

Editorial

Following last year's successful special issue on criminal justice, the present issue of *Queensland Review* marks a return to the non-specialist focus which has been most characteristic of the journal for the last four years. We are keen to maintain an editorial commitment to publishing as diverse a range of material as possible, and while the interdisciplinarity of our host institution provides a good foundation for doing this we are, of course, entirely dependent on receiving high quality submissions from students of Queensland in universities, the public service, politics, the professions, the schools and (increasingly) in private life. We have never been in any doubt that there is an important place for a journal like the *Queensland Review* in the intellectual life of this state, and we hope we can rely on your continuing support in the future, as subscribers and potential contributors.

The articles in this issue certainly exhibit about as much diversity as one could hope to achieve within the parameters of a research-based journal about Queensland. From museums and music to architecture and gold-mining, from the Stockman's Hall of Fame to the *Cane Toad Times*, there is something here to interest and challenge everyone who has some curiosity about the history and culture of this state.

And yet, as sometimes happens, a theme of sorts has emerged unbidden. Without having approached this issue of the journal with a single focus in mind — our aim, on the contrary, was diversity — we find ourselves with a set of essays about Queensland regionalism. Not simply a series of locality-studies (which would be tedious), but a range of perspectives on, and applications of, the idea of regionality in the Queensland context: in one case as a feature of Queensland's distinctive political culture (as analysed and exemplified by the *Cane Toad Times*); in others as a factor in the history and formation of cultural policy and cultural expression; in still others as a component of the material history of Queensland's industry and infrastructure.

The inescapability of the regional principle in Queensland studies has recently been borne in on the group of researchers currently engaged in writing a literary history of Queensland, to be co-edited by myself and Belinda McKay. After several false starts it has finally become clear that regional boundaries and differences within the state — however artificial or arbitrary these may seem from some points of view — are probably more salient culturally and historically than any other single factor and should probably supply our main organising principle. The regional principle, it seems — in one form or another — is one of the abiding realities of life in Queensland, and politicians and literary historians alike underestimate it at their peril.

Pat Buckridge