

Editors' Note

JASAL 7, the third issue of the journal published in 2007, includes a range of articles on Australian literary history and biography, current literary critical debate and the work of contemporary Australian novelists. Several of these articles began as papers given at recent conferences sponsored by the Association for the Study of Australian Literature: Philip Butters gave a paper on C. J. Dennis at the conference to honour Elizabeth Webby on her retirement held at the University of Sydney in February 2007; Bernadette Brennan spoke about Patrick White's *Riders in the Chariot* at the 'Remembering Patrick White' conference in Sydney in May 2007 organised by staff of the University of Western Sydney and the University of New South Wales with the support of ASAL. This issue also publishes reviews of recent books on Australian writing and publishing.

Since moving *JASAL* online through the National Library of Australia website, we have received an increasing number of submissions from scholars outside Australia who tell us that they appreciate the ready access to critical material on Australian writing. Website statistics indicate that every *JASAL* article from the special conference issue, *Spectres, Screens, Shadows, Mirrors*, has been accessed by more than 1500 readers since it went online in April 2007. Items in *JASAL* 6 have been viewed an average of 850 times, in the five months since July 2007. As a result of a new strategic partner relationship between the National Library and Google Scholar, all *JASAL* articles have been indexed by Google and are fully text searchable through Google Scholar. If you want your work to be read, then submit it for publication in *JASAL*!

We remind authors that articles can be submitted to www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/jasal at any time of the year. All submissions are 'blind' reviewed by two experts and authors receive full reports on their work, whether or not it is eventually published. We encourage readers to register on the website in order to receive immediate notification of the contents of the most recent issue. We also appreciate those readers and ASAL members who offer their services as peer reviewers by registering as Reviewers as well as Readers. We welcome any volunteers with the skills to serve as proofreaders and copyeditors.

The expert Reviewers who read and report on all *JASAL* submissions not only ensure the quality of the published journal, but they provide invaluable advice to every author who submits. Many authors have expressed their gratitude to these anonymous Reviewers, and the Editors rely on them for editorial guidance. We have been impressed by the generosity of these scholars and their commitment to their subject areas.

We also thank Allen & Unwin for permission to reproduce the artwork from the cover of Kerry Greenwood's *Murder on the Ballarat Train* for our cover. Once again, Bobby Graham at the National Library of Australia has assisted us with any online difficulties, and Michael Birch has prepared the final proofs.

JASAL 7 also marks a transition in the editorship. Philip Mead, who has overseen the shift to both online and hard-copy publishing and supervised the production of the hard-copy versions of the journal, will be retiring as editor while Tanya Dalziell and Paul Genoni will take up co-editorship with Susan Lever for 2008. Tanya has edited the book reviews for *JASAL* 7. Paul Genoni has helped proofread this issue.

Currently, Gillian Whitlock and Victoria Kuttainen are preparing a special conference issue of *JASAL*, based on the ASAL conference that Gillian convened in July at the University of Queensland. We hope that we can continue more frequent publication of *JASAL* but, of course, this depends on submissions from authors as well as the commitment of Reviewers and Editors.

Susan Lever, The University of New South Wales at ADFA
Philip Mead, The University of Tasmania