

Bulletin Spring/Summer 2007

Dear Members of NEER,

First, congratulations to all those members of NEER who have been successful in the recent round of ARC grants. The results arrived while Claire, Toby and I were representing NEER in Europe, but the full list will shortly appear on the NEER website. This is considerable achievement for all.

The main business of this bulletin is to speak about the forthcoming NEER Roadshows which start next weekend during the Knowledge Cluster's symposium in Hobart. The full programme looks like this:

- Tasmania, Sunday 12th November, University of Hobart 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm
- Western Australia, Friday 23 November, 2.00 pm -5.00 pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1, University of Western Australia
- New South Wales, Friday 30 November, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.
- Queensland, Venue and precise time still to be confirmed, Brisbane, Monday 24 March
- Victoria, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Wednesday 26 March, 9.30 am – 12.30, followed by an opportunity in the afternoon to meet some of the Cambridge manuscript scholars and curators who will be in Melbourne for the opening of the Medieval Imagination exhibition on 27 March. The NEER day will close with a chance to attend the library's annual Foxcroft Lecture given by David McKitterick , 6 pm.

We have not forgotten South Australia, but are still on the lookout for a suitable event with which to link a NEER meeting.

The purpose of the Roadshows is to review what NEER has achieved, look at the programme for 2008/9, and hold brainstorming sessions on the future of NEER. Over the past three years NEER has formed a real network of Early European researchers throughout Australia, and provided platforms for collaboration, publication and training. It would be a great shame to lose these now that they are so well established. Your committee has been looking in particular at finding avenues for future funding which we will outline at the meetings.

The strengths that those outside NEER perceive are

- the Postgraduate/ECR training programmes,
- the Research clusters
- the digital collaborative environment
- the dedicated publications series with Brepols and UWA Press

The committee has, in addition, identified the importance of international collaborations. While individual members have developed strong international collaborative links of their own, we feel it is important that NEER sets up links as an organisation. Much of this year has

been spent in developing these, raising NEER's profile internationally, and setting up links between NEER and Centres abroad.

For the future, we need to hear what the Network wants to see NEER achieve. As things stand with the ARC, it is unlikely that there will be another round of Research Networks, though we have started to lobby for this to be reconsidered. There are other funding avenues to be pursued, including money nationally available for digital infrastructure and for training. It would be good to find more partners – the original community and industry partners were assembled in a very short space of time; they have been immensely supportive of NEER's work, and, while we hope to involve them in NEER post-2009, we know that there must be potential partners in other parts of Australia who will come on board. We rely on NEER's members to identify them.

Finally, we need to identify aims for the future NEER and to brainstorm what it might look like. Part of the strength of the original funding bid arose from the shared ideas generated among people from a variety of institutions across Australia who came to Perth for just such a brainstorming session. By holding a succession of Roadshows, we hope to meet a great many members and to draw upon the experience, ideas and good will of Early European scholars across Australia.

We intend to work as hard as we can to ensure the continuation of NEER, and look forward to collaborating with the membership to make this happen.

Please come to the Roadshow most convenient for you, and bring along anyone interested in Early European Research, whether they are current members of NEER or not. For the Perth and Sydney events, please reply to Pam Bond (pambond@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) as soon as possible, but in any event, by 20 November. For Hobart, if you have not yet replied, please can you do so immediately? Many thanks.

Very best wishes,

Anne