Landfall in unknown seas

Authors: Donna Lee Brien
          Gail Pittaway
Australia / New Zealand

Pre-colonial
- Indigenous people
- Unique world view/beliefs and values
- Cultural practices
- Unique storytelling techniques and traditions
- Unique art practices

Colonial
- Australia - Penal colonies
- New Zealand - settlement polices
- Both social experiments
- Both whaling and gold rushes
- No interaction between indigenous cultures of each nation until after European arrival
- Geographical distance -
  - Gradual distancing in governance
  - "Across the ditch"
In common: Abel Tasman

- Map
- Encounters
- Discoveries
Tasman’s first view of New Zealand

http://www.abeltasman.org/journal-tasman.html

Alexander Turnbull Library
Reference: PUBL-0086-019
Photolithograph after a drawing by Isaac Gilsemans
In common: James Cook
A general chart...

From the atlas volume of Cook’s *A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean* . . . (London, 1784). [Rare Books Division]
Development of Creative Writing as a discipline

- Australia- Donna to give me details

- New Zealand- 17 Tertiary institutions, 6 Universities

- 1970’s Massey University, Victoria University
  - Undergraduate course, Creative writing
    - Full majors in 1990’s
    - Post graduate programmes in 2000’s
Creative practice

- Writing and publishing
- Conferences
- Editing and peer reviewing
- Career pathways and opportunities
- Higher research degrees
- Examination, moderation, quality assurance
- New mapping- into cyberspace- internet, email
Opportunities created by collaboration

- 1980’s (dates) New Zealand Communication Association
- 1990’s ANZCA (Australia and New Zealand Communication Association)
- 1996 Australian Association of Writing Programmes- Australasian Association of Writing Programmes
- 1997 Tertiary Writing Network, Massey, Palmerston North  NZ
- 1999 Tertiary Writing Network, Hamilton (Waikato Institute of Technology and University of Waikato Joint hosts)
- Great Writing (UK) 1997
Other areas, new connections

- Popular Culture Association, (Australia and New Zealand)
- Life writing network
- Food studies
- Death Studies Network
- Gothic studies
- European Communication Association
- New Zealand Studies Association, UK and Europe
- International Autobiography Association
- Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand
Symposia (or Last suppers?)

- Writing on the wall Symposium, Waikato Institute of Technology 2007
- Massey symposium, 2014
- Ahi Kā Auckland University of Technology, 2016
Publication opportunities

- **Research: New Zealand**
  - AAWP website; conference papers, peer reviewed
  - NZCA and TWN host websites; published programmes and abstracts
  - Journal of NZ Literature

- **Creative work:**
  - Landfall, Turbine, Takahe, Trout
  - Poetry NZ, Sport
  - In house presses and websites; OUP, CUP, VUP, AUP, Ramp, Whitireia
  - Huia Publishers
Publication Opportunities, Australia
‘Across the ditch’ collaborations

Conferences: AAWP, 2 x New Zealand,
TWN, with Australian key note speakers
Canberra poetry centre; Elizabeth Smither - key note
TEXT: Research and Creative work, all peer reviewed
TEXT: Special issues, thematic, submissions invited
‘Scores from another ground’, 2013, Emerson, Pittaway
Meniscus; Creative work only
Axon- check
ACWRN
And beyond:

- Journals and Book projects
- ‘New Writing’
- ‘Great Writing’
- NAWE
- Book projects from AAWP
  - *Creative Manoeuvres*; 2013/14
  - *Minding the gap*; 2014/15
  - *Inhabitation*; 2016/17
Cross Tasman opportunities

Research, training

- Thesis examination
- RHD supervisions
- Editing
- Peer review
- Conference planning
- Committee work
- ‘Contribution to research environment’

Creative development

- Readings- in house
- Readings- public
- Panels
- Peer reviewing
- Editing
- Publication
SWOT Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful in achieving the objective</th>
<th>Harmful in achieving the objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRENGTHS</strong></td>
<td><strong>WEAKNESSES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Shared experience</td>
<td>▪ Small leadership team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Developing range of expertise</td>
<td>▪ Majority of activity driven by small number of individuals who are senior members of the discipline</td>
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<td>▪ Developing networks or communities of practice</td>
<td>▪ Largely enacted outside of core institutional workloads</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪</td>
<td>▪ Therefore generates pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPPORTUNITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>THREATS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Mentoring opportunities</td>
<td>▪ Institution may actively discourage practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Collaborative publications</td>
<td>▪ Time-consuming, may distract from core business of teaching and research as practice (creative writing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Conferences support and mentor creativity as research AND research about creativity</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Table 1: Summary of SWOT Analysis of our research practice conducted June 2016 by Donna Lee Brien and Gail Pittaway
Mapping future explorations in text?

- Cook’s legacy: a revealed world.
- His world map was the most accurate at its time.
- During his life, he had explored farther north (70°44’ N) and farther south (71°10’ S) in the Pacific than any previous human being.
- ‘A Fresh breeze from the Westward all this day, which being right in our teeth, we kept beating to windward with all the sail we could Crowd...’ James Cook, 20 November 1769
Simply by sailing in a new direction
You could enlarge the world.
You picked your captain,
Keen on discoveries, tough enough to make them,
Whatever vessels could be spared from other
More urgent service for a year's adventure;
Took stock of the more probable conjectures
About the Unknown to be traversed, all
Guesses at golden coasts and tales of monsters
To be digested into plain instructions
For likely and unlikely situations. All this
resolved and done, you launched the whole
On a fine morning, the best time of year,
Skies widening and the oceanic furies
Subdued by summer illumination; time
To go and be gazed at going
On a fine morning, in the Name of God
Into the nameless waters of the world.

Landfall in unknown seas
Allen Curnow, 1942