

ALANZ
Applied Linguistics Association of New Zealand

Newsletter March 2010

Dear colleagues

From John B: Welcome to a new year of sharing and interaction as members of ALANZ! It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce you to the new ALANZ Executive, voted in during the last annual general meeting (December, 2009). John Macalister (Victoria University of Wellington) is our new president; Gillian Skyrme (Massey University) our new secretary; and Elaine Vine (Victoria University of Wellington) our new treasurer. This is an enthusiastic new team so we, as an association, can look forward to inspired leadership over the coming months.

As the outgoing executive, Rosemary Erlam, Janet von Randow and I (John Bitchener) would like to thank you all for your wonderful contributions to the association over the last six years. In many ways the highlight of this double term was the organizing of the first combined ALANZ ALAA conference held at AUT University in Auckland last December. We were amazed by the number of delegates from New Zealand, Australia and further afield (in fact, 22 countries were represented). The evaluations of the conference were beyond our expectations so thank you all very much for the generosity that was communicated in these and of course during the conference itself. Everyone is looking forward to the next combined conference in Canberra, Australia in 2011. Before then, however, I am sure that we can look forward to a number of things much closer to home so with this in mind I'll sign off and hand over to John.

From John M: And the first thing I want to do, on the Association's behalf, is to give a big thank you to John, Rosemary & Janet for all their hard work over the last six years. The new exec will be doing its best to maintain the same high standards.

Best thesis competition 2009 winners

It's a great pleasure to start off by announcing the winners of the 2009 best thesis competitions. The judges for both the MA and PhD theses had a difficult task in reaching their decisions. The MA panel commented on the quality and originality of concept of the entries, and the PhD panel on the difficulty of making a decision when all of the theses were so interesting and well written. They also noted the fact that all of the studies were longitudinal and strongly qualitative, suggesting how the field is changing.

MA best thesis 2009

Susan K. Ruffell: Reading Recovery and the Vocabulary Knowledge of Young Children (Victoria University of Wellington)

PhD best thesis 2009

Yiqian (Katherine) Cao: Understanding the Notion of Interdependence, and the Dynamics of Willingness to Communicate (University of Auckland)

Congratulations to both, and we look forward to reading more of their work in future issues of *New Zealand Studies in Applied Linguistics*.

Thank you

And I'd like to thank the judges of the best thesis competition – Anne Feryok (University of Otago), Stuart Webb (Victoria University of Wellington), Gillian Skyrme (Massey University) and Rosemary Wette (University of Auckland). I really appreciated your willingness to take on this role, and the careful attention you gave to the theses.

ALANZ Symposium

The symposium is now going to be a biennial event held in even-numbered years, alternating with the combined ALANZ/ALAA conference. This year's one-day symposium is planned for **1 December 2010** at Victoria University of Wellington. It will be followed on 2 – 3 December by the two-day Tertiary Writing Network Colloquium.

More details will be available soon.

Regional seminar

Also coming up is the Auckland-Waikato regional seminar, to be hosted in June this year by University of Waikato. This is an ideal forum for postgraduates to present their ongoing research to a sympathetic audience.

ALANZ website

Information about both the symposium and the seminar will be posted on the ALANZ website which we are in the process of updating, with the invaluable assistance of Irina Elgort (Victoria University of Wellington) who's volunteered to take over as web manager from Ute Knoch (University of Melbourne). Thank you to both ... we'd be stuck without you!

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