

## **NOTE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR**

This double issue of the *Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS)* has two principal themes. Following the successful AFSAAP Annual Conference and Postgraduate Workshop at the Australian National University in Canberra in January 2008, the Executive Committee awarded prizes to three postgraduate essay-presenters and made a decision to publish all in the *Review*. The first section of the issue starts with the three essays while the second is concerned with 'Africans in Australia', one of the themes at the conference, which attracted more than twenty papers. The double issue of Volume XXIX for 2008 thus combines the two themes.

The judges of the postgraduate essay prize commented that the winning essays were all first class in quality and covered three areas of immense importance to contemporary Africa. Two essays are concerned with professional health matters with a special focus on gender issues, while the third, more theoretical, deals with important political/state concerns. They each contain fascinating material, of which some required great sensitivity; and, implicitly, they are all concerned with issues of justice. The essays are: Ruth Jackson's 'The Three Delays as a Framework for Examining Safe Motherhood in Kafa Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia'; Jennifer Badstuebner's 'Rape and the Tikoloshe: Sexual Violence and Fear in a South African Township' and Samantha Balaton-Chrimes' 'Challenging the State in Africa'. We congratulate the presenters on their achievement, and we thank the other postgraduates who sent commendable papers, following a well-attended postgraduate workshop. The workshop has become a regular feature of the Annual Conference, providing an opportunity for young scholars to present their work to others with African interests without precluding them from presenting in the main conference. In this period of continuing funding crisis in Australian universities when low priority is given to research on Africa, it is gratifying that more than a dozen postgraduates presented papers in the conference and workshop.

Three peer-reviewed papers from the Canberra conference are included in the second part of the volume. Kirk Zwangobani has examined a complex identity amongst re-settled African Australian youth in Canberra, and uses Gilroy's 'Black Atlantic' concept to frame his discussion and give insight to generational change. Temesgen Kifle and Parvinder Kler have written about financial satisfaction as one component of life satisfaction for African migrants to Australia and have related it to labour market integration. Getnet Bitew, Peter Ferguson and Mary Dixon have focused on the specific problems and needs of Ethiopian Australian secondary school students in a paper that brings out issues that are relevant also for a wider range of migrants.

These, and other papers on the theme 'Africans in Australia' presented at the conference, represent a rich developing scholarship, which itself reflects the growth and expansion of African Australian settlement. During the last decade African Australians have settled in every state and are increasingly moving into rural areas. Amongst other presentations, Kiprono Langat addressed the challenges and adjustments of African migrants in Wagga Wagga, and Albino Chol Thiik, a Sudanese community leader in Toowoomba, talked about employment as an important aspect of the re-settlement and integration of new arrivals. Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe and Sundram Sivamalai spoke of capacity-building in the new, mainly Congolese and Sudanese, communities in the Goulburn Valley. Some papers gave an experiential dimension drawing attention to the aspirations and difficulties of the re-settlement process, including questions of race. One of these, presented as a dialogue between a Sudanese female migrant, Hala Arfish, and Louise Olliff, a volunteer with the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program in Melbourne, is included in this volume.

Recognising the important research links between Australia and Africa, we have also included in this volume Jenny Burnett, Robert Deng and Natania Baya Yoasa's peer-reviewed paper concerned with language issues in the University of Juba in the wake of several decades of political upheaval in Southern Sudan. This is a significant aspect of the continuing problems that have beset that territory. The issues raised here are a reminder of some important underlying difficulties in the administration of Southern Sudan.

David Lucas has, subsequent to the conference, put together some statistics of African migrants from the 2001 and 2006 Census data for Australia and gives a guide to accessing such material from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website; and, in a reminder that AFSAAP is an Association for New Zealand and the Pacific also, has written an introductory piece on New Zealand African settlement statistics. These statistical entries extend material arising from the conference, as does the review article and the bibliography that follows.

A review article by Julie Robinson assesses trends in research on health, adjustment and well-being of Africans in the diaspora during a twelve month period between 2007 and 2008, indicating an increasing focus in this field of research. New research in other fields is progressing across the country as noted, in part, in the section on Research Matters, and more fully in the bibliography on Africans in Australia that I have compiled. Initially prepared for the AFSAAP Conference in Canberra, the bibliography has been added to by contributions sent by scholars and agency workers from across the country. I thank all those who have assisted in this task. The study of Africans in

Australia is a fast-changing area of scholarship, shifting and expanding from the earlier fields of multiculturalism, migration and demography to include specific studies of African communities, language issues and linguistics, psychoanalysis, refugees and trauma, law and legal issues, culture, analysis of race and racism and critiques of whiteness. The bibliography also includes research publications by African Australian scholars in Australian universities, some contributing to local research, but some producing scholarship on Africa that is diaspora-based and has insider/outsider perspectives.

Finally, I point out that the next issue of *ARAS* will focus on Zimbabwe. Submissions should be sent, before 31 December, to Tanya Lyons, who will edit the next issue.

*Liz Dimock*  
*La Trobe University*

#### **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Members of the Association join in congratulating our vice-president, Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe, on being nominated for the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record. The nomination recognises Dr Nsubuga-Kyobe's strong and consistent advocacy for refugees throughout Victoria, and especially in the Shepparton area, where he has been teaching for La Trobe University since 1997. He has been a teacher, researcher and community activist, in the last role establishing the Goulburn Valley Ethnic Professionals Association and the Goulburn Valley African Communities Association. His outstanding record has long been recognised among Africanists in Australia, and it is good to see that wider recognition of his role is now forthcoming. Keep going, Apollo!

*Geoffrey Hawker*  
*President AFSAAP*

## **AFSAAP CONFERENCE**

*African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific*  
*31<sup>st</sup> Conference*  
**“Building a Common Future – Africa and Australasia”**  
**26-28 November 2008**

Since 1978, the annual African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) conference has been bringing together Africa-focused scholars, students, government and diplomatic staff, business, industry and individuals to discuss Africa and the issues, challenges and opportunities which the continent faces. The aim of the AFSAAP conference is to identify and discuss ways in which Africa and Australasia can work together towards shared solutions and a shared future.

The conference web site is located at <http://www.afsaap.org.au/>

The following themes will be the principal focus areas:

- HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa
- Peace and conflict studies in Africa
- The African diaspora
- Africans in Australia
- Africa in comparative context
- African literature and cultures
- Business and Economics in Africa
- Africa and China
- Africa, climate change and sustainable development
- Education and development

**Keynote speakers include:**

- **Mr Mac Maharaj** - Mac Maharaj was an ANC leader who spent 12 years imprisoned on Robben Island with Nelson Mandela. After his release in 1976, he escaped to Zambia and became a principal leader of the ANC in exile. After the first democratic elections in South Africa, he served as Minister of Transport from 1994-1999.
- **Professor Jeffrey Sachs** – Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a non-profit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty.