

THE 2ND ANNUAL
comparative oz weekend

at Stanwell Tops, NSW

Friday September 30th to Sunday October 2nd, 1994

Following the outstanding success of the inaugural Comparative Australian weekend in Eastern Gippsland in early 1993 I am pleased to announce that a similar event has been organised for this year. It will be held at the "Garden of Peace" at Stanwell Tops, NSW. Stanwell Tops is about an hours drive south of Sydney, just off the main road to Wollongong. The Garden of Peace is set right on the edge of the escarpment in natural bushland, with a spectacular view out to the ocean.

The get-together has been arranged for the first weekend of October, getting underway in the evening of Friday September 30th and finishing around lunch-time on Sunday October 2nd. This is the last weekend of the mid-semester teaching break for most universities, and is the Labour Day long weekend in NSW, ACT and SA.

The idea of the weekend is for those with an interest in Comparative Australian studies to get together for some concentrated exchange of ideas, feedback on work-in-progress, think-tanking, socialising, gossiping etc. etc. We'll attempt to develop a true workshop atmosphere, pooling our talents and ideas. Participants will be encouraged to report on their areas of interest, present embryonic, provocative or problematic reconstructions, take pot-shots at general theoretical or procedural issues, and so on, in a semi-formal fashion. We'll also plan on having some general sessions brainstorming the "big" questions (e.g. the genetic unity of Pama-Nyungan, the antiquity of "prefixing") and related methodological problems, which should provoke some healthy debate. Everyone is expected to contribute !

The Garden of Peace has all the facilities we need for a great do-it-yourself low-cost conference. Accommodation is \$20 per person per night. Foam mattresses are provided - so bring your own swag, sleeping bag or bedding. And, as at the Gippsland get-together, we'll cook communally and split the costs. Transport - probably in the form of lifts with other participants (bus hire is inordinately expensive) - will be arranged from Sydney (1 hrs drive) and Canberra (3 hrs drive) for those who require it. So total cost ex Sydney/Canberra will be: \$40 accomm + food contribution + fuel contribution, plus maybe a nominal "registration" fee of \$10 or so to cover miscellaneous expenses. Full details will be sorted out when we see how many takers we get.

This is going to be a great weekend. If you are interested in Australian languages, can you afford NOT to be there ???

Places are limited - so reserve your piece of foam in the bush by returning the form below to me at the first opportunity.

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