dr Kelly McWilliam	Project Officer	Distributing Cultural Literacies via Digital Media Project

CRN Projects Currently Being Developed	
Project	Node
“Australian Values” in a Multicultural Australia	Cultural Identities and Communities Node
Communication Across Borders: India – Australia	Cultural Identities and Communities Node
Cultural Memory and Narrative Group	Cultural Histories and Geographies Node
Internationalizing Internet Studies	Cultural Technologies Node
Making Histories: Radio as a Cultural Technology	Media History sub-node
Distributing cultural literacies via digital media	Cultural Literacies Node
Media and Cultural Economies in East Asia	Cultural Technologies Node
Multilingual Literacies	Cultural Literacies Node
Nature Cultures Group	Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Cultural Histories sub-node)
A People's History of Television in Australia	Media History sub-node
Program for Australian Television History (PATH)	Media History sub-node
Queer Asian Sites	Cultural Histories and Geographies Node
Rural Cultural Studies Program	Cultural Histories and Geographies Node
(un)Panicked Communities/Hyperdiversity	Cultural Identities and Communities and Cultural Histories and Geographies Nodes
Young People and Sexual Health	Cultural Literacies Node

Successful Discovery Grants for Projects Commencing 2006	
Project	Investigator(s)
The Cultivation of Middle-Class Taste: Reading, Tourism and Education Choices in Urban China	Prof SJ Donald; Dr Y Zheng
The Media and ASEAN Transitions: Defamation Law, Journalism and Public Debate in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore	Dr AT Kenyon; A/Prof TC Lindsey; Dr T Marjoribanks; Ms AJ Whiting
Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Designing Everyday Modernism for Australian Communities 1920-1970	Dr H Lewi; Prof K Darian-Smith; Prof PJ Goad; Dr JL Willis; A/Prof JF Murphy
Colonial Publishing and Literary Democracy in Australia: an analysis of the influences on Australian literature of British and Australian publishing	Prof RA Nile; Dr TP Dolin

AustLit - humanities research infrastructure development through knowledge-based dataset building, augmentation of key research elements and ICT developments	Prof JA Hay; A/Prof RA Fotheringham; A/Prof DJ Carter; Ms KM Kilner; Ms AH Horn; Prof BH Bennett; Prof PR Eggert; Mr JF Arnold; Prof EA Webby; Mr RH Coleman; Prof GR Worby; A/Prof W Ommundsen; Ms DM Bird; Prof DJ Haskell; Dr CM Taylor; Dr P Mead
The Well-Rounded Person: The Role of Sport in Shaping Physical, Emotional and Social Development	A/Prof CA Lumby; Prof EC Probyn; Dr JA O'Dea; Ms KM Albury

Successful Discovery Grants for Projects Commencing 2007

Project	Investigator(s)
Australian literary publishing and its economies, 1965-1995	Prof IR Indyk; Mr JF Arnold; Dr MR Davis; Prof DJ Carter; Ms L Poland
America Publishes Australia: Australian Books and American Publishers, 1890-2005	Prof DJ Carter
New Electronic Archives for Australian Literature	Prof RW Dixon; Prof GL Whitlock; Dr L Dale; Dr K Bode
Working from home: New media technology, workplace culture and the changing nature of domesticity	Dr MC Gregg
Redesigning Australian film and television production for Multichannel Environments, 1995-2009	Prof TA O'Regan; Dr BM Goldsmith
The Emergence, Development and Transformation of Media Ratings Conventions and Methodologies in Australia, 1930-2008	Prof M Balnaves; Prof TA O'Regan

Successful Linkage Grants for Projects Commencing 2005

Project	Investigator(s)
The Art of Engagement: Exploring a contemporary arts-business collaboration	Dr E Lally; Prof M Ang; Prof KJ Anderson; Ms EA Macgregor
Creative Tropical City: Mapping Darwin's Creative Industries	A/Prof T Lea; Dr S Luckman; Dr C Gibson;
Muslim Women's Networks in contemporary Australia: 1980 - 2005	Prof SJ Donald; Dr D Ghosh; Dr C Ho; A/Prof H Goodall; Mrs MK Abdo; Ms G Dadoun
Finding a Voice: Making Technological Change Socially Effective and Culturally Empowering	Dr JA Tacchi; Prof SD Cunningham; A/Prof HK Pillay; Dr AJ Skuse

Successful Linkage Grants for Projects Commencing 2006

Project	Investigator(s)
Safer Sex Beliefs and Practices in Multi-Partner Heterosexuals	Ms KM Albury; Mr CW Evers; A/Prof CA Lumby
Mobile Me: Young People, Sociality and the Mobile Phone	Prof SJ Donald; Prof JG Gammack; Dr TD Anderson; Dr M Sankey; Ms VR Winter
Childhood, Tradition and Change: a national study of the historical and contemporary practices and significance of Australian children's playlore	Prof K Darian-Smith; Prof WS Logan; Prof GP Seal
Cultural Collections, Creators and Copyright: Museums, Galleries, Libraries and Archives and Australia's Digital Heritage	A/Prof AT Kenyon; Prof AF Christie

Developing a creative ecology as a community of practice: The pathway from training to profession in the digital content industries	Prof SD Cunningham; Prof GN Hearn; A/Prof HK Pillay
Investigating Innovative Applications of Digital Media for Participatory Journalism and Citizen Engagement in Australian Public Communication	A/Prof T Flew; Prof SD Cunningham; Dr A Bruns; Prof P Spearritt; Mr GE Young; Mr PA Vincent

Successful Linkage Grants for Projects Commencing 2007	
Project	Investigator(s)
Assessing the impact of new communication technologies in developing countries and disadvantaged communities	Dr JA Tacchi; Dr AJ Skuse
The Queensland Historical Atlas: Histories, Cultures, Landscapes	Prof P Spearritt; Dr GA Ginn; Prof DJ Carter; Dr SG Ulm; Dr NS Bordes; Dr CA McAlpine; Dr JP Powell; Mr MC Quinnell; Mr P Gesner; Dr BA Crozier; Dr JM McKay; Ms PE Barnard

Successful Linkage International Grants 2006	
Project	Investigator(s)
Cultures of Trade in the Indian Ocean	Prof S Muecke; Em/Prof MN Pearson; Dr D Ghosh; Dr HE Niemeijer; Prof PD Reeve
Open Cities: urban citizenship in Sydney and Berlin	Dr F Allon; Prof KJ Anderson; Prof M Ang; Dr JR Lloyd; Prof RB West Pavlov; Prof Dr M Stein
Grounded Cosmopolitanism and Branded Cities: Australia, Europe and Asia	Prof SJ Donald; Prof E Kofman; Dr T Forrest

Successful Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Grants 2007	
Project	Investigator(s)
AustLit: Phase Two - humanities research infrastructure development, augmentation and expansion	Prof JA Hay; A/Prof RA Fotheringham; Prof DJ Carter; Prof RW Dixon; Ms KM Kilner; Dr L Dale; Prof BH Bennett; Prof PR Eggert; Prof EA Webby; Mr RH Coleman; Mr JF Arnold; A/Prof W Ommundsen; Ms AH Horn; Prof CM Bradford; Dr CM Taylor; Dr P Mead; Prof GR Worby; Dr RA Phiddian; Prof DJ Haskell; Ms DM Bird; Dr TN Burrows

Other grants and Awards	
Award	Investigator(s)
Federation Fellowship	Dist Prof John Hartley, 2005
Centre of Excellence	ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries & Innovation, QUT 2005
Federation Fellowship	Prof Graeme Turner, 2006

Publications	
Title	Authors
Special issue of <i>Geographical Research</i> (v44, n4, 2006): 'Cultural Geography and Cultural Studies'	Gibson, C 'The Cultural Research Network: Opportunities for a Rhizomic Future for Geography in Australia?' Jones, R 'Convergence in Cultural Inquiry: Bureaucratic Inevitability, Historical Imperative or Serendipity?' Dunn, K 'A Comparative Genealogy on Place: Cultural Geography and Cultural Studies' Mee, K 'The Perils and Possibilities of Hanging out with Geographers' Dufty, T 'Which Direction for Cultural Geography? A Postgraduate Perspective' Stratton, J 'Response for the Cultural Geography Symposium'
<i>International Journal of Cultural Studies</i> (2007): Special Issue: "The Uses of Richard Hoggart"	Editor, John Hartley . Contributors include: Gerry Bloustien, Melissa Gregg, Mark Gibson, and Graeme Turner .
<i>Media International Australia</i> (No 123, May 2007): Popular Music: Networks, Industries, and Spaces	Editors, Chris Gibson and Shane Homan
<i>Internationalizing Internet Studies</i> , Routledge, end 2007	Editors, Gerard Goggin and Mark McLelland
<i>Everyday Multiculturalism</i> Conference Proceedings: proposal with Melbourne University Press	Editors, Selvaraj Velayutham and Amanda Wise
<i>Landscapes of Meaning</i> Conference Proceedings: <i>Transforming Cultures</i> eJournal,	Under consideration

CRN Projects

Please note: further details of these projects, including information about any specific events associated with them, can be found on the CRN website: www.uq.edu.au/crn/projects.html.

"Australian Values" in a Multicultural Australia

"Australian values" have emerged in recent years in both academic and popular debates around national identity and social cohesion in a multicultural Australia. For the most part, though, what these values comprise and the ways in which these are, and/or indeed should be, expressed in contemporary daily lives remains vaguely defined.

Cultural Identities and Communities Node, Project Coordinator: **Dr Amanda Wise**

Communication Across Borders: India – Australia

This project is to bring together researchers and activists who are engaged with questions around crossing borders within India and Australia, and between the two. Particular focus is on Media, Environment and Diasporic networks.

Cultural Identities and Communities Node, Project Convenor: **Dr Greg Noble**

Creative Articulations

The key question that this project seeks to address is: what are the methodological challenges that we face when we work to combine cultural and media studies and economic and cultural

geographies? This question will be focussed through a consideration of the increasingly important project of mapping the development of 'creative places' and creative segments of the economy.

Cultural Histories and Geographies and Cultural Technologies nodes, Project Convenors: **Dr Chris Gibson & Dr Christy Collis**

Cultural Memory and Narrative Group

Intersections between Cultural History and Cultural Memory, via connections with the History and Narrative international network.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node, Project Convenor: **Prof Kate Darian-Smith**

Internationalizing Internet Studies

According to October 2005 statistics, Chinese language now represents 14% of all Internet communication and media use, Spanish 9% and Japanese 9%. At 35% and falling, English use is now a minority in terms of overall online language use. However, communications and media scholarship, especially in the Anglophone world, has not registered the deep ramifications of this shift - and the challenges it poses to the concepts, methods, assumptions, and frameworks used to study the Internet.

Cultural Technologies Node, Project Convenors: **Dr Gerard Goggin & Dr Mark McLelland**

Making Histories: Radio as a Cultural Technology

Over the last three years there has been a significant growth in interest in the field of radio studies. A loose network has formed from workshops at the Australian New Zealand Communication Association conferences in 2003 and 2004.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Media History sub-node), **Project Convenor: Dr John Tebbutt**

Distributing Cultural Literacies via Digital Media

The initial intention in the coining of the 'Culturetron' was to initiate a discussion about what initiative could be developed around cultural literacies. The basis of the parallel with the Synchrotron was, first, that the development of digital media poses basic questions of understanding and, second, that there is the potential for significant 'industrial' applications in enhancing Australia's potential to participate in an emerging knowledge or creative economy.

Cultural Literacies Node, Project Coordinator: **Dist Prof John Hartley**

Media and Cultural Economies in East Asia

Studies of media and communication industry development have primarily been concerned with such issues as particular industry segments, the global reach of powerful companies, and domestic industry protection strategies. Innovation, a key factor in science, engineering, and technology (SET), is rarely considered, and not well understood in media studies. With media industries now facing unprecedented challenges—and with greater convergence of media—innovation is the critical success factor in the next decade.

Cultural Technologies Node, Project Coordinator: **Dr Michael Keane**

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.

Cultural Literacies Node, Project Coordinator: **Prof Stephi Donald**

Nature Cultures Group

The Nature cultures group emerged out of a brief discussion at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the CRN, where Gay Hawkins, Stephen Muecke and Zoe Sofoulis all expressed an interest in questions of ecology and its cultural mediations. Emily Potter is also part of the group. This was seen to be a serious absence in much cultural studies, although there was interesting and important work emerging within cultural theory with which the group were all engaging in different ways.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Cultural Histories sub-node), Project Convenor: **Assoc Prof Gay Hawkins**

A People's History of Television in Australia

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Media History sub-node), Project Convenor: **Dist Prof John Hartley**

Program for Australian Television History (PATH)

This project is to establish a national Australian Television History group and to link it into existing media history groups with a view to forming a national Media History network. Recognising that there are already groups involved in film history, radio history, and press history, this project will primarily concentrate on linking scholars working in television history, but will also address these other more well-established media history groups with a view to setting up such a network for media history as a whole.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node (Media History sub-node), Project Convenor: **Prof Liz Jacka**

Queer Asian Sites

The organisers of AsiaPacificQueer intend to continue the momentum of the network by inviting key figures from the region to present their work in Australia, help network with Australian scholars and institutions, and increase the visibility of this emerging field to both an academic and general audience. This will broaden the horizons of the CRN by incorporating new regional networks and also emphasizing the key role that Australian scholars and institutions are playing in encouraging queer studies in the region.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node, Project Coordinator: **Dr Mark McLelland**

Rural Cultural Studies Program

A three year (2006-2008) program of activities in rural cultural studies. 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 data base; grant applications; and publications.

Cultural Histories and Geographies Node, Project Coordinator: **Prof Kate Darian-Smith and Dr Chris Gibson**

(un)Panicked Communities

What can a focus on the relatively 'uncontroversial' aspects of everyday Australia offer cultural research? and vice versa. How are the complexities of cultural diversity, gender, class, sexuality, and so on negotiated in the mundane lives of citizens?

Cultural Identities and Communities and Cultural Histories and Geographies Nodes, Project Coordinator: **Dr Greg Noble**

Young People and Sexual Health

This project seeks to address a specific problem in regards to young people and sexual health. Relating to identities and literacy, and it will formulate an original mode of addressing this demographic (Generation Y) through mobile phones and other new technologies.

Cultural Literacies Node, Project Coordinator: **Prof Elspeth Probyn**

Wireless Cultures and Technologies

While emerging wireless technologies are of great critical and particularly business interest worldwide, there has been little cultural research and analysis accompanying their uptake in Australia. This lack of attention is notable, given the intense discussion of new wireless technologies in Europe and North America.

Cultural Technologies Node, Project Coordinators: **Dr Gerard Goggin and Dr Melissa Gregg**

Participants

- Prof Kay Anderson**, Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney
- Prof Ien Ang**, Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney
- Ass Prof Gerry Bloustien**, School of Communication, Information and New Media, University of South Australia
- Ass Prof Frances Bonner**, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, University of Queensland
- Dr Kate Bowles**, School of Social Sciences, Media and Communications, University of Wollongong
- Ass Prof Tara Brabazon**, School of Media, Communication and Culture, Murdoch University
- Dr Michael Broderick**, School of Media, Communication and Culture, Murdoch University
- Prof David Carter**, Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland
- Dr Christy Collis**, Media and Communication, Queensland University of Technology
- Ms Kate Crawford**, Media and Communications Department, University of Sydney
- Prof Stuart Cunningham**, Creative Industries Research and Applications Centre, Queensland University of Technology
- Prof Kate Darian-Smith**, The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne
- Prof Robert Dixon**, Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland
- Prof Stephi Donald**, University Research Centre for Trans/forming Cultures, University of Technology Sydney
- Dr Catherine Driscoll**, Department of Gender Studies, University of Sydney
- Dr Clifton Evers**, Department of Gender Studies, University of Sydney
- Ass Prof Terry Flew**, Media and Communication, Queensland University of Technology
- Dr Chris Gibson**, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong
- Dr Mark Gibson**, School of Media, Communication and Culture, Murdoch University
- Dr Gerard Goggin**, Department of Media and Communications, University of Sydney
- Dr Melissa Gregg**, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland
- Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley**, Department of Modern History, Macquarie University
- Ass Prof Paula Hamilton**, Writing, Journalism & Social Inquiry, University of Technology Sydney
- Dist Prof John Hartley**, Creative Industries, Queensland University of Technology
- Ass Prof Gay Hawkins**, School of Media, Film and Theatre, University of New South Wales
- Dr Christopher Healy**, English, University of Melbourne
- Dr Shane Homan**, School of Social Sciences, University of Newcastle
- Prof Liz Jacka**, Writing, Journalism & Social Inquiry, University of Technology Sydney
- Ass Prof Jason Jacobs**, School of Arts, Media and Culture, University of Technology Sydney
- Dr Michael Keane**, Creative Industries Research and Applications Centre, Queensland University of Technology
- Ass Prof Andrew Kenyon**, Centre for Media and Communications Law, University of Melbourne
- Dr Olivia Khoo**, School of Media, Film and Theatre, University of New South Wales
- Dr Justine Lloyd**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney
- Dr Susan Luckman**, School of Communication, Information and New Media, University of South Australia

Ass Prof Catharine Lumby, Department of Media and Communications, University of Sydney

Prof Vera Mackie, History, University of Melbourne

Dr Fran Martin, Cinema Studies Program, University of Melbourne

Dr Mark McLelland, School of Social Sciences, Media and Communication , University of Wollongong

Prof Stephen Muecke, Writing, Journalism & Social Inquiry, University of Technology Sydney

Prof Richard Nile, Australia Research Institute, Curtin University

Dr Greg Noble, Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney

Prof Tom O'Regan, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, University of Queensland

Dr Emily Potter, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne

Prof Elspeth Probyn, Department of Gender Studies, University of Sydney

Prof Krishna Sen, Department of Media and Information, Curtin University

Prof John Sinclair, The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne

Dr Zoe Sofoulis, Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney

Dr Wanning Sun, Department of Media and Information, Curtin University

Ass Prof Jo Tacchi, Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology

Prof Graeme Turner, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland

Ass Prof Gordon Waitt, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Wollongong

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

Dr Audrey Yue, English, University of Melbourne

Contributing Institutions

Murdoch University

Queensland University of Technology

University of Melbourne

University of Technology, Sydney

University of South Australia

University of Western Sydney

The University of Queensland

University of Wollongong

Contacts

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Node Convenors

Cultural Literacies

Dr Mark Gibson, Murdoch University

Cultural Technologies

Professor Stuart Cunningham, FAHA, Queensland University of Technology
Dr Christy Collis, Queensland University of Technology

Cultural Identities and Communities

Dr Greg Noble, University of Western Sydney

Cultural Histories and Geographies

Professor Kate Darian-Smith, University of Melbourne
Dr Chris Gibson, University of Wollongong
Professor Elizabeth Jacka, FAHA, University of Technology, Sydney

Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Development

Dr Susan Luckman, University of South Australia
Dr Fran Martin, University of Melbourne

Management Committee

Dr Michael Broderick, Murdoch University (until end 2006)
Dr Chris Gibson, University of Wollongong
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)

Advisory Board

Prof Tony Bennett, Centre for Research in Socio-Cultural Change, University of Manchester
Prof Chua Beng Huat, National University of Singapore
Prof Meagan Morris, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
Dr Chris Healy, University of Melbourne (CRN Management Committee Representative)

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

9:00am – 10:30pm

1. Welcome to new participantsrefer page 18
2. Convenor's report.....refer page 18
3. Project officer's reportrefer page 19
4. Financial Reportsrefer page 21
5. Management committee reportsrefer page 23
6. Endorsement of Management Committee Recommendationsrefer page 25
7. Election of ECR Representative to Management Committee.....refer page 25

10:30am – 11:00am Morning tea

11:00am – 12:00pm

8. Reports from the nodes.....refer page 27
 - a) Media Historiesrefer page 27
 - b) Cultural Histories and Geographiesrefer page 28
 - c) Cultural Identities and Communitiesrefer page 32
 - d) Cultural Literaciesrefer page 33
 - e) Cultural Technologiesrefer page 35
 - f) Postgraduate and Early Career Research Developmentrefer page 37

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm – 3:30pm

9. Strategic issues for 2007.....refer page 38
 - a) Node structure
 - b) Suggestions for future activities
 - c) Issues from the Symposium
10. Node Convenorsrefer page 38

3:30pm – 4:00pm Afternoon tea

4.00pm Close

1. Welcome to New Participants

Ms Kate Crawford*
Dr Catherine Driscoll
Dr Clifton Evers*
Dr Melissa Gregg*
Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley
Dr Olivia Khoo*
Dr Justine Lloyd
Dr Emily Potter*
Ass Prof Jo Tacchi
Ass Prof Gordon Waitt
Dr Amanda Wise

* ECR membership scheme nominee

2. Convenor's Report

Most of the operational issues to do with the Network's activities will be dealt with in John Gunders' Project Officer's Report, and to some extent the more strategic issues will be dealt with in the Symposium. This will be brief, then.

The first thing I would like to do is express my gratitude to those who have worked on network activities over the last year:

- our node convenors, who have found it a difficult and time-consuming role but have never whinged, whined, or asked for more money (well, perhaps 'never' is pushing it a bit);
- our management committee, who have helped assure that we operate with due process, propriety and a level of accountability that has helped save me from the small cowboy within;
- the large number of helpers who have worked on our events to enable them to happen – particularly Alison Huber, Tanja Dreher and Jon Dale;
- and most particularly John Gunders who has not only run things impeccably but done so with a degree of tact, *politesse* and good humour that will clearly stand him in good stead if he is ever able to finish his PhD and apply for an academic job.

The successes the network has generated over the last year are due to the hard work of all of these people.

The second thing I would like to do is welcome the new participants to the Network: Kate Crawford, Catherine Driscoll, Clif Evers, Melissa Gregg, Bridget Griffen-Foley, Olivia Khoo, Justine Lloyd, Emily Potter, Jo Tacchi, Gordon Waitt, and Amanda Wise. This represents a significant injection of new blood, and a substantial increase in our numbers. I hope that they find the network as engaging, productive and enjoyable as the rest of us have done over the last two years. I should also acknowledge the departure of one of our original participants, Tara Brabazon, who has moved to a job in the UK and while she wishes to keep in touch will not be participating in the network in the future.

I will have a bit to say about some of the specific directions taken in the last two years during our discussion in the 'stocktake' on Monday but there are a couple of points I would like to make in this report. It seems to me that over the last year we have slowly begun to move from running events to organising planning workshops or meetings aimed at specific projects or collaborations. As a result, there are a good number of projects under development now and I would expect to see an increasing proportion of the node and central budgets devoted to flying people around the country to progress these plans, and to employing admin officers or project officers to help develop a research project or assist in the preparation of a research application. As we head towards the second half of our funding period, I would expect these kinds of activities to become more prominent.

That said, we have had some very successful activities. Especially notable was Georgina Born's tour; I have heard nothing but praise for her performances, and I was particularly pleased that she was able to gain access to the ABC for a session with senior executives there. Our masterclass genre seems to be pretty well established now too, and it is pleasing to see the number of postgrads and ECRs who have been able to benefit from them: by my count, there have been something like 159 attendees at our masterclasses in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide over the last year.

There have been some difficulties, though. The process of seeking funding from nodes, and from the central budget, provoked some irritation earlier this year, resulting in my circulating a set of guidelines on what the network could/would fund, what could be funded through the University contribution as distinct from ARC funds, and what was definitely outside our remit (ironically, funding research). It all went silent afterwards which I hope indicated that this had helped to clarify things (or maybe it just indicated a simmering resentment). The logistics of managing events in many different cities at roughly the same time did create some headaches for John Gunders, and made the period immediately leading up to Georgina Born's tour a highly stressful one. The task undertaken by our PG/ECR node co-convenors has also turned out to be a highly demanding one: it is important we learn from their experience and try to streamline operations so there is not such a heavy workload associated with convening this node in the future. Finally, for some nodes, spending all their funds has proven quite difficult: events get postponed, plans get changed, participants move – all kinds of difficulties have stood in the way of the full allocation being spent by every node. As a result, a revision of the node structure and orientation, as well as a review of areas of expenditure, are among the topics to be discussed at our stocktake on Monday. All of that said, however, and despite the difficulties, we have amassed an extremely impressive list of activities over the year and provided financial and other support for a very large number of people outside as well as within the network. .

The symposium this year is designed to enable us to take stock of where we are now, and decide what to do next. I think we have reached the end of the first phase of our development and need to make a new set of strategic decisions about how to proceed for the next two years. The outcomes so far are pleasing but there is no reason to suppose we can't do better, or do different things, if that's what we decide. So, I welcome the opportunity to discuss how we might shape the next phase with network participants during the annual meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your enthusiastic participation in our venture over the last two years; most of the time, it has been a pleasure to be your convenor, but it is always a considerable pleasure to be your colleague.

Graeme Turner

3. Project Officer's Report

If 2005 was a development year, 2006 has seen much of this development turn into research and events, with the nodes and the central administration all producing valuable outcomes.

After months of negotiations, conducted primarily by the research and legal offices of the contributing organisations, the Network Agreement was finally signed by all parties on the 12 December 2005. Copies of the fully executed Agreement have been sent to all relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellors.

Communication with the ARC continues to be open and supportive. Graeme attended a workshop for Network Convenors in November last year and was able to offer valuable insights to the ARC and other networks, as well as being confirmed in his belief that our way of running the Network is the most appropriate. We submitted our first Annual and End of Year Report to the ARC in March this year, and after providing some additional information (we were relieved when informed that every Network had been asked this) the report was accepted. We have also been in touch with the ARC to clarify procedures for admitting and retiring contributing institutions, to ensure that such procedures remain within the terms of the Network Agreement, the Original Proposal, and various university legal agreements. Relating to this, the University of Wollongong has been made a contributing organisation through the instrument of a Deed of Joinder.

We are pleased to announce that membership of the Advisory Board has been finalised, with Prof Tony Bennett, Prof Meaghan Morris, and Prof Chua Beng Huat all agreeing to be on the board. The first meeting will be held on 22nd November in Brisbane. Dr Chris Healy has been appointed Management Committee representative.

We held Management Committee meetings in March, April, and July, as well as maintaining close email contact in-between meetings. Summaries of these meetings appear elsewhere in this report. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Mick Broderick for his service on the Committee as ECR representative. He represented his constituency ably, always ensuring that issues concerning early career researchers were not forgotten, and often bringing an alternative perspective to the discussions. Mick always performed his duties happily, despite the often onerous travel situation, and we will miss his infectious good humour, as well as his rigorous attention to the job at hand.

The Node Convenors met in March to discuss any problems they faced, as well as to “workshop” their plans for the coming 12 – 18 months. We found this is valuable time together, and it allowed all of us to articulate the appropriate ways to invest the funding available, and share ideas about progressing research programs in a busy environment.

The largest event on the CRN calendar this year was the tour by Cambridge anthropologist Prof Georgina Born. Georgie visited Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney over a three-week period, in which she presented three one-day masterclasses, six seminars, three public lectures, and a consultancy meeting with senior management at the ABC. She also met with media, resulting in a long interview on Radio National’s *The Media Report*, a shorter interview on ABC Brisbane radio, and in a feature by Errol Simper in *The Australian*. As a result of this attention, she also did a couple of radio interviews in New Zealand, where she had gone for a holiday. As is outlined elsewhere in this report, Georgie made contact with many people during the tour, and provided insights into the governance and future of the BBC, which will have significant effects on research into the current media situation in Australia, particularly in relation to the place of public broadcasting. A tour of this magnitude could not have happened without a great deal of work from many people. I would particularly like to thank Sue Luckman and Fran Martin in organising the masterclasses; Liz Jacka in liaising with all the players on the Sydney leg; and Chris Healy for doing the same in Melbourne. We also received invaluable help from Christy Collis, QUT; Jon Dale, Uni Adelaide; Andy Dawson, Uni Melbourne; James Donald, Uni NSW; Anne Dunn, Uni Sydney; Rayyar Farhat, UTS; Eduardo de la Fuente, Macquarie Uni; Alison Huber, Uni Melbourne; Paul Jones, Uni NSW; Andrew Kenyon, Uni Melbourne; Kerry Murphy, Uni Melbourne; David Throsby, Macquarie Uni; Peter Tregear, Trinity College, Melbourne; Gerald Tooth, ABC Brisbane; and Michael Ward, ABC Sydney.

We have had 11 new participants join the Network in last 12 months, all nominated by existing members, and with research profiles that clearly complement the CRN’s activities. Five of the new members were added through an initiative whereby ECRs are sponsored into the Network, partly to maintain our ratio of ECRs, but mainly to ensure that the Network is constantly exposed to new ideas and fresh thinking. The five successful nominees were selected by the Management Committee from a highly competitive list, and the only disappointment was that we couldn’t accept all the nominees. The names of the new members appear elsewhere in this report.

I have had the privilege of travelling to a number of CRN events this year, including the Cultural Literacies and Multi-lingual Literacy Workshop at UTS in June, the Communities, Publics and Practices Roundtable, also at UTS in June, and the “Everyday Multiculturalism” conference at Macquarie University in September. In addition, I attended seminars by Michael Curtin, Adel Iskander, and Georgina Born in Brisbane. I attended last year’s CSAA conference on behalf of the CRN, and am looking forward to doing the same this year. In an effort to better equip myself for my role in the Network I also attended two days of the recent International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) conference, held in Brisbane, and found the insights I gained to be valuable.

As always, I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to staff in the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, particularly Andrea Mitchell and Rebecca Ralph, for their help at numerous times during the year; to Graeme for his support and understanding (and not asking about the progress of my next chapter *too* often); and to all participants in the Network for their patience and good humour at my relentless emails and frequent requests.

John Gunders

4. Financial Report

This report shows the original 2006 budget compared to the end of year forecast. The forecast is based on actual figures to the end of October, current commitments, and budgeted items to the end of December.

2006 Summary

	ARC Funding		UQ Funding	
	Budget	Forecast	Budget	Forecast
Income				
Grants	\$345,160.80	\$352,875.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Institutional Contributions	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00		
Total	\$415,160.80	\$422,875.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Expenditure				
Academic Salaries				
Network Convenor	\$30,321.35	\$32,205.80		
Total	\$30,321.35	\$32,205.80	\$0.00	\$0.00
Non-academic Salaries				
Project Officer	\$48,167.00	\$47,749.90	\$9,865.44	\$10,003.94
Administration Officer (F/T)	\$3,957.56	\$3,957.56		
Administration Officer (P/T) from Aug	\$9,618.12	\$6,688.30		
Administration Officer (P/T) to Aug	\$1,424.24	\$3,288.26		
Centre Manager (10%)	\$2,554.24	\$2,554.24		
Administration Officer (casual)	\$5,330.50	\$4,235.87		
Total	\$71,051.66	\$68,474.13	\$9,865.44	\$10,003.94
Shared Research Resources				
Infrastructure	\$2,400.00	\$1,626.35	\$1,900.00	\$1,798.71
Centrally Managed Events	\$23,000.00	\$28,035.52	\$5,000.00	\$5,535.44
Total	\$25,400.00	\$29,661.87	\$6,900.00	\$7,334.15
Bringing People Together				
Network Annual Meeting	\$16,000.00	\$18,015.67	\$12,000.00	\$13,411.00
Management Committee Meetings	\$5,570.00	\$7,163.46		\$18.05
Node Convenors Meeting	\$3,950.00	\$3,370.33		
Advisory Board Meeting		\$35.00	\$4,400.00	\$7,097.27
Network Convenor's Travel Budget	\$300.00	\$838.79	\$5,710.00	\$6,980.64
Disbursement of Node Funding	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00		
Total	\$270,820.00	\$274,423.25	\$22,110.00	\$27,506.96
Other				
Network Office Maintenance	\$5,770.00	\$6,508.53	\$5,087.00	\$5,887.15
Total	\$5,770.00	\$6,508.53	\$5,087.00	\$5,887.15
Total Expenditure	\$403,363.01	\$411,273.58	\$43,962.44	\$50,732.20
Surplus/Deficit	\$11,797.79	\$11,601.42	\$6,037.56	-\$732.20
Carry Forward	\$238,292.30	\$238,292.30	\$14,725.38	\$14,725.38
Account Surplus/Deficit	\$250,090.09	\$249,893.72	\$20,762.94	\$13,993.18

The following report is a projective summary for the years 2007 to 2009. Salary figures to 2008 are quite accurate, based on the current UQ collective bargaining round, and the unlikelihood of changes to staffing. All other figures are necessarily conjectural and supplied only as indicative. They are however based of current information and as close as I can get them.

2007 – 2009 Projective Summary

	Year 2007		Year 2008		Year 2009	
	ARC	UQ	ARC	UQ	ARC	UQ
Income						
Total Grants	\$359,933	\$50,000	\$367,131	\$50,000	\$185,640	\$50,000
Total income	\$359,933	\$50,000	\$367,131	\$50,000	\$185,640	\$50,000
Expenditure						
Total academic Salaries						
Total Non-academic Salaries	\$111,966	\$10,779	\$120,131	\$10,159	\$125,920	\$9,767
Total Maintenance	\$20,775	\$13,283	\$21,398	\$13,681	\$22,040	\$14,092
Total Travel	\$44,465	\$26,403	\$48,912	\$29,044	\$53,803	\$31,948
Total Assets		\$3,000				
Node Allocation	\$195,000		\$195,000		\$195,000	
Total Expenditure	\$372,207	\$53,465	\$385,441	\$52,884	\$396,763	\$55,806
Surplus/Deficit	-\$12,274	-\$3,465	-\$18,310	-\$2,884	-\$211,123	-\$5,806
Carry Forward	\$249,893	\$13,994	\$237,619	\$10,529	\$219,309	\$7,644
Account Surplus/Deficit	\$237,619	\$10,529	\$219,309	\$7,644	\$8,185	\$1,838

ARC Grant calculated at 2% CPI adjustment per annum.

Salaries per UQ Enterprise Bargain, 2005 - 2008. 2009 calculated on 3% increase.

Maintenance calculated at 3% increase per annum; travel calculated at 10% increase.

5. Management Committee Reports

7 March 2006

The meeting was primarily called in order to discuss postgraduate and early career researcher issues. Graeme introduced the point by saying that there were two related problems involved: what to do with postgraduate affiliates who submit and therefore fall off the list; and the dropping proportion of ECR participants. He suggested that we needed a system to ensure that ECRs were brought into the Network, to allow both the mentoring of junior academics, and keeping more senior members up to date with new developments.

Sue Luckman talked about the background to the issue, and related her and Fran's experiences after twelve months of convening the node. She felt that maintaining a list of postgrads, who were affiliated only by virtue of having a supervisor as member was unsustainable, and she and Fran had commenced dealing with issues of funding on a case-by-case, merit basis. She also said that there was a further group of people who had submitted, but were not yet employed within the academy who did not fit into either group and had very little access to structures of support.

Postgraduate Students: After some discussion, it was agreed that we dispense with the formal list and open up the postgrad activities to anyone with an interest in the events, with the proviso that the numbers do not get too high. It was noted that nationally there is no organised training program for postgrads, and the CRN can help in this area.

Recent Completions: There was some discussion about what sort of support this group needed and how best to offer it. It was suggested that (at least) virtual support on, among other things, progressing the thesis to publication was important. This group should also be able to attend masterclasses.

Early Career Researchers: Graeme suggested a model whereby new members could be added to the Network at an ECR level, by asking members to sponsor applicants and advertising that five openings would be available each year. The application form would include information on existing connections, which project they would be involved with, and what skills and resources they could bring to the Network.

In other business, Graeme presented at the Media and Identity in Asia Conference in Sarawak, Malaysia, in February, and reported back very positively about the event, which succeeded in connecting younger and more established researchers. He made some valuable contacts at the conference, and was invited to present at the Asian Media Information Centre's Conference in Penang during July.

He will meet with Tony Bennett and Marie Gillespie while at the Hoggart Conference in the UK during April, to talk about forging closer links with the Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change. Graeme was invited to the Centre's second annual conference in September, but is unable to attend. CRN funds could be made available to participants who could represent the Network there. He also spoke about ways in which the CRN could encourage and support participants networking. It was suggested that the Network could supplement institutional funding to allow participants to stay on after conference, in order to network.

Graeme met with convenors of the other networks at a meeting in Canberra during November. He found that most networks are operating on a different basis to ours, but remains convinced that our model is the best. He said that he felt the Network had lost some momentum, and thought that the nodes should make a specific move to small projects involving a few people, rather than the big workshops.

There were three proposals for funding considered: one for central funds and two via the nodes. The proposals were approved with some conditions on reporting.

Liz Jacka forwarded a proposal for Bridget Griffen-Foley to be invited into the network. This was warmly approved

18 April 2006

The meeting was mainly to discuss and approve the node activities for 2006, and this was preceded by a discussion of the current node structure. It was agreed that the node structure is working well in most cases, in particular the collaborations between the Cultural Histories and Cultural Geographies sub-nodes which are producing some valuable insights. It was agreed that the Media Histories sub-node operates largely on its own, and the Annual Meeting will be asked to approve its becoming a full node. It was noted that Mark Gibson move to Monash at the end of the year would leave no convenors in the West.

Overall the node budgets looked very good: projects are happening and people are starting to position their research in terms of the Network's goals. There was discussion of the budgets, and some convenors will be asked to add small amounts of contingency funding to some events. There was also an application for central funding from a participant for a workshop, but it was felt that the topic was unrelated to the CRN's research areas and the application was not approved.

In other business, Graeme reported that following up on a discussion at the Convenor's Meeting, he was proposing a centrally organised event in 2007, centring on Muslim youth identity in Australia. This would most probably take the form of a two-day workshop including Network participants who have done research in the area, as well as a couple of international guests, including Marie Gillespie. While in the UK Graeme had a productive visit with Tony Bennett, Marie Gillespie, and other members of the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change.

An application for membership was received from Chris Gibson, for Associate Professor Gordon Waitt. Gordon is a cultural geographer and has been involved in research projects with Chris and Kate Bowles, and comes with high recommendations. The nomination was approved.

A list of selection criteria was determined for the upcoming ECR membership scheme:

1. ECR status (five years from submission of the PhD) (If the applicant does not already have the degree, a case for equivalence must be made)
2. Some association with CRN activities (e.g. attendance at PG/ECR workshop or similar)
3. Active research links with current members
4. Should bring new or desired skills
5. Track record (relative to opportunity)

31 July 2006

The "Hyperdiversity" workshop is going ahead: will be run by UWS in Sydney in February or March 2007, and administered by Dr Tanja Dreher. It will be designed as an information-sharing program. Graeme is hoping to bring to bring someone out from the UK, and will maybe organise some follow-up events.

Graeme reported that Mark Gibson was keen to continue as convenor of the Cultural Literacies Node after his move to Monash. Graeme is working to set up a workshop with Cultural Literacies and education teachers with a view to it being a public event with possible publication outcomes.

The Advisory Board has been appointed and will hopefully meet by the end of the year. It was suggested that there should be a Management Committee representative. To clarify the funding criteria for CRN projects, Graeme will write a re-statement of the CRN position and communicate it to the membership. He stated his intention to run an event on cultural geography at some time during the five years.

The meeting discussed the current node structure at length, looking at areas that need development and ways in which the Network can build on the strengths of the nodes. The Committee felt that some modification to the node structure is needed, and a proposal will be taken to the Annual Meeting following consultation with the Node Convenors.

There was a proposal to institute a scheme wherein any CRN participant can apply for a travelling fellowship to cover fares and accommodation that would enable them to visit any other member to work on a specific project for 2 – 4 weeks. The host institution would be required to offer in-kind support. Maybe limited to two people in each city.

Nominations for Justine Lloyd, Jo Tacchi, and Catherine Driscoll were approved. One further nomination was deferred until additional information is provided.

John raised the issue of the difficulties encountered by the organisers of particular events if they did not have access to the node's funding systems. It should be communicated to node convenors that in these cases, the agreed amount of funding should be transferred to the organiser's home institution well in advance.

Graeme asked for suggestions about the theme of the Annual Meeting Symposium.

6. Endorsement of Management Committee Recommendations

According to the ARC Funding Agreement, "Plans and proposals for all activities, the management and/or modification of nodes, project development, strategic development budgets, and all other expenditure will be considered for endorsement at the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Management Committee." It continues, "the commissioning and de-commissioning of nodes where desired, and the addition of new network participants, will [be] considered first by the Management Committee and then by the Annual Meeting" (Funding Agreement D1.5).

Management Committee recommends that the following decisions be endorsed:

- a) Approval of the central budget, including allocation to the nodes
- b) Approval of the new participants listed at point one
- c) Approval of a travelling fellowship scheme to allow CRN participants to base themselves with a senior colleague for up to two weeks (31 July report)
- d) Proposal to make Media History a full node (further discussion of node structure will be deferred until the "Strategic Issues for 2007" discussion at point 9).

7. Management Committee ECR Rep Nominees' Statements

Kate Crawford

Kate Crawford is a lecturer in Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. She is the author of *Adult Themes: Rewriting the Rules of Adulthood* (Pan Macmillan, 2006) and is co-author of *Understanding the Internet: Language, Technology, Industry, Power* (Palgrave, TBP 2007). She is on the editorial boards of *Fibreculture* and *Media International Australia*, and she is commencing a major research project on mobile media use in Australia with Dr Gerard Goggin in 2007. Kate has worked internationally as a journalist and editor in both print and online and continues to contribute to newspapers (*The Sydney Morning Herald*) and television (host of nine-part music series *Set* on ABC-TV, 2006). She is an expert advisor to the Australia Council's Music Board.

After attending the Prefix Professional Development day held by the CRN, I think there's already evidence of success in encouraging early career researchers and giving them a clear roadmap for academic life. I'd like to take this a stage further, and instigate a workshop with ECRs that is geared towards joint research outcomes – concrete ways in which the current CRN members who are in their early careers can work together. This would be a three-stage process, starting with a research workshop to brainstorm possible collaborations, followed by a paper-driven seminar and an edited collection. I've raised this idea with two of the ECR members of the Network and there is strong

interest in drawing the ECRs together. ECRs are in an ideal position to drive and extend the vision of the CRN research nodes and lead toward tangible outcomes. More broadly, my personal commitment is to bringing cultural research to the public domain, and I'm interested in ways the CRN can connect its current projects with broader publics. The skills I'd bring to the Management Committee are those of an active researcher who is interested in expanding the ways ECRs can contribute to the Network, combined with previous experience of participating on boards that manage a diversity of interests.

Clifton Evers

I am currently Senior Project Manager for a 5 year ARC funded project, a Chief Investigator on another, and one of the CIs on a Linkage grant proposal on mentoring and sport. My research interest in this area includes working with Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, NSW Department of Education, and the National Rugby League. I also work with the Refugee Youth Soccer Development Program and Auburn Migrant Resource Centre. Future work is being developed with the NSW Police Citizen Youth Clubs.

I am a casual tutor/lecturer, and my other research includes tourism and emotion, and communicating sexual health to young Australians. I have a contract from MUP for my book about young men's experiences in the surfing culture.

The reason I would like to serve on the management committee is that I believe that the CRN is an exciting opportunity to support and produce work that enables communication amongst Australian researchers in cultural research and across universities and departments. I would like to be involved in the planning of symposiums/events that bring together academics and communities.

Emily Potter

Emily Potter holds a PhD in English Literature, and has a particular interest natureculture studies, poetics, belonging, and the textuality of place. She is an ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. Her current research project explores the relationship between cultural history, environmental sustainability and public art, especially with regard to the representation of alternative or marginalised stories in Australian public spaces. Since 2000 she has edited the on-line journal of Australian writing in the humanities, *Altitude*. She joined the CRN in 2006 and is part of the new 'natureculture' project.

I have a keen interest in ECR issues, which I believe should be treated as distinct (though of course not unrelated) from the concerns of postgraduate students. I am currently part of a small group of ECRs at the University of Melbourne organising a small research project on the situations and experiences of ECRs at this university, which we intend to feed into a two-day conference and ultimately to a series of recommendations to the VC in 2007. I have both participated in and facilitated ECR professional development opportunities. In 2003, for example, I participated in Drusilla Modjeska's 'From Thesis to Book Program', and as Chief Editor of *Altitude* I have provided guest editorial experience to other ECRs. I would bring valuable experience as a committee representative from my time as postgraduate rep to the English department in 2001 and 2002.

8. Node Reports

Cultural Histories and Geographies

a) Media History Sub-node

Research Roundtable

Following on the success of the Research Roundtable held in June 2005, the node as whole organised a further one in 2006. The intention was to bring together as many members of the CRN as possible, especially those with an interest in the fields of Cultural History and Geography. A number of themes were identified from the 2005 Roundtable which needed further discussion, including the related notions of “publics” and “communities” and the relationships between cultural history and cultural geography on the one hand, and cultural studies, on the other.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to further develop robust theoretical frameworks and research methodologies for research in the field. A full report of this Roundtable will appear in the report from Kate Darian-Smith and Chris Gibson.

Radio History and Studies Workshop

This workshop, entitled “Making Histories: Radio as Cultural Technology”, brought together scholars from Australia and overseas to further develop the nascent field of Radio History and Radio Studies. Its immediate aims were to showcase the research being done in the field, to foster research collaborations and funding sources and to identify publication opportunities for work already in progress. A fuller report will be given verbally.

Queer Asia

This is an international meeting of scholars involved in research on queer cultures in Asia planned for 2007. It will be held at UTS on February 22-3. Its aim is to showcase work being done by Australian and regional scholars and to stimulate further research and collaboration. The organisation of this event is being sponsored and assisted by the Cultural Geographies and Media Histories sub-nodes. There have been several meetings of the organising committee in 2006, keynote speakers have been engaged and the program is presently being constructed. So far a very interesting group of keynote speakers from across the Asian region have accepted invitations including, Dr Chandra Shekhar Balachandran from India, Rosana Flamer-Caldera from Sri Lanka, Dr J. Neil C. Garcia from the Philippines, De Dede Oetomo from Indonesia and Shi-Hue Tu from Taiwan. Professor David Halperin from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will also be a keynote speaker.

PATH (the Program for Australian Television)

This organization emerged from the very successful 2005 conference organised by node convenor, Liz Jacka on Australian Television History (see Annual Report for 2005). It is a loose coalition of academics (including many from the Cultural Research Network) and representatives of key cultural institutions with a brief in the area of Australia’s television heritage. This group met during 2006 to plan a significant project on Australian Television history. It is intended to apply for a Discovery Grant in early 2007. Leadership of the project will be undertaken by CRN members.

Australian Media History database (<http://www.amhd.org.au>)

This was designed and tested in 2005 and launched in December 2005. By February 2006 it had 25 entries. The task in 2006 was to publicise it and extend it. A particular goal was to include as much postgraduate research as possible. The intention was also to make it known to overseas colleagues involved in various forms of media history. It was hoped that by the end of 2006 it would have more than a 100 entries. At the moment (October) it has 53. See the above URL for more details about the form and purpose of the database.

The visit of Professor Georgina Born

The Media History node helped to organise the Sydney end of Professor Born’s very successful visit. The Sydney program consisted of a public lecture, a meeting with ABC senior management, two theoretical seminars and a one-day masterclass. These events have previously been fully reported on.

Future Shape of the Media History Sub-node

Media History in Australia is a relatively new field which is beginning to develop quite quickly. There has been a newspaper history group operating for some time under the guidance of Rod Kirkpatrick at UQ. The Australian Media Traditions Conferences, held every two years, have been going for several years and are increasing in size and significance. More recently a Radio Network has developed under the leadership of John Tebbutt, Bridget Griffen-Foley and Justine Lloyd amongst others. In 2006 there is a major conference being organised on magazine histories and of course, the Film and History Group (with a conference also planned in 2006) is a very long-standing organization. There is also quite a tradition of histories of publishing. PATH (described above) is the newest arrival in the field of Media History.

Most of the above sets of activities are run by scholars from the disciplines of Media Studies, Cultural Studies and English. However, there are also a number of historians, including those working in the new area of “Memory Studies” who are working on various aspects of media history.

It seems to me that the CRN is in a good position to assist and foster the further development of Media History as a field in Australia. It is suggested that the Media History sub-node becomes a fully-fledged node of the network and that it supports the linking of the above sub-areas of media history where it is appropriate. It could also look to the feasibility of founding an Australian media history journal and helping to link Australian scholars with their international counterparts. An annual CRN-sponsored workshop on media history could consider important issues common across all sub-fields, such as methodologies and sources.

Liz Jacka

b) Histories and Geographies Sub-node

Research Roundtable

Following the success of the 2005 event, a second two-day meeting of network members interested in cultural histories and geographies was held in June (Communities, Publics, and Practices). In 2006 this was also jointly a meeting with the Cultural Identities node, convened by Greg Noble. The meeting was attended by 18 members. The meeting also provided an opportunity to develop academic debate around the research themes identified in the 2005 meeting, particularly the themes of culture/natures, rural cultural studies, meanings of place and community (especially post-Cronulla riots).

International Geographical Union conference, Brisbane July 2006

In 2006 the annual Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) conference was held in Brisbane. It was also billed as the annual conference of the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS) and the four-yearly conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU). This provided an ideal opportunity for the CRN to sponsor sessions on themes of interest to network members, and spur discussion about links between geography, cultural studies and history. This was also an opportunity to follow-up on debates that occurred at the previous IAG conference (Armidale, 2005), in a special roundtable session on the relationships and opportunities that exist between cultural geography and cultural studies (see publication outcome below).

Accordingly, Dr Michelle Duffy (Melbourne) coordinated a series of CRN-sponsored sessions for the Brisbane IAG/IGU conference under the title ‘Spaces of Culture’. Dr Duffy and Prof. Kate Darian-Smith chaired the sessions which featured speakers from geography, cultural studies, history, design, media/communications, criminology and gender studies. So popular were the sessions that midway through them, a larger auditorium had to be found to house the growing audience! It is planned that a selection of the papers will be published as a special edition of an appropriate journal.

Special symposium issue, Geographical Research

Papers presented to the roundtable symposium on links between cultural geography and cultural studies at the 2005 Armidale IAG conference have provided the basis of a special issue of Geographical Research (ISSN 1745-5863) for 2006. The speakers at that roundtable were Chris Gibson (UOW); Kathy Mee (Newcastle); Kevin Dunn (UNSW) and Roy Jones (Curtin). Each contributor highlighted the uniqueness of the geography discipline as a setting for cultural research, and discussed their prior collaborative research and teaching efforts with scholars in cultural studies. A full list of the contributor appears elsewhere in this annual report.

The Rural Cultural Studies Program

The Cultural Histories and Cultural Geographies sub-nodes have combined financial resources to develop a three year (2006-2008) program of activities in rural cultural studies. 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 data base; grant applications; and publications.

The overarching aims of the program are:

- To bring together scholars from cultural studies, history and geography whose research interests fall into 'rural cultural studies'
- To explore new interdisciplinary models for rural cultural studies: how can we define the methodological, interpretative and political parameters of this field of interdisciplinary cultural research?
- To enrich partnerships between universities and rural communities, and between universities, communities and relevant cultural institutions
- To initiate new interdisciplinary research partnerships between metropolitan and regional universities, encompassing the support of postgraduate and early career researchers, including those in non-metropolitan locations
- To open up Australian based research in rural cultural studies to international comparisons and research links, and in doing so encourage Australian based research to have international impact

We are interested in examining how people make sense of their lived experience and locality, and how this is shaped by and influenced by government policy and planning discourses, as well as wider environmental 'problems'. Such discourses are framed within wider understandings of the interconnections between rurality, suburbanism and urbanism; between localized and national 'belonging', citizenship and identity; and through understandings of mobility and life-course transition.

Planning Workshop A, Wollongong, Feb 9-10, 2006

This 2 day workshop set out the parameters for the program budget, activities and aims; and identified common research interests among the key CRN participants behind the program (Darian-Smith, Gibson, Bowles, and Waitt).

Project Development Officer

Following unfortunate administrative delays in finalising the network agreement at UOW, in October 2006 an advertisement was circulated for a full-time Project Officer (at postdoctoral level, so as to assist career development of an ECR) for 9 months from July 2006. This position will assist in the initial developmental phase of the program, including developing and managing relationships with rural communities, cultural institutions, and the wider network of rural cultural studies researchers; assisting in the development of research grants, masterclasses, workshops the industry partners workshop and publications; and contributing content and assistance towards the web-based resources and database (see below). At the time of writing a number of applications have been received from appointable individuals and the position is expected to be filled in early November.

Mapping rural media histories: 'The Bega project'

Under the broad umbrella of the Rural Cultural Studies Program, the CRN is supporting a historical geography project based at the University of Wollongong, which has received modest seed funding from an internal Faculty of Arts program. The project's aim is to use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in order to produce a spatial database of the history of media innovation in the Bega Valley on the far south coast of New South Wales. GIS technologies enable 'layers' of data (whether qualitative or quantitative) to be assembled in both digital map and database form. Subsequently they can be interrogated in an interactive fashion.

In this project, we are interested in mapping links between physical environments, infrastructures of transportation and media distribution, and perceptions of the relationships between one regional community and wider networks of cultural and media flows. Early cinema experiences were shaped

by geography: from the impact of sealed roads and bridges on the territories of itinerant picture showmen, to the effect of shipping timetables on the distribution of motion picture prints to purpose built theatres throughout the region. Similarly, television broadcasting into the Bega Valley was governed by topography, both in terms of the siting of antennae and the building permits required to build large domestic aerials.

In October 2006 Dr Bowles travelled to Bega to begin to establish partnerships with local institutions that may have a stake in this project (incl. Bega Valley Historical Society, Museum, Shire Council). In December 2006 project participants will travel to Bega to discuss parameters for the Rural Cultural Studies Program. As well, opportunities exist on this trip to engage local institutions regarding this research. It is intended that subsequent parts of the project will involve Honours students at the University of Wollongong working with an academic team to provide the preliminary data acquisition and geocoding, followed by more sustained and detailed research supported by funding from external sources.

Adel Iskander Seminar

Dr Adel Iskander, from the American University Washington DC, visited the University of Melbourne under the auspices of the CRN on 9 August to present a paper on 'Beyond Al-Jazeera: the future of alternative and independent media in the Arab world'. The seminar was well attended by academics, postgraduate students and journalists. Dr Iskander also met with other researchers while in Melbourne.

Australian Modernities Conference (ECR Support)

Funds from the Cultural Histories and Geographies node were allocated for airfares and accommodation to allow two early career researchers to attend and present papers at the Australian Modernities Conference at the University of Queensland, 5-7 December. Convened by CRN-member Professor Robert Dixon and Professor Veronica Kelly, the conference brings together scholars from numerous disciplines, including literary and cultural studies, theatre studies, history, art history and architecture, to explore Australia's involvement in the international circulation of 'vernacular' modernity. The ECRs are Dr Melissa Bellanta (History, University of Sydney) and Dr Fiona Gregory (Centre for Drama and Theatre, Monash University).

Cultural Memories Activities

In July a meeting was held in Melbourne between Chris Healy, Paula Hamilton and Kate Darian-Smith to discuss how the CRN might assist in the facilitation of strengthening links with those working on cultural memory internationally, and how studies in this area might be better networked within Australia. A preliminary proposal for two workshops to be held 2007/8 and 2008/9 will be further developed.

Natures/Cultures Sub-Node Activities (report by Gay Hawkins)

In May the N/C group (Gay Hawkins, Emily Potter, Stephen Meucke and Zoe Sofoulis) met for a discussion and planning day. We explored our different approaches to these issues and possible projects, and the following actions have emerged from this meeting:

- Gay Hawkins, Emily Potter and Stephen Meucke have put in a panel proposal to the 2007 Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society conference in Shanghai titled 'Matter and Movement – Regional Naturecultures'.
- Kay Anderson has now joined the cluster and has been extremely helpful in setting up contacts with like-minded geographers working on very similar issues specifically, Sarah Whatmore, Professor of Geography at Oxford, and Bruce Braun from Geography at Minnesota.
- In September Gay Hawkins met with Sarah Whatmore at Oxford to discuss work and networking opportunities. Since then GH has contacted Andrew Barry at Oxford about the possibility of establishing links and joint projects with the Centre for Technologies of Politics and Ecology. He is interested and enthusiastic.
- At the Cultural Histories and Identities node meeting at UTS in June, Stephen Meucke and Emily Potter did a short presentation on the cluster's intellectual orientation and key questions. Discussion with fellow CRN members followed.

- In October Gay Hawkins presented a paper on 'Plastic Materialities' in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, University of Melbourne. Following this, Emily Potter, Gay Hawkins and Kate Darian-Smith had a meeting about future plans and how to get more networked activity and projects going.
- Gay Hawkins has just been invited to a workshop at Oxford in December run by Sarah Whatmore and Bruce Braun called 'The Stuff of Politics – technoscience, democracy and public life'. This is a direct response to networking with them about the N/C CRN cluster.
- Stephen Meucke is giving a paper at Goldsmith's College, University of London in November titled 'Cultural Science? Radical Contingency, Radical Empiricism and the Future Habitat of the Humanities'.
- Zoe Sofoulis and the CCR at UWS are planning a conference in 2007 on water called 'In the Pipeline', and while this is not a N/C event we are happy to help and be involved in any way possible and are exploring options.

Overall, the N/C cluster has made some good links with UK and US scholars and is beginning to promote the research cluster internationally. This seems to be an appropriate strategy considering how relatively underdeveloped this field is in Australia. The amount of great work being done on these issues overseas is very impressive. There is no question that this is a very significant field signalling the profound shift from critique and representational thinking to material thinking and explorations of the social and the natural as produced through assemblages. It takes place in various sites like geography, sociology, science studies and politics. Cultural studies would appear to be dragging the chain on these issues which do represent a significant challenge to the status of 'culture'.

Future Activities: 2007-

Queer Asian Sites, UTS Sydney, 22-23 February 2007

Along with the media histories sub-node, the cultural geographies node is providing financial support for the Queer Asian Sites event, a two-day conference with other associated events intended to bring in key scholars from around the region working on Asia/Pacific queer cultures and histories so as to network with the growing body of researchers in Australia conducting similar research. It is timed to coincide with the 2007 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. A variety of events is planned to heighten the profile of Queer Asian Studies – an academic conference, a public roundtable and a film and video evening. Outcomes will include an online proceedings and an edited volume.

Rural Cultural Studies Program Workshops/Events

Planning Workshop B, Dec 11-13, 2006

An intensive session to be held in Bega, this 2 day workshop will bring the key CRN players in rural cultural studies together to examine new scholarship models, methodologies, and community-academic engagement. It will also provide an opportunity to 'test the rhetoric' of the project by exploring links with local partners on the 'Mapping rural media histories' project (see C above under 2006 activities).

Rural Cultural Studies Research Symposium (Wollongong, July 2007)

This 2 day event will provide the opportunity for those within the CRN, other identified key researchers, and postgraduates and ECRs to present papers on current research. The intention is to use CRN funds to support postgraduates from around Australia to gather and present papers, plus invite leading global scholars (e.g. Paul Cloke, Jo Little) to travel to Australia to participate in the symposium. As well as research papers, substantial time will be allocated for broader workshop discussions on aspects of conducting cultural research in rural areas. A model used as a template for this symposium is one used by geographers at the University of Wollongong to support the 'Geography and the politics of environmental knowledges' symposium featuring Prof. Noel Castree (Manchester) in July 2006. It is preferable to hold this symposium in this format rather than as a 'travelling masterclass' because of the often scattered geography of working in rural cultural studies – it being more efficient to subsidise postgraduate attendance from diverse places for one event than for multiple smaller events in each state. Future plans for the research program will also be mapped out at this event in a smaller business meeting of the key CRN personnel.

Industry Partners Workshop (Brisbane, late 2007/early 2008)

This will be an invitation to key industry stakeholders and potential partners to explore collaborative work that that has, and could occur, in rural cultural studies. It will be open to all on the CRN.

Writing Workshop (Melbourne, December 07)

An intensive writing workshop for all working on an ARC Discovery application.

Rural Cultural Studies Website: Resources and Database

A project website will be developed (possibly hosted at UQ/CRN), and will include a database of resources and publications; a list of those around Australia working in the field; international links; profiles of ongoing projects etc. The media histories online database provides the ideal model and enables use of its custom-designed architecture/software.

Natures/Cultures

There are preliminary plans to run a focussed event in 2007. Other plans include exploring possibilities for compiling a database of like-minded researches and generating greater national and international links.

Cultural Memory

The first of two workshops will be organised for 2007/8.

Chris Gibson and Kate Darian-Smith

c) Cultural Identities and Communities

Cosmopolitan Multiculturalism in Australia panel, Cultural Studies Conference, Istanbul, August

This was a very useful panel involving Greg Noble, Ien Ang and Ghassan Hage—it provided international presentation of contemporary debates and research into cultural diversity, and foregrounded some of the issues that have emerged in the theme of ‘unpanicked communities’ flagged at CRN roundtables. It also provided contact with several relevant international researchers—including Marie Gillespie, who will be coming to Australia in 2007 for a CRN symposium on Hyperdiversity, Diaspora and Media.

Adel Iskander American University of Washington, August, Centre for Cultural Research, UWS

This visit by Adel Iskandar, the author of a major book on Al-Jazeera, was organized by the Centre for Cultural Research, and entailed a master class, a seminar at the CCR, a public lecture in Parramatta, and seminars at Melbourne University and QUT. The two-day Master Class, focusing on interdisciplinary approaches to questions of transnationalism, diaspora and media was an enormous success, involving 24 students from around Australia, who gave us very positive feedback. The public lecture at Parramatta was subsequently broadcast on community television stations TVS-Sydney.

Some discussion took place about future collaborative work and Adel will be invited back for the symposium on Hyperdiversity, Diaspora and Media in 2007.

Everyday Multiculturalism Conference, 28-29th September 2006, Macquarie University

The Everyday Multiculturalism conference was convened by the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University. The aim of the conference was to bring together scholars from various disciplines employing grounded methodologies in their research to explore everyday experiences of living with cultural diversity. Thirty-eight papers and 3 keynotes were delivered at the conference, which included several overseas scholars, including two from the University of Stockholm.

The sessions on Day one of the conference covered specific topics within the field of multiculturalism ranging from Everyday Cosmopolitanisms; Religion, Policy and Ideology; Architecture and the Built Environment; to Diversity and Youth. Day two's focus was on Cronulla and the Everyday Politics of Cultural Difference in Suburbia. Speakers presented research on the Cronulla Riots in Sydney in 2005, and discussed some of the impacts in affected communities. The papers dealt with issues around: masculinity; whiteness; surfer sub-culture; locals and others and The Shire.

The conference closed with a panel discussion comprising representatives from Sutherland Shire Council, NSW Community Relations Commission, Shire Wide Youth Service, and Bankstown Youth Development Services who spoke about some of the Post-Cronulla initiatives undertaken by their respective organisations. These included activities to bring young people from the Cronulla and Lebanese communities together, school visits, community arts project and so forth. The representatives noted that academic research on the Cronulla Riots have not filtered down to community workers at grassroots' level and that more needs to be done in terms of academic collaboration.

The conference proceedings will be published on the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion website. Melbourne University Press has expressed interest in publishing an edited collection based on the conference. The conveners are currently preparing a book proposal. Some of the papers on Cronulla will be published in Greg Noble (ed) 'Lines in the Sand' (Institute of Criminology Press). Several of the academics are now discussing plans for workshops with local participants.

Landscapes of Meaning, Workshop Oct 18-20, Transforming Cultures, UTS

This event, supported by the Cultural Research Network, the Asia Pacific Futures Network and the APFN South Asia node, brought together researchers, activists and grass-roots community campaigners from South Asia and Australia to challenge assumptions and find common ground, focusing on the themes of environmental justice and transnational migrancy.

The workshop focused on developing channels of communication between researchers in India and in Australia. The Indian researchers were Anjali Roy (the Indian Institute of Technology), Lakshmi Subramaniam (Kolkata), and Ranjan Chakrabarti and Mahesh Rangarajan (Jadavpur). Australian researchers attended from around the country.

The workshop opened with an intensive day-long session for postgrads and early career researchers in the fields of environmental studies and diaspora studies. Then followed two days of senior researcher work-in-progress presentations on comparative approaches to, firstly, environmental studies and social justice, in dialogue with agency staff, NGO advocates and community activists and, secondly, on changing approaches to diaspora studies.

The event will generate outcomes in publication, collaborative research projects and mentoring for postgraduates and early career researchers. During 2007, the TFC ePress plans to publish an edition of its refereed journal on Rethinking Diaspora and a volume on Justice and Conservation, the latter arising from a series of conversations between participants at the workshop and researchers in India and Australia, including postgraduates. One ARC Discovery will be submitted in 2007 will lead into International Linkages with researchers at Indian universities. Further discussions are being held on two additional proposed ARC projects and teaching exchanges.

Greg Noble

d) Cultural Literacies

There have been four major activities of the Cultural Literacies node in 2006:

'Uses of Richard Hoggart' Conference

The first of these was to support a panel of speakers at an international conference, 'The Uses of Richard Hoggart', at Sheffield University in April. Five CRN members spoke at the conference, all on themes of cultural literacy—Graeme Turner, John Hartley, Melissa Gregg, Gerry Bloustien and Mark Gibson. The conference provided an opportunity to project the CRN to an international audience and also to develop dialogue between panel members.

The conference was in some ways a curious one. There have, of course, been many conferences themed around individual figures—Bourdieu conferences, Foucault conferences etc.—but Hoggart does not quite seem to fit the paradigm. The event drew an unusual assortment of people, from classical Eng Lit types and old warriors of the British left to entrepreneurs of international cultural studies, educationalists and fringe Antipodeans. At times, it might have looked like an exercise in nostalgia: Richard Hoggart made a shaky appearance (at the age of 87) to standing ovation, his

journalist son Simon gave an affectionate portrait of his life in an after dinner speech and Stuart Hall revisited the early days of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies.

But many delegates also found the event surprisingly productive as an occasion for reflection on the current moment in cultural studies and for thinking today about cultural literacies. Of the CRN speakers, for example, Graeme offered a sceptical reassessment of 'critical literacy' interventions in school curriculum, John connected the Hoggartian moment in thinking about literacy with emerging developments in digital media, Melissa abstracted a 'politics of empathy' with relevance for thinking about the cultural politics of John Howard's Australia, Gerry found inspiration in Hoggart's auto-ethnography of the 'anxious and uprooted' for thinking about marginalised youth in Adelaide, and Mark returned to Hoggart to probe continuing cultural frictions and problems around 'Englishness'. Most of this work is resulting in publication – notably in a special issue of the *International Journal of Cultural Studies* – and is also filtering through into other cultural literacies projects.

Communicating Safer Sex via Mobile and Online Technologies

The second activity, initiated by Elspeth Probyn, was an August workshop in Sydney brainstorming ideas, plans and projects for better communicating to young people the necessity of safe sex – not only in relation to HIV, but more pointedly to high levels of Sexually Transmitted Infections. CRN participants included Elspeth Probyn, Stephanie Donald, Gerard Goggin, Clifton Evers and Melissa Gregg. It also developed collaborations internationally with John Nguyet Erni from City University Hong Kong and Yingying Huang from Renmin University, Beijing and locally with Jackie Ruddock from Streetwise and other Sydney-based researchers on youth, sexuality and mobile media.

The sexual health and mobile media project is conceived at the intersection of three major themes: i) young people's use of technology, specifically their preference for newer modes such as mobile telephony over traditional media such as TV, ii) their logics of identity or non-identity (eg. identifying or not identifying with categories defined by sexual orientation), iii) cross-cultural comparisons (PRC, HK, Australia). Attendees joined in discussion with different experts, presenting short overviews of their research. The aim of the workshop was to develop a large funded project, possibly titled 'Youth, Intimacy, Friendship via Mobile Technologies: Mobile Communication in Australia, HK and China'. There are plans also to widen the international collaboration to include British researchers (eg. Celia Lury, Bev Skeggs and/or Lisa Adkins from Goldsmiths College). Towards further development of the project, a panel has been proposed to the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies conference in Shanghai in July 2007.

Cultural Literacies and Multilingualism

A third project, initiated by Stephi Donald, focused on cultural issues around language learning and multilingualism. The central activity was a one day workshop at the University of Technology, Sydney on 16 June which developed exchanges between cultural research and applied linguistics. A morning session involved presentations from researchers in language education and applied linguistics (Angela Giovanangeli, Elena Sheldon, Emi Otsuji, Hermine Scheeres, Maravic Wyndham and Susan Oguro) and the afternoon a panel discussion led by four representatives from the CRN (Ien Ang, Audrey Yue, Vera Mackie and Mark Gibson). It emerged that there is considerable convergence between the two perspectives, with applied linguistics taking an interest in broader cultural analysis and cultural research often borrowing concepts of translation and linguistic difference for its analytic frames. It was suggested at the workshop that there be at least one follow-up event and possibly also a joint application for grant-funded research.

Distributing Cultural Literacies via Digital Media (the 'Culturetron')

A fourth project, still in train, carries forward one strand of discussion developed at the 2005 Sydney roundtable. A Project Officer has recently been employed, based at QUT and under the supervision of John Hartley, to assist in developing networks around issues of literacy in the new digital media environment. It is based at core on emerging arguments about the economic importance of innovation at the consumer end of value chains. Such innovation can be thought, on the model of print media, as a problem of literacy. What sorts of skills or capacities are required for populations to move beyond basic functional interaction with digital media to full creative expressiveness? What sort of infrastructure might assist in developing these capacities? The immediate task for the Project Officer is to establish contacts with cultural institutions (museums and galleries), universities and other educational institutions, and community / regional / remote / indigenous arts organizations in order to gauge the amount of digital content being produced.

This work will feed into a CRN roundtable at QUT on 30 March 2007, involving a number of those involved in the earlier Sydney roundtable and facilitated by British expert on creativity and innovation, Ken Robinson. The purpose of the roundtable will be to develop a practical model (informally dubbed the 'culturetron'), for stimulating new forms of literacy and connecting them with institutional and economic development. The strategic goal in this will be to interest policymakers in research around cultural literacies, particularly those concerned with Australian media content and in the science and technology area around ideas of innovation.

Towards 2007

A number of projects are shaping for 2007:

- The node is planning to support a visit to Australia by Beverley Skeggs, with a number of events loosely organised around media literacy (probably at Monash and Sydney). Among the possibilities being suggested here are a one day symposium on 'telesociality' and the 'learning of the self' (both working off Bev's recent work on reality television and the ethics of selfhood). One or more of these events would involve educationalists interested in similar issues.
- Graeme has proposed an event engaging topical debates around the English syllabus in schools – including media panics about the influence of 'postmodernism', teacher concerns about the influence of Systemic Functional Linguistics and debates about the merits of 'outcome based education' in Western Australia and elsewhere. The idea has developed from discussions with people with research interests in education. A one-day symposium on the subject has been tentatively scheduled for May.
- There has been considerable interest, since the beginning of discussions on the Literacies node, in 'public sphere' communication and some thought has been given to the idea of an event around this theme. Elspeth Probyn has suggested Bruce Robbins as a possible anchor. It might also be an occasion for activating Asian contacts (eg. Chua Beng Huat).

The Literacies node has significantly underspent on its budget for 2006, so calling for further suggestions!

Mark Gibson

e) Cultural Technologies

Workshop on '**Internationalizing Internet Studies**' held at QUT on 27 September as a pre-conference event prior to the Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel, Brisbane.

Event outcomes:

1. In total 11 papers were presented including speakers from Finland, Germany, the US, Taiwan and Singapore. It was a great networking success.
2. Topics included the Indian diaspora in Germany, Finnish notions of cyberspace, Japanese cybercultures, Korean Internet developments and Chinese uses of the Internet. The diversity of topics was considered a great strength.
3. There was an audience of 40 persons throughout the day
4. A book collection entitled 'Internationalizing Internet Studies' has been contracted with Routledge to be edited by Mark McLelland and Gerard Goggin.
5. Mark McLelland was invited by AoIR organisers to consider running a similar themed pre-conference workshop prior to their next conference in Vancouver in 2007.

“Beyond Al-Jazeera: The future of alternative and independent media in the Arab world”

Seminar by Dr Adel Iskander

QUT Creative Industries Precinct

18th August

“Musical mediation: ontology, technology and creativity”

Seminar by Dr Georgina Born, University of Cambridge

QUT Creative Industries Precinct

31st July

“Screen Industries in the Global Era: Accumulation, Creation, and Socio-Cultural Variation”

Seminar by Michael Curtin

QUT 5 July and University of Sydney 29 June

While in Australia Professor Curtin also addressed the **Conference of the Asian Studies**

Association of Australia, (University of Wollongong, 26 - 28 June).

Events outcome:

Organiser Michael Keane and CRN participants are working towards a research project on Media Industry Development in East Asia.

Toby Miller **Games Research Roundtable** held at QUT 12 May

Event outcomes:

1. A panel based on the event has been proposed for 2007 DIGRA (Digital Games Research Association) conference in Toyko
2. A special issue of the journal *Games and Culture* has been proposed; submissions from CRN members will be sought once the issue is confirmed
3. excellent networking opportunity drawing together mostly ECRs from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane, some of whom are key researchers taking forward the new/digital media agenda.

The New Economics of Culture in East Asia Forum

QUT 27-28 March

The new economics of culture in East Asia with Zhang Xiaoming (Chinese Academy of Social Science, editor of *Blue Book of China's Culture*) and Desmond Hui (University of Hong Kong, author of the Baseline Report of HK Creative Industries)

10 postgrads were involved in the East Asia forum, including 4 interstate postgrads

The forum covered the following topics:

- The changing shape of culture in China and East Asia
- The role of cultural technologies and economic theory within this change
- Examples of cultural technologies in new industry sectors, cable TV, IPTV, animation, Internet
- The role of innovation in the catch up strategies of East Asia

Event outcomes

1. The event was audiotaped and is available to all network members as well as bringing CRN and related collaborators together.

Sexual Health and the Mobile Phone

Cultural Technologies contributed to this internodal project in 2006

Christy Collis and Stuart Cunningham

f) Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Development

Activities organised and run by the node, 2006:

Professor Toby Miller travelling masterclass: 'Popular Media and Cultural Citizenship,' Perth and Melbourne, May 2006.

Professor Toby Miller presented two 1-day masterclasses on Monday 15 (University of Melbourne) and Wednesday 17 May (Murdoch University). These masterclasses were attended by 24 PGs/ECRs in total, selected from a wider field of applicants via competitive applications, many travelling from institutions interstate. The classes offered an opportunity for all PGs/ECR attendees to present their own work (which was also circulated to all beforehand) and discuss and interrogate their writing and ideas with both Professor Miller and other PGs/ECRs in attendance. Attendees were also encouraged to attend Professor Miller's public lectures in each city prior to the classes. The PG/ECR development node funded the travel and accommodation for those who attended these masterclasses from out of town.

Selected feedback from participants:

- "The selection process and workshop format provided an opportunity to contextualise my own research among that of my peers, and to take myself seriously...as a PG student/ECR."
- "Comments and feedback from Professor Miller and other participants...was really helpful."
- "The focus of the masterclass, visiting academic Toby Miller, offered a useful model of a successful teacher/researcher/editor/consultant etc who was able to contribute discussion across a wide area of participant interest, and who was both generous and personable."

Professor Vera Mackie 'Planning Your Research Career' seminar, Adelaide, June 2006.

Professor Vera Mackie presented a seminar dedicated to 'Planning Your Research Career' at the CityEast campus of the University of South Australia on Friday 2 June 2006. The seminar covered such topics as expectations for applicants to jobs and fellowships; developing a strong academic track record; CV writing; strategies for publication; setting career goals; and the importance of mentors, peers and networks. This seminar was attended by over 30 PGs/ECRs from all three universities in Adelaide. Material from this event is now available via the CRN website.

The CRN hosted the event and contributed towards Prof. Mackie's travel costs.

Professor Georgina Born travelling masterclass: 'Methodologies for Studying Cultural Production,' Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, July - August 2006.

Professor Georgina Born presented three 1-day masterclasses over Wednesday 26 July (University of Queensland), Friday 4 August (University of Melbourne) and Friday 11 August (University of Technology, Sydney). Once again, participants were selected from a wider field via competitive applications, with many travelling from interstate to attend. This event provided an opportunity for select PGs/ECRs to present their work for critique and interrogation. It also involved an interactive lecture and discussion of Georgina Born's work, based on readings which had been circulated to participants prior to the masterclasses, focusing on methodological framing. 22 PGs/ECRs attended the Brisbane masterclass, with a further 25 in Melbourne and 15 in Sydney. Three participants presented papers per masterclass. Attendees were also encouraged to attend Professor Born's public lectures in each city prior to the classes. The PG/ECR development node covered travel and accommodation for those who attended these masterclasses from out of town, and further subsidised the purchase of Georgina Born's two books, *Uncertain Vision* and *Rationalizing Culture* for masterclass participants.

Selected feedback from participants:

- "Comprehensiveness and openness of speaker – their generosity with their own experience/expertise. Gave me lots of ideas and value for conceptual approaches to literature."
- "I found the class very informative and useful for my own work and that of my students."

- “I appreciated the opportunity to have the time to spend with a prominent scholar in the field of my interest and clarify and become inspired again about my thinking.”

Professor Tony Bennett masterclass: ‘Culture and Governance: Institutions, Practices, Policies,’ Adelaide, November 2006.

We are currently working toward Professor Tony Bennett’s 2-day intensive masterclass in Adelaide on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 November 2006. This masterclass offers an opportunity to engage with Professor Bennett’s work, and also a platform for presentations from early career researchers and postgraduates in later stages of their candidature. We will again be offering travel and accommodation subsidies to those attending from out of town, and selecting the 14 attendees from a wider field of applicants via competitive applications.

Activities supported by the node, 2006:

‘New Economies of Culture in East Asia’ forum, Brisbane, March 2006.

The PG/ECR development node offered financial support to the ‘New economies of Culture in East Asia’ forum for postgraduate attendance.

‘Internationalising Internet Studies’ research workshop, Brisbane, September 2006.

The PG/ECR development node offered financial support to the ‘Internationalising Internet Studies’ research workshop for postgraduate attendance.

‘Un-Australia’ CSAA conference – ARC Cultural Research Network Awards, Canberra, December 2006.

The PG/ECR development node has made funds available to the CSAA to cover travel, accommodation and registration fees for the eight winners of the 2006 ARC Cultural Research Network Award for best abstracts submitted.

Susan Luckman and Fran Martin

9. Strategic Issues for 2007

- a) Node Structure
The node structure was always seen as fluid, and it is important to make sure that it supports and enables the research that occurs within that structure. Following the discussion yesterday, and in the light of the node reports, we would like to open the floor for discussion of the current node structure.
- b) Suggestions for future activities
- c) Issues from the Symposium
Any further issues relating to the stocktake, or progress of the Network.

10. Node Convenors

Pending the discussion of node structure at point 9 above, it may be necessary to confirm the appointment of one or more people to the role of node convenor or co-convenor. At the very least, a replacement for Liz Jacka as the convenor of the Media History sub-node will be necessary. To date we have had one participant express interest in this position, that being Bridget Griffen-Foley. Node convenors are appointed at the discretion of the Network Convenor, but Graeme is certainly prepared to take suggestions.

Thank you for your contribution to the 2006 Annual Meeting.