

Waikato Institute of Technology, Wintec, Hamilton New Zealand.

Minding the gap: Writing across thresholds and fault lines- the refereed papers of the 19th conference of the Australasian Association of Writing Programs, Massey University Wellington New Zealand, 30 November- 2 December 2014.

Edited by

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Editorial introduction

Just as the guard's voice enjoins us on the underground, as we step from the train, to "Mind the gap" between the carriage and the station platform, this selection of papers attempts to 'mind' or address several gaps which have emerged in recent years in the teaching of creative writing and the practice of writing as an academic discipline, in response to a call for papers for the 19th Annual Conference of the Australasian Association of Writing programmes held for the second time in the history of the organisation in New Zealand.

Initially the concept of 'Minding the gap' came to me, as conference convenor, with an awareness of the geographical gap between Australia and New Zealand—which both sides tend to refer to as "across the Ditch". Somehow associations with that term seemed too limited, too geographical, or literal, when in fact the realities of our situation in the academy and in our discipline are increasingly complex. The voyaging, even locomotive phrase leapt a cognitive gap as an alternative theme. The call for papers invited delegates to reflect upon: writing across gaps; reading between the lines; unearthing writing; writing across thresholds, fault lines and storylines; building and rebuilding writing; survivor stories; gap days, months, years; alternative strategies for writers. It was clearly a successful and generative theme which attracted over 120 delegates, over 80 presentations and more than 60 papers submitted for consideration for the refereed stream. Papers concerning gaps in identity, culture, media and transmedia, research, ethnography, pedagogy, technology, editing and failure enriched the proceedings.

This collection of papers has been double-blind peer-reviewed by a long list of supportive academics and reflects some of the range and brilliance of the papers we enjoyed. They are arranged in 3 sections and we follow from the University of Canberra in including creative

papers in the third section of these proceedings and a record number of excellent post graduate papers, over all.

Acknowledgements:

I am very grateful to my co-editor, Lisa Smithies, Melbourne University (who as the winner of the 2014 Post-graduate prize won the opportunity to work with us on this task) and assistant editor Alexandra Lodge, University of Waikato, for their attention to detail and many hours of close reading.

Thanks to Thom Conroy, Ingrid Horrocks, Nick Allen, for the generous support of their time and for offering AAWP such a rewarding and enjoyable visit to Massey University in November and December, 2014.

As ever the AAWP executive formed the core of the peer reviewing panels, and in particular we'd like to thank our President Lynda Hawryluk, and James Vicars, website controller, for their support.

Peer Reviewers: We thank the following people for generously giving their time to act as referees:

Jillian Adams, Martin Andrew, Amanda Apthorpe, Scott Brook, Donna Brien, Kevin Brophy, Owen Bullock, Donna Banicevich Gera, Monica Carroll, Trish Clokie, Thom Conroy, Rhonda Dredge, Niloofar Fanaiyan, Elna Fourie, Marcelle Freiman, Hannah Gerrard, Raquel Harper, Lynda Hawryluk, Dominique Hecq, Ingrid Horrocks, Paul Hetherington, Jeri Kroll, Joshua Lobb, Alexandra Lodge, Janine McVeagh, Patrick Mullins, Paul Munden, Camilla Nelson, Debbie Page, Gail Pittaway, Antonia Pont, Julia Prendergast, Karina Quinn, Lisa Smithies, Shane Strange, Caroline Rickett, Jack Ross, James Vicars, Julienne Van Loon, Ross Watkins, Jen Webb.

Gail Pittaway

February 2015