Citation of Merit Award for Literacy
‘Garth Boomer Award’
Beverly Derewianka
July 2010

Beverly Derewianka is a leading researcher, curriculum and policy developer, writer, teacher and consultant in the disciplines of literacy and systemic functional linguistics. Her research has focused on mapping literacy development from early childhood through to higher education. Her outstanding contribution to language and literacy development has been recognised at state, national and international levels for several decades.

A prolific writer, Beverly has produced well over a hundred articles, book chapters and books that range from a focus on writing across the curriculum, visual representation in history text books and the teaching of grammar. For the primary teacher Beverly is best known for Exploring How Texts Work (PETA) having sold 60,000 copies in several countries and a Grammar Companion for Primary Teachers (PETA).

Beverly’s scholarship has informed the development of policy and curriculum in NSW, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia. Currently Beverly has a major role in the development of the Australian English Curriculum, the Australian Literacy Continuum and the Australian Achievement Standards. In much demand as a speaker, Beverly has presented over fifty plenary and keynote presentations at national and international conferences in over ten countries, including the UK, Canada and Japan. Of particular note was the invitation to be the Distinguished International Scholar at the University of British Columbia in Canada in 2007 and she is a plenary speaker at the International Reading Association’s World Congress in New Zealand in 2010.

Beverly is also recognised as a teacher as evidenced by her receiving the University of Wollongong’s Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research Supervision, two Faculty of Education Teaching Excellence Awards and the Australian College of Education’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education. Beverly has been responsible for the design, development and implementation of a very successful postgraduate TESOL program at the University of Wollongong that now has students applying from all over the world. Currently the Director of the Centre for Research in Language and Literacy (CRILL) at the University of Wollongong, Beverly leads a team of academics in research and teaching. Under Beverly’s leadership the Centre has received many highly competitive grants and tenders. Most notably was the inaugural Australian Government Summer School for teachers of Literacy and Numeracy: a mammoth and highly successful event carried out in a very short time frame.

It is therefore with great pleasure that ALEA recognises Beverly Derewianka’s outstanding contribution to the literacy community with our prestigious Merit Award for Literacy, also known as the Garth Boomer Award.

Jan Turbill
President