

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Sense of place poetry prize on offer

The UTAS School of Philosophy is pleased to announce the launch of a new national poetry prize with a prize pool of \$2000.

The competition offers an opportunity for poets to explore the theme of “Place and Experience” and is co-sponsored by the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Fullers Bookshop, *Island Magazine* and the Tasmanian Writers' Centre.

The panel of judges includes Dr. Lucy Tatman (Head of the UTAS School of Philosophy), Gina Mercer (Editor of *Island* magazine) and Tasmanian poet Adrienne Eberhard (Poetry Editor of *Island Magazine*).

Dr. Anita van Riet from the School of Philosophy is coordinator of the prize.

“The idea for the new poetry prize originated with the School of Philosophy, where the concept of 'place' features prominently as a significant topic for philosophical inquiry,” Dr van Riet said.

“This new competition will reaffirm Tasmania's reputation as a distinctive and innovative contributor to Australian literature.”

The concept of “place” also reaches beyond the arts, according to Head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Associate Professor Elaine Stratford.

“For geographers, environmental scholars and philosophers, the way that place is represented in writing can provide key insights into how people value and engage with place,” Assoc Prof Stratford said.

“This is particularly true of poetry and certainly true of poets in Tasmania, which has a vibrant culture of poetry writing which reflects on the Tasmanian experience of place.”

The poetry prize is open to Australian residents. Entries close on 5 July 2010.

The entry form, which includes conditions of entry, is downloadable from the Fullers Bookshop website: <http://www.fullersbookshop.com.au/>

Information Released by:

UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2691 Mobile: 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au

