

TWO FIRES FESTIVAL

OF ARTS + ACTIVISM:
Coming Together
27-29 March 2009

The Two Fires Festival was first held in 2005 as a celebration of poet and activist Judith Wright's impressive double legacy to explore the ongoing relevance of that legacy in today's world. Judith Wright is best remembered as one of the finest poets Australia has produced and as a pioneer and leader in the fields of environmental conservation, land rights and human rights for Indigenous Australians.

The festival stokes the "two fires" of arts + activism and this year's theme is, appropriately, *Coming Together*.

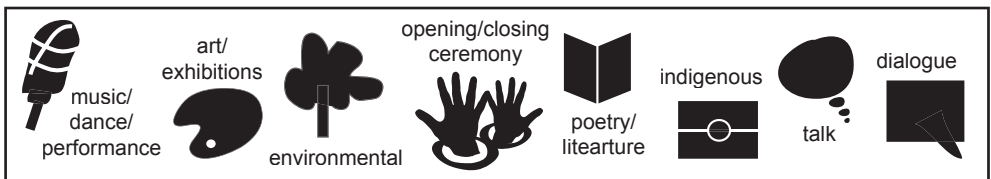
There are several streams to the 2009 Festival building on the success of previous festivals – environment, performance, visual art, music, poetry and literature, films and discussion forums. It will be a jam packed three days and events include a concert featuring Archie Roach, Ruby Hunter and their band; nature "walk and talk" with Yui Elder, Uncle Max Harrison and Dr Caroline Josephs; art exhibitions, including a young person's art prize.

Among the many events are: Dialogues on Judith Wright's legacy on climate change; Indigenous literature, storytelling and poetry; an Indigenous Film Festival; Transition Towns forum; book launches; and a Reading Breakfast. The festival is rich in community and in communal gatherings and we urge you to visit the Festival Office/Bookshop where you will find some of our many, friendly volunteers.

The Festival takes place in Braidwood, NSW where Judith Wright lived for the last two decades of her life. Braidwood sits within countries of the Yuin nation and the Walbanja people who have been active consultants and participants in each of the previous Festivals.

As an event that celebrates Judith Wright's engaged citizenship, and the importance of place in her life and work, the festival is itself a message stick representing the need for our arts and activism to grow out of stronger relationships with local places.

Two Fires Festival Committee, 2009





TWO FIRES FESTIVAL

OF ARTS + ACTIVISM: *Coming Together*
27-29 March 2009

PROGRAMME

THUR
26

3.30-
4.30



EXHIBITION *Incidental Art* launch - Local
Braidwood Artists

17

Eureka
Pizzeria

Morning



**Uncle Max Harrison and Dr Caroline
Josephs** STORYTELLING with school children
from Braidwood Central and St Bedes

4 10

2.30-
3.30



OPENING CEREMONY.
Uncle Max Harrison lights ceremonial fire.
Performance by **Johnny Huckle & Noel Butler**

7

Ryrie Park

4.00-
6.00



TWO FIRES OF BRAIDWOOD PANEL
A celebration of Val Plumwood and Judith
Wright organised by **Lisa Jobson, Anne
Edwards and Martin Mulligan**

6

CWA
Rooms

FRIDAY
27

4.00-
6.00



WRITING ON THE WILD SIDE Braidwood
Central primary and secondary students read
their own work, MC **Harry Laing**

15

The
Albion
Cafe

5.00-
6.00



OPENING OF ART EXHIBITION – paintings
and prints by **Cheryl Davison & Don Atkinson**

13

Nambawan
Coffee Haus

6.30-
8.30



TWILIGHT COMMUNITY CONCERT includes
Madrigala, Acapalerang, Jake Annetts & Angela
Hunter, Merrilyn Simmons, Bernard Carrick,
violin students, Jarrah Kidd, Julie Reynolds,
Richard Steele and others. Announcement by
Cheryl Davison of the winners of *2009 Young
People's Art Competition*

19

St. Bede's
Catholic
Church

SATURDAY
28

9.00-
10.30



JUDITH WRIGHT'S LEGACY & CLIMATE
CHANGE Panel and Discussion with **Kate
Rigby, Christopher Wallace-Crabbe, Don
Henry** followed immediately by

16

National
Theatre

11.00-
11.30



an excerpt from THE GIFTS OF THE FURIES
Glenda Cloughley

- 9.30-11.00  Imagining Monga: A short WALK through Monga Forest. Introduction by local environmental activist. In association with the **Canberra Bushwalking Club**. Meet at Festival Office for 9 am departure or on site for a 9.30 start. Bookings essential.
- 9.30-10.30  SONGWRITING WORKSHOP for Children with **Johnny Huckle**
- 10.00-1.00  A WALK AND TALK along Monkittee Creek with **Uncle Max Harrison** and **Dr Caroline Josephs** (includes Morning tea) *followed immediately by*
- 1.15-2.15  UNVEILLING OF THE LANDCARE MEMORIAL ROCK by **Phil Shoemark** to commemorate the work of John Loveday, Neil Waddell and Carina Clark
- 10.00-4.00  EXHIBITION of *Politics on Paper* Saturday only
- 10.00-2.00  BRAIDWOOD MARKET DAY will feature busking and other events
- 10.00-12.00  A MURAL PAINTING WORKSHOP for Children and Adults led by **Noel Butler**
- 10.00-2.00  ZINE FAIR hosted by **Kelly Sturgiss** and others. A place to display, discuss, swap and sell zines, comics, wearable art and other self-made items. Includes Japanese stab binding workshop
- 11.00-11.42  **David Jones** delivers an *Apology to Aunty Coop*
- 11.00-11.30  POETRY READING **Chris Wallace-Crabbe** reads from his latest book *Telling a Hawk from a Handsaw*
- 11.30-12.30  PUBLISHING PANEL with **Alice Gage, Rob Riel, Caren Florance** and **Stephen Matthews**, chaired by **Phil Day**

1 22 Festival Office then on to Monga Forest

6 CWA Rooms

1 meet at Festival Office then on to

2 Bicentennial Park

14 Braidwood Times Office

7 Ryrie Park

7 Ryrie Park

12 Flat Product Design Studio

14 Braidwood Times Office

10 Contemplation Room off St. Bede's School Hall

10 St. Bede's School Hall

SATURDAY
28 (cont.)

SATURDAY
28 (cont.)




12.30-1.30 LUNCH

**SATURDAY
28 (cont.)**

- | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|------|--|
| 1.15-1.45 |  | POETRY READING Peter Minter reads a selection of poems | 10 | Contemplation Room off St. Bede's School Hall |
| 1.30-5.00 |  | INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL featuring <i>Crocodile Dreaming, Liyarn Ngarn, The Intervention</i> and <i>Sacred Ground</i> | 6 | CWA Rooms |
| 2.00-2.42 |  | <i>Happiness is a Warm Gun</i> – TALK on John Lennon by David Jones | 14 | Braidwood Times Office |
| 2.00-4.30 |  | TRANSITION TOWNS PANEL - Communities Adapting to Change. Includes film <i>The Power of Community</i> . With John Champagne, Derek Povel, Martin Mulligan & Dr Rosemary Beaumont 1.30pm - meet for bus at Festival Office | 1 20 | Festival Office then on to Old Cheese Factory, Reidsdale |
| 2.00-3.00 |  | A MULTI-MEDIA EVENT <i>How to do Words with Things</i> with Peter O'Mara and Patrick Jones | 10 | St. Bede's School Hall |
| 2.30-3.15 |  | DANCE <i>Book-Women</i> inspired by six women including Judith Wright – performed by Terpsichore's Aunts from Canberra | 5 | St. Andrews Anglican Hall |
| 3.00-4.00 |  | OPEN MIC Folk Club presents an open mic session for anyone wanting to play music, perform, read poetry or prose | 18 | The Criterion Cafe |
| 3.15-4.15 |  | ABORIGINAL LITERATURE PANEL with Peter Minter and Prof. John Maynard | 10 | St. Bede's School Hall |
| 4.45-5.15 |  | POETRY READING by Nicola Bowery of <i>The sea-maid's tale</i> from her publication <i>Goatfish</i> | 10 | Contemplation Room off St. Bede's School Hall |
| 5.30-6.15 |  | SATIRICAL PERFORMANCE <i>Tall Tales Of A Tall Activist</i> by Harry Laing | 10 | Contemplation Room off St. Bede's School Hall |
| 6.00-7.00 |  | DREAM SPEAK - A pilgrim journey of Art, Life and the Spirit with Susie Edmonds, Antje Kuzeff, Rev. Geoff Hoad, Richard Steele, Edwin Power, Gilly Burke | 9 | St. Andrew's Anglican Church grounds |
| 8.00-10.30 |  | TWO FIRES FESTIVAL CONCERT Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter and their band (Amos Hunter and Dave Arden)
Support Act: Warren Foster
Includes Festival acknowledgement of EARTH HOUR | 16 | National Theatre |

- 8.15-9.30  A READING BREAKFAST of Arts and Activism. Come along, enjoy the morning sunshine, a good coffee and active **reading** 18 The Criterion Cafe
- 9.30-11.00  AFTER THE APOLOGY – a discussion with **Mick Dodson, Roderic Pitty** and others 16 National Theatre
- 10.00-11.30  SOCIAL WARMING FORUM with **Meg Ulman, Patrick Jones** and **Peter O’Mara** 10 St. Bede’s School Hall
- 11.45-12.30  BOOK LAUNCH of *Just North of Bewilderment* by **Dennis Wild** - published and launched by **Rob Riel of Picaro Press** 10 St. Bede’s School Hall
- 11.30-1.00  WHAT MAKES AN ELDER – a forum with **Trisha Ellis, Mary Duroux, Geoff Hoad** and **Noel Butler** 6 CWA Rooms
- 11.30-1.00  TRANSITION TOWNS - Creative facilitation process with a focus on Braidwood and surrounds. A history of the Bega experience. With **John Champagne, Derek Povel** and others 11.00am - meet for bus at Festival Office 1 20 Festival Office then on to Old Cheese Factory, Reidsdale

12.30-1.30 LUNCH

- 1.00-4.30  INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL featuring *Crocodile Dreaming, Liyarn Ngarn, The Intervention* and *Sacred Ground* 6 CWA Rooms
- 2.00-2.45  BOOK LAUNCH *Taste of a Poem* by **Fiona McIlroy** published by **Ginninderra Press** and launched by **Noonee Doronila** 11 The Serrated Tussock Cafe
- 3.00-4.00  OPEN MIC **Folk Club** presents an open mic session for anyone wanting to play music, perform, read poetry or prose 11 The Serrated Tussock Cafe
- 4.00-4.30  FEEDBACK FORUM Bringing together the panels 10 St. Bede’s School Hall
- 4.45-5.30  CLOSING CEREMONY with **Uncle Max Harrison** 7 Ryrie Park



TWO FIRES FESTIVAL

OF ARTS + ACTIVISM: *Coming Together*

27-29 March 2009

BIOGRAPHIES

Have you an 'inner mermaid'? Let **NICOLA BOWERY** entice you (regardless of your gender!) with her strangely compelling and poetic tale of a mermaid's journey on land. *The sea-maid's tale* comes from Nicola's second collection of poems, *Goatfish*. Her first book, *Bloodwood*, was an Australian Poetry Book Club selection.

Dr ROSEMARY BEAUMONT has explored processes driving the evolution of democracy in multiple spheres of community, activism, sacred ceremony, political systems and academia. She presently explores the transforming of consciousness evoked by intensifying complexity and sustainable community adaptability. She lives in the tall forests of the Bega Valley.

GILL BURKE is a Braidwood Textile Artist. At her studio, *The Silken Tent*, she designs and decorates cloth in a wide variety of ways. In her younger days she also painted theatre scenery and the size of screens in this Two Fires project is an attractive challenge

NOEL BUTLER is from the Budawang tribe he has been teaching Indigenous culture for over 25 years throughout Australia. He has just set up a non profit organisation *Jamaneé Gunya* to help troubled Indigenous youth. Noel is a celebrated sculptor and painter and he is going to be doing a mural at the Two Fires Festival on the Saturday.

JOHN CHAMPAGNE is a noted Permaculturist and Facilitator of *Transition Towns Bega*. John has been an activist involved at a local level implementing permaculture into his property, his life and his local community. He works as a permaculture designer and developer. As President of the *Sapphire Coast Producers Association (SCPA)* for 7 years, he positioned sustainability as the guiding principle for new rural industries emerging within the region and has actively promoted a local organic food industry.

Jungian analyst and singer-composer **Dr GLENDA CLOUGHLEY** will speak about roles that artists could play in helping to heal the social crisis of inaction on climate change. With musical directors Johanna McBride and Judith Clingan AM, she and a *Citizens' Chorus* will then treat festival-goers to a preview of *The Gifts of the Furies*, Glenda's new epic story-song about relations between people and Earth

CHERYL DAVISON includes as much of her coastal life and Culture into her artworks as possible. In 2008 she exhibited at the *Australian Consulate* in New York, one of the highlights of her twenty-something-year career as an artist. Cheryl and her partner, **DON ATKINSON** will exhibit their paintings and prints at *Nambawan* during the festival. Don is also a basket maker.

In 1997 **PHIL DAY** co-founded **Finlay Press**, a private press that makes illustrated, limited edition books, with contemporary Australian poetry and prose. Recently he has been involved in the commercially printed **Finlay Lloyd Publications**, dedicated to imaginative & speculative writing.

Professor MICK DODSON is 2009 Australian of the Year and Director of the *National Centre for Indigenous Studies* in the *College of Law* at the ANU. Born in Katherine in the NT, Professor Dodson is from the Yawuru people of the area centred on Broome and was educated at Katherine, Darwin and in Victoria, where he completed studies in law at *Monash University*. He served as the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner 1993-1998. He has received an *Honorary Doctor of Letters* from the UTS and an *Honorary Doctorate in Law* from the UNSW.

NOONEE DORONILA is a poet, playwright and has been an Artistic director of a Filipino theatre company as well as having published Filipino community poetry books. In 2007 she was the recipient of International Women's Day Award 2007 (Contribution to multicultural arts).

Yuin Elder **MARY DUROUX**, is a poet, writer, and visual artist. Mary has been active on the Indigenous Arts Board of Australia Council and has travelled extensively. Mary was active in negotiations for the Handback of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks and is now on the Board of Management for Gulaga National Park.

After some thirty years working as an actress/director/producer **SUSIE EDMONDS** moved to Braidwood in 2002. She established *Bushbaby Productions* and continued producing works using many local performers. These include play readings, a performance/poetry/literary event titled *OUT LOUD at the creek* and her acclaimed performance in the award winning play *Comfort*. This event for the Two Fire Festival marks her first collaboration with Geoff Hoad.

ANNE EDWARDS currently has the honour of caring for and living at Val Plumwood's beautiful mountain home, just outside of Braidwood. Val Plumwood & Judith Wright represent valuable offspring of the colonial part of Australia's story and through them Anne feels led to the wisdoms of the Aboriginal peoples relations to land and life.

My name is **TRISHA ELLIS**. My Aboriginal name is Mínga. I belong to the Brinja-Djuwin people who are one of the Dhurga speaking clans. My home is, today, called Moruya. In Aboriginal times it was known to the local people as Cobowra. I am a Joint Management Co-ordinator with the *Dept. of Environment & Climate Change* & work out of the Narooma Office. It is in this role that I am Editor of *Coastal Custodians*. Chairperson of the *Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council*, I have been an active advocate for Aboriginal people in my area for at least 30 years.

AmpersandDuck is a fledgling private press based in Canberra, utilising letterpress, bookbinding and digital processes to produce a wide variety of publications ranging from blogs to fine press poetry volumes. **CAREN FLORANCE** juggles the press with her day jobs as a bookarts teacher at the ANU School of Art and a freelance designer.

South Coast NSW Indigenous hip hop artist, **WARREN FOSTER**, was awarded an *Aust. Council* grant in 2007 to

produce his debut CD, *Dreamtime*. This, he launched in the foothills of the sacred mountain, Gulaga. Through his music, he aims to share his Culture, spread the need for Reconciliation and to promote *Encouraging Your Dreams* in both black & white communities.

ALICE GAGE is the founding editor of art and culture biannual *Ampersand Magazine*. She has recently relocated to Sydney after a three-year stint in Melbourne. She believes curiosity is the greatest virtue, apathy the worst vice and oysters the finest shellfish.

ELLIE GILBERT is a documentary film-maker, who is challenging with others Barrack Gold at Lake Cowell, Traditional Country of Kevin Gilbert (1933-1993). A Grandmother, with firm belief that enshrined justice for Aboriginal Nations and Peoples has to be attended to first before there is peaceful co-existence.

UNCLE MAX HARRISON is a Yuin lawman, healer and educator who has worked extensively, both across NSW and internationally, in telling the stories of his people and their country.

DON HENRY has been the Executive Director of the *Australian Conservation Foundation* since 1998. He began his work as a conservationist in the 1980s through a campaign to protect Moreton Island near Brisbane and was the first director of the *Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld*, established by Judith Wright in the early 1960s. He served as the Australian Director for the *World Wide Fund for Nature* (1989-1992) and went on to work for *WWF* in Washington DC (1992-1998). He was awarded the *Global 500 Environment Award by the UN Environment Program* (1991) and named *Not for Profit CEO* of the year in 2008 by the Equity Trustees.

GEOFF HOAD has a deep spirituality that informs his interests in people, rural life and nature and is involved in people's day to day lives as an Anglican priest with special interests in rural communities, sustainability and spirituality. He sees art as an essential part of communal dialogue and has been involved in adapting a range of works for church and community that reflect an active spirituality for our world and its people.

JOHN HUCKLE was born on the land of his Wiradjuri ancestors and was raised on the aboriginal reserve on the outskirts of Condobolin. He has four solo albums and will be featuring songs from his new album *Spirit Man*. Johnny has a big voice and a swag of heartfelt songs that traverse the themes of love, identity and spirit.

RUBY HUNTER is one of Australia's pioneering indigenous singer songwriters and the first Aboriginal woman in Australia to release a solo album, *Thoughts Within*, in 1994. Ruby's musical journey with her lifelong partner, soul mate and musical collaborator, Archie Roach, has seen her travel both Australia and overseas. Ruby's songs reflect her personal history, women's issues, social issues and indigenous issues. She is often cited by other musicians as a source of inspiration and is firmly established as a unique and powerful voice in Australian music.

LISA JOBSON focuses her life's work toward a time when humans may act in respectful accord with the needs and autonomies of all earth species and bio-life. Her current approach for contributing to this aim is in the form of a PhD in Environmental Philosophy and is in its final stages. It is in this capacity that her knowledge and high regard for Val Plumwood's life and academic contributions were born. Her background is in the world of performing arts and eco-psychology.

Another **DAVID JONES**

Dr CAROLINE JOSEPHS is an educator, storyteller, writer, artist, and researcher. She holds a doctorate in Philosophy (on sacred oral storytelling across four cultures), a Master of Education (on developing inter-cultural understanding), and a Master of Arts (Creative Writing). With a passion for the arts, learning and the country we inhabit, she has designed and led courses from pre-school to postgraduate, for schools, TAFE, universities, community groups, corporate and government, across non-government schools, and state and commonwealth agencies. She has worked in innovative projects for the *Human Rights Commission*, community radio, schools, and in linking up women in rural Australia. She has worked in Arts Education, in intercultural studies, and in distance and open education.

ANTJE KUZEFF is a graphic designer who worked in advertising for ten years. She then completed her Dip. Ed. and taught secondary high school. She went on to qualify as a Steiner teacher. Antje now pursues her two loves, that of painting and travel.

If you've ever wondered what makes an activist active (and tall), now's your chance to find out. **HARRY LAING** is a poet, comic performer and sometime activist, approx. 196 cm in height. Once upon a time he was arrested during a protest in Monga Forest and thus gained a modicum of credibility. Harry has written and performed 5 one-man shows, the most recent of which *Away With The Birds* he hopes to tour nationally this year. *Ship Of Fools: A Broadside* his satirical ballad, whose target was the previous government, was a hit of the 2007 Two Fires Festival.

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council is an organisation consisting of representatives from each **LANDCARE** group in the upper Shoalhaven and upper Deua catchments. This enables the Landcare groups to work together, sharing information about Landcare projects and addressing some issues on a wider catchment basis

Ginninderra Press is owned by **STEPHEN MATTHEWS**. After graduating from Cambridge University, Stephen was a teacher in the UK and Australia for nearly twenty years. He then had a very successful bookselling career before starting up **Ginninderra Press** in 1996. In 2003, he received a *Centenary Medal* for his 'contribution to the writing community and ongoing support for local authors'.

JOHN MAYNARD is Professor of *Indigenous Studies* and Head of *Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies* at the Uni of Newcastle. He is a Council Member of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies* (AIATSIS) and with the *Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council* (IHEAC) and *NSW History Council*. His traditional roots lie with the Worimi people of Port Stephens, NSW. He was the recipient of the *NSW Premiers Indigenous History Fellowship* (2003). He gained his PhD in 2003 examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism. He is the author of five books including *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf* and the *Fight for Liberty and Freedom*.

PETER MINTER is a leading contemporary Australian poet, editor and scholar. He is the author of numerous books of poetry, including *Empty Texas* and *blue grass*, co-editor of *Calyx: 30 Contemporary Australian Poets* and was poetry editor at *Meanjin* (2000-2005). His most recent projects include co-editing the *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature* and the forthcoming *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*. He lectures in *Indigenous Studies and Poetics* at the *University of Sydney*.

MARTIN MULLIGAN is the Deputy Director of the *Globalism Research Centre*, where he is carrying out research on the formation of inclusive and sustainable local communities in the context of globalisation. He came up with the idea

for a festival to celebrate and extend the legacy of Judith Wright in 2003 and was co-ordinator of the first Two Fires Festival held in 2005. His background is in environmental education and he became a devoted fan of Judith Wright when writing the book (with Stuart Hill) *Ecological Pioneers: A Social History of Australian Ecological Thought and Action* (Cambridge University Press, 2001)

FIONA MCILROY has written poetry and stories since she could hold a pencil, even though being a leftie she wrote mirror writing at first. She wrote about and drew horses of course, and the most memorable journey of self-discovery was riding on a five day trip across the Monaro to the South Coast. She now lives between Canberra, South Coast and far East Gippsland, converting her love of life into reflections in verse. For Fiona, poetry is both message and massage.

PETER O'MARA lives in Hepburn Springs, Victoria and has work published in numerous literary magazines, e-journals and anthologies throughout Australia including *Meanjin*, *Cordite*, *Overland* and *The Material Poem*. His work has been included in *Best Australian Poetry 2008* (UQP). Recently, Peter published an art/TEXT manuscript entitled *How to do Words with Things* with Patrick Jones.

EDWIN I. S. POWER is an 'artist' in every sense of the word. Formally trained at *Sir John Cass School of Art* in London UK, he moves with ease through the various mediums of sculpture, painting, drawing, designing and just having fun with whatever shape presents itself. He realises that nature can outdo us all, so why not make it your inspiration.

Dr RODERIC PITTY lectures in *Political Science* at the UWA. He has written on the significance of Treaties for achieving justice for Indigenous Australians, highlighted how global citizens like Faith Bandler have helped changed Australia and worked towards halting Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and ending racial discrimination in Australia. Roderic has conducted research on the Waitangi Tribunal in New Zealand and its implications for Australia. He recently co-edited *Global Citizens: Australian Activists for Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) which includes a chapter about Faith Bandler and the 1967 referendum.

DEREK POVEL is a horticulturalist. He collects and grows fruit trees and has extensive orchards at home, and vegetable gardens. He is currently growing many Bamboo varieties for wholesale sales (to retailers) and for further development of the commercialisation of Bamboo in Australia. He is a founding member of *Clean Energy For Eternity* (CEFE). Derek is a founding member of *South East Transition Towns* and *TT BEGA*.

ROB RIEL has worked as a sailor, metallurgist, English teacher, failure analyst, author, university lecturer, disability services coordinator, and (finally!) publisher. He founded **Picaro Press** in 2000; it now has over 150 poetry titles in print. Rob has authored two books of poetry *For As Long As You Burn* (FIP) and *Rogue Perspectives* (Island Press) and a fair amount of short fiction. He lives with beloved partner Judy Johnson and wonderdog Pluto in Cardiff, NSW.

KATE RIGBY is an Associate Professor in *Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies* at Monash Uni. Having completed her PhD in German studies in 1991 she has developed a strong interest in ecophilosophy, ecocriticism, Romanticism, phenomenology and critical theory. She was the founding president of the *Australia and New Zealand Association for the Study of Literature and Environment* and is co-editor of the journal *PAN* (Philosophy, Activism and Nature). She is presently completing an 'eco-cultural' history of the Canberra area. She has a strong interest in the literary legacy of Judith Wright and she helped to organise an

academic forum at the Two Fires Festival in 2007.

Once in a lifetime an artist with an extraordinary spirit comes along. **ARCHIE ROACH**, a philosopher and storyteller in the tradition of his ancestors, relays and retells intimate real life stories through song that has touched the hearts and souls of audiences around the world. Archie has performed with some of the top names in the entertainment business including Tracy Chapman, Joan Armatrading, Patti Smith, Suzanne Vega, Billy Bragg and Bob Dylan. In 2008 Archie Roach was awarded a *NAIDOC National Lifetime Achievement Award*, which recognizes the profound contribution he has made to Australia.

One of Australia's finest slide guitar players, **RICHARD STEELE** has been wowing audiences with his craft at festivals and many venues around the country for more than 20 years. As a touring and recording artist, Richard has built a reputation as an act not to be missed. His mixture of styles and influences from blues, jazz, Hawaiian to gypsy and beyond, has enabled Richard to develop a very entertaining and unique approach to his music.

KELLY STURGISS completed a Bachelor Fine Arts, Honours in 2000. She works with a variety of media, preferring to accumulate practical skills in preparation for any idea or concept and often creates a formation between the most disparate methods of production. She has exhibited at galleries and artist run spaces for the past 15 years and began a small business encompassing web and print design, visual art and photography in 2008.

Reading the Threads is a dance theatre performance by **TERPSICHORE'S AUNTS** with composer and cellist Helen Way. Drawing together the threads of six inspiring Australian women's lives through their words - Judith Wright is one. **Terpsichore's Aunts** are 6 Canberra women, creating dance from everyday movement. The performers are Jane Ingall (choreographic director), Julie Rickwood, Jackie Westcombe, Anne Embry, Heather Boyer and Margy Wylde-Browne.

When she isn't doing other things, **MEG ULMAN** works as a writer, a blogger and a website editor. She has written for offline publications including *The Age* and was the contributing editor of the *Fashion Journal*. She has written for online publications such as *Online Opinion* and writes daily on her blog, www.landofmeg.blogspot.com

Professor CHRISTOPHER WALLACE-CRABBE is one of Australia's most eminent poets and literary critics and has published over 20 collections of poetry. His *Selected Poems 1956-1994* won *The Age Book of the Year Award* in 1995 and the D.J. O'Hearn Prize for Poetry. His most recent collection *Telling a Hawk from a Handsaw* (2008) has received critical acclaim. He was associate editor of *The Oxford Literary History of Australia* (1998) and editor of an anthology for Amnesty International *From the Republic of Conscience*. He is Emeritus Professor in the *Australian Centre* at the Uni of Melbourne. He has a strong interest in the legacy of Judith Wright.

DENNIS WILD is an I.T. Analyst whose journey towards balance, beauty and social justice includes the bardic traditions of poetry, storytelling and song. His spoken word CD *Both Sides Yesterday* (2006) was well received for its social commentary and playful experimentations with voice. His long anticipated poetry chapbook *Just North of Bewilderment* will be launched during our Two Fires Festival.

JUDITH WRIGHT is probably best remembered as one of the finest poets Australia has produced. She was also a great pioneer and leader in the fields of environmental conservation, land rights and human rights for Indigenous Australians. Locally, she founded *Friends of the Mongarlowe River* in 1996.