

Dear Network Participants,

Newsletter January 2008

Greetings and very best wishes for 2008 which promises to be just as exciting for NEER as the previous years have been.

Now that Confluence and the NEER website are being widely used by the membership, both Claire and I will endeavour not to clutter your mailboxes with attachments, but point you to links where full information can be found.

1. **The NEER website** contains information about all planned activities for the year, entered as details become known to us. In 2008 there will be an important dual-theme conference, two PATS, several major conferences and exhibitions and NEER Roadshows in South Australia (29 February) Victoria (26 March) and Queensland (31 March).  
<http://www.neer.arts.uwa.edu.au/events>

2. **Roadshows:** The purpose of the NEER Roadshows is to meet as a Network, to review progress and to plan for the future, both immediate and longer term. We hope to meet, not only current NEER members, but others who are interested in the future of Medieval and Early Modern research. So please come yourself, and encourage colleagues and students to attend.

3. **The future of NEER.** We are now in the process of compiling our annual report and, while doing so, looking towards ways of consolidating NEER for the future, once the current ARC funding ceases mid-2009. We need to demonstrate to the ARC that the funding has genuinely created a research network, enabling several research projects to get under way, as well as bringing together both senior and emerging scholars of the highest calibre. When NEER was being set up, the ARC's measure of the Network's quality was that at least half of the fifty Network Participants should be holders of current ARC grants. Now, with so many more criteria available to us, it is important that NEER shows its membership to the fullest advantage.

In order to do this in the most effective way possible, NEER intends to showcase in its annual report

- á The high academic standing of its members
- á The influence of NEER in facilitating research projects and outcomes.

We already have a good nucleus of information in the excellent Cluster reports and reports of organised events that have been sent. But in order to convince the ARC that ours is a network of fully active and engaged scholars, we need to hear from all NEER members.

The annual report will contain sections on grants, fellowships, publications, honours, awards, and benefit to Australia. The first draft of these sections will be ready by the end of January, and I will be sending them to you for updating with your personal information.

I will be inviting you, first, to let us know of your achievements over the last three years, including fellowships (funded or not), awards, honours, grants, publications, community outreach, funding—especially any funding from agencies other than the Australian government—and any other accolades or benefits you, or groups influenced by you, have garnered—whether this is related to NEER work or not.

Secondly, if NEER has helped you develop a research project, form new networking relationships, achieve outcomes, sponsor a community outreach event or training experience, I will ask you to update your details, as we need to be able to report on this. Such information will help us show that NEER is of benefit to the Australian and international scholarly community, and has achieved benefits for Australia as a whole.

It has been an excellent experience to meet NEER members at our Roadshows in Hobart, Sydney and Perth, and Claire, Toby and I look forward to meeting many more members at our next three events in February and March.

All the very best,

Anne