

News Bulletin for AUSTRALEX members No.2 (December 2005)

Introducing the 2nd e-bulletin for all AUSTRALEX members. To help make this a regular service for members, we invite all recipients to submit news about conferences, workshops, seminars, publications, websites of lexicographical interest to adam.smith@ling.mq.edu.au

- **Special offer for members**

Please see attached form which allows AUSTRALEX members to buy copies of the new *Macquarie Dictionary, 4th Edition* and *Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia* at a 30% discount.

- **Website**

The website at www.australex.org has recently undergone some restructuring. Please contact Adam Smith to make any comments on the design and look of the site, and to make suggestions about content to be added.

- **Next AUSTRALEX conference**

Date: 6/7/06 (in conjunction with LINQ, comprising PacSLRF, ALAA, ALS, ALI)

Location: University of Queensland, Brisbane

Theme: "Dictionaries: Uses and Users"

Plenary speaker: TBA

Call for papers: Please send a 400-word abstract by March 31, 2006 to adam.smith@ling.mq.edu.au (notification of acceptance no later than April 30, 2006)

Papers are invited on all aspects of this theme, including any of the topics listed below:

- dictionaries as the voice of authority
- dictionaries to support specialised subjects
- the use of dictionaries within language pedagogy
- designing dictionaries for different levels of reader
- lexicography in the Pacific region
- research on dictionary users

Registration details will be available shortly on www.linq2006.une.edu.au

- **Student Bursaries**

As agreed at the last General Meeting of Australex, funds are to be made available for travel bursaries to assist full-time students outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane to attend this year's conference. Full terms and conditions are available shortly on the AUSTRALEX website at www.australex.org. The deadline for applications will be March 31, 2006.

- **Forthcoming conferences**

- [PacSLRF 2006](#), University of Queensland, Brisbane
The 5th Pacific Second Language Research Forum
Dates: July 4-6, 2006
- [ALAA 2006](#), University of Queensland, Brisbane
Annual Conference of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia
Dates: July 6-8, 2006

- [ALS 2006](#), University of Queensland, Brisbane
Annual Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society
Dates: July 7-9, 2006
- [ALI 2006](#), University of Queensland, Brisbane
Australian Linguistics Institute
Dates: July 10-14, 2006
- [EURALEX 2006](#), Turin, Italy
12th EURALEX International Congress
Dates: September 6-9

- **Australex 2005 Report**

By Yasmin Funk (Research Assistant, Dictionary Research Centre, Macquarie University)

Australex 2005 was held on September 27 at Trinity College, University of Melbourne. The keynote address was given by [Ghil'ad Zuckermann](#), who presented a critical analysis of the politics, policies and processes of the Academy of the Hebrew Language. Zuckermann described the Academy's mission, "to direct the development of Hebrew in light of its nature", as "Realistic Prescriptivism".

The theme "Dictionaries and the Community" linked the twelve presentations, which ranged from innovative, conceptual and theoretical to practical and humorous in their approaches to lexicography, despite - or perhaps because of - several presenters' claims that they were neither lexicographer nor linguist.

[Sharon Armstrong](#) presented work on *Te Matapuna* - the first monolingual Maori Dictionary, and discussed the ethical and theoretical questions faced by the group as they sought to arrange the lexicon by semantic categories inherent in Maori. Thematic organisation was also a feature of the Vernacular Picture Dictionaries developed to enhance literacy in Central Australia. In the creation of the dictionaries, [Robert Hoogenraad](#) and [Jenny Green](#) worked collaboratively with members of the speech communities in the selection of appropriate visual representations for each concept, eg. capturing the essence of rock-hole-ness.

The lexical accommodation, innovation and conceptual challenges of translation resulting from Aboriginal contact with Christianity were the subject of [Michael Walsh's](#) presentation. Continuing with terminology from a historical perspective, [Verna Rieschild](#) gave us a glimpse into the culture-specific lexical inventory of subordinates and dependents in Medieval Arabic society.

The thread of words and history was followed by [Bernadette Hince](#), author of *The Antarctic dictionary: a complete guide to Antarctic English*, to the other end of the world in her creation of a dictionary of polar English: English at the ends of the earth, jokingly titled A Bi-Polar Disordered Dictionary.

Despite its humorous title, there was a more serious side to the presentation by [June Factor](#), chronicling the creation of *Kidspeak: A Dictionary of Australian Children's Words, Expressions and Games*. It gathers together sayings, chants and jokes, expressions of children's verbal humour taken from the playground and not all savoury to potential publishers.

Taking the technical terminology of food to a more serious level, [Jirapa Vitayapirak](#) is preparing for a dictionary of food engineering terminology in English for Thai-speaking students, “bringing Thailand into the world’s kitchen”. On a similar practical level is [Julia Miller’s](#) study (at Flinders University) of the effectiveness of English Learners Dictionaries for international students, specifically in teaching the use of English articles.

[Jan Tent](#) introduced his forthcoming *Macquarie Dictionary of English for the Fiji Islands*, a new entry among the growing ranks of diverse world English dictionaries. The concentration of the language community in Fiji contrasts with the interspersion of the (minority) deaf community amongst the (majority) hearing population in Australia. [Trevor Johnston’s](#) presentation: “Language planning, sign language dictionaries and the deaf community” discussed the challenges posed for Auslan lexicography by this demographic, and referred to social change and technological innovations which are improving the communication possibilities of the deaf community, by such means as the [Auslan Signbank](#), an internet-based community dictionary which allows members of a virtual linguistic community to access, contribute to and update their own lexicon.

At the end of the day we moved from the intimate former chapel of Trinity College to join the teeming throngs at Michael Clyne’s joint ALAA/ALS plenary, where we were encouraged to take on social responsibility, escape the monolingual mindset and work together as linguists, putting differences aside in the face of greater threats - and to celebrate together at his book launch.