

Editorial

This issue marks the tenth anniversary of *Queensland Review*, which commenced publication in 1994. Over the years, the journal has remained faithful to its original aim of providing an interdisciplinary forum where academic and public discussions of Queensland's past, present and future are brought together. Today, *Queensland Review* remains the only refereed journal dedicated to Queensland Studies. The enthusiasm of the University of Queensland Press's recently retired General Editor, Laurie Muller, was instrumental in the founding of the journal, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of current General Editor Greg Bain and his team. In particular, we thank Rosemary Chay for managing the journal's production and distribution at UQP, and Paul Rendle for the high quality of the design and production values.

Queensland Review has had several supervising editors from Griffith University over the years. Jock Macleod and I were the founding editors, and Patrick Buckridge took over from Jock in 1995. For several years, George Lafferty was the third supervising editor. The journal has also benefited from the expertise of guest editors for some of the special issues, including Lynette Finch, Tim Prentzler, Regina Ganter, Julie Ewington, Lynne Seear, Anna Haebich, Gillian Sullivan Mort, Amanda Roan and Glenn Cooke. Copy editing over the years has been handled by Marie Gehde, Ffion Murphy, Jenny Greder and Win Fahey, while Bev Jeppesen has been responsible for typesetting and layout for the entire life of the *Review*. With this issue we also welcome a new member of the team, with the appointment of Susan Jarvis as our Production Editor.

After several themed issues of *Queensland Review*, this issue is broader in scope, containing papers on a range of topics from literature to mining. The first three papers share a focus on literature and journalism, beginning with Cheryl Taylor's "The Mighty Byronian Olympus": Queensland, the Romantic Sublime and Archibald Meston". In this article, Taylor explores the ideological significance of Meston's journalistic construction of Queensland by examining the connections cultivated in his writings with the poetry of the Romantics, Byron and Shelley, and their American successors, Longfellow and Poe. Another aspect of North Queensland's rich history of literary journalism is taken up by Robert Zeller in 'E.J. Banfield as Naturalist'. Zeller argues that Banfield is one of the first significant Australian nature writers, and represents an Australian manifestation of a movement that also occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century in Britain and the United States. He discusses Banfield's links with his literary forbears, Gilbert White and Henry David Thoreau, and compares him with two of his contemporaries, the American John Burroughs and the Englishman W. H. Hudson. The third of the papers on literary journalism is "The Colossus of the North": One Man's Account

of Queensland during the First World War'. In this paper, Malcolm Saunders examines South Australian journalist Harry Samuel Taylor's neglected book *Queensland: The Colossus of the North*, a collection of articles based on Taylor's travels in southeast Queensland in 1917. Originally written for the *Murray Pioneer*, these observations on agrarian Queensland are of particular interest because they were made soon after the election of the radical-reformist Ryan Labor government, from the point of view of an accomplished and experienced journalist who had earlier participated in William Lane's utopian ventures in South America.

Two historical papers follow. Bernadette Turner's 'Mary Mayne: Matriarch and Colonial Businesswoman' presents new evidence about the Mayne family and its remarkable matriarch. Turner's meticulous scholarly research, which contradicts sensationalised, popularised versions of the Mayne story at several key junctures, demonstrates how a lowly Irish female immigrant, widowed in her forties, successfully exploited the opportunities offered by colonial society to achieve her goal of joining the ranks of the élite. In 'The 1900s: A Forgotten Turning Point in Queensland History', Lyndon Megarrity reassesses the era of conservative government preceding the election of the Ryan government in 1915. He argues that the shift in political and electoral thinking which made a long-term Labor government viable took place between 1903 and 1915, and was due to a new enthusiasm for electoral, industrial and educational reforms which had been lacking in previous generations of Queensland politicians.

The focus on Queensland's development ethos in Megarrity's paper is pursued in a more recent context by Daniel Teghe and Jim McAllister in 'The Demise of Central Queensland's Small-Scale Sapphire Miners: 1970–1995'. The authors demonstrate how 'petty bourgeois mining' was progressively replaced on the Anakie Gemfields by large-scale fully capitalist methods, with a resultant sharp decline in the community's general well-being. In their photographic essay, 'Langafonua: Building a New Life', Charles Zuber and Prue Ahrens document the everyday life of the Polynesian community in Redland Shire, which is experiencing similar radical change as the land they use for farming yams, sweet potatoes and bele is rezoned for residential development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind readers and potential contributors that next year is the centenary of women's suffrage in Queensland. A series of celebratory events is being planned, including a Symposium in March 2005, and *Queensland Review* is seeking articles that focus on suffrage or on broader aspects of women's achievements in early twentieth century Queensland.

Information from readers about the location of letters, diaries or newspapers related to women's suffrage would also be very welcome. Very little primary material on women's suffrage is available in public collections, and locating such material would provide an impetus for new research. Anyone with relevant information or material should contact Dr Deborah Jordan at the Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland, phone 0428 313094 or email djj@uq.edu.au. Further details are available at <http://emsah.uq.edu.au/awst/main.html>

On a sad note, we at *Queensland Review* mourn the loss of a great Queensland scholar, Elizabeth Perkins. Elizabeth was Associate Professor in the School of

Humanities at James Cook University, Townsville, and continued to be active as an Adjunct Professor after her retirement. Perhaps best known for her extensive scholarly work on Charles Harpur, Elizabeth had wide interests in Australian literature and was also a playwright. Elizabeth was a gracious and generous friend and mentor to many students and colleagues, and set an inspiring example of the true scholar, so it is fitting that Cheryl Taylor acknowledges Elizabeth Perkins in the paper on Meston that begins this issue of *Queensland Review*.

— *Belinda McKay*