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Prefatory Note: Ecotones as Contact Zones

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Prefatory Note

Volume 7, Issue 1, *Landscapes*

Glen R.E. Phillips (Edith Cowan University)

Director of the International Centre for Landscape and Language

I am sure readers will want me to thank our current issue editors, Dr John Ryan and Professor Drew Hubbell. John farewelled ECU earlier this year. After completing his PhD at ECU, John spent close to four years with us as a post-doctoral research fellow and lecturer. Drew is teaching at ECU this semester but must return to the US at semester's end to pursue his academic career. He hopes to return to the Centre to conduct research into literature and the environment in the near future.

For more than half the fifteen years of existence of the International Centre for Landscape and Language (ICLL), the e-journal *Landscapes* has brought to its readers an opportunity to enjoy some of the world's most environmentally aware published papers as well as allied creative works of fiction, poetry, photography and visual art. Clearly both our contributors and our readers are passionate about the world's landscapes from ecological and aesthetic perceptions.

Fifteen years is a long time for a small centre such as ICLL to remain in existence. Yet it was all those years ago at Edith Cowan University that three professors, who happened to be poets as well as career academics, decided that the time had come to set up an interdisciplinary centre for practising artists and research scholars of all creative media where theory and practice might happily meet. Those founders of the ICLL were Glen Phillips (Director), John Kinsella and Andrew Taylor (Principals). The impetus for this move was no doubt an expression of an end-of-twenty-first-century consciousness of forthcoming global threats to the biosphere as well as a wish to celebrate the contribution via language itself as one of the tools by which the landscape could be honoured.

Subsequently, the journal *Landscapes* was inaugurated and has had a number of volunteer editors who have excelled in putting this digital journal on the international map. The current issue is no exception, with its two distinguished United States editors (both, incidentally, very fine academics and poets) assembling a cornucopia of contributions from near and far. Articles such as Stuart Cooke's "Fire Was in the Reptile's Mouth': Towards a Transcultural Ecological Poetics" are demonstrably at the forefront of responsible environmental commentary. The other selected articles are equally impressive. Short fiction and poetry in this issue should be absorbing reads for all who access this latest issue.

Turning to the Centre's activities for 2016, we are planning our usual array of field trips, research contributions, monograph and book publication (under the auspices of the ICLL

Press), support to CREATEC, under its re-launched and re-invigorated leadership of Associate Professor Trevor Cullen, and our continued hosting and supervision of post-graduate students funded by the Australia-China Council. Apropos the latter we welcome back Ms. Chen Peijia who worked with us for three months last year investigating the background to Aboriginal author Kim Scott's latest novel and this year she will spend from March to May researching contributions to reconciliation in the writings of Daisy Bates and Dr Anna Haebich of Curtin University.

Finally, thanks must be expressed to other ICLL members, supporters and contributors, including Patrick Armstrong, Meira Chand, Uta Daur, Lelia Green, Julia Gross, Li Ji, George Karpathakis, John Kinsella, Britta Kuhlenbeck, Giovanni Lunghi, Gordon McIntyre, Alwyn Marriage, Perdita Phillips, Marcella Polain, Gregory Pryor, Nien Schwartz, Caty Segura, Andrew Taylor, Constance Wiebrands, Yang Yong Chun and Yang Yunchu.

Glen Phillips is an Honorary Professor at ECU, Director of its International Centre for Landscape and Language, Patron and founder of the KS Prichard Writers Centre and founding member of the Peter Cowan Writers Centre. Some 35 collections of his poems have been published and he is represented in more than 25 anthologies and in many national and international journals. His latest books of poetry include *Six Seasons: Poems of Australia and China* (2012), *Alpi e Prati: Poems of North and South Italy* (2013), *Tides and Groundwater* (2014) and *Land Whisperings* (2015).