

# The Brontë Thunderer

A simple black outline map of Australia is positioned behind the title. The word 'Thunderer' is written in a large, bold, serif font, with the map of Australia acting as a background for the letters 'h', 'u', 'n', 'd', 'e', 'r', 'e', 'r'.

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN BRONTË ASSOCIATION



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# THE BRONTË TH(UNDER)ER – OUR NEW JOURNAL

The committee of the Australian Brontë Association decided that, starting in 2004, we should have two levels of publication. The *Newsletter* will continue to be published twice a year, but will be smaller than it has been, and will contain ephemera, book reviews and news of topical interest only. Longer items, including the text of talks given at our meetings will appear at the end of each year in this journal-type publication.

The committee searched for a suitable name and finally settled on *The Brontë Th(under)er*. The reasons for this name are as follows. For a start it clearly contains the name “Brontë”, so readers will not be left in any doubt as to the purpose of the publication. Secondly, the name *Thunderer* would have been well known to the Brontës as a nickname for the respected newspaper *The Times* of London.

Then, as those of you who know their Greek would know, the Greek word for “thunder” is βροντη, or Bronte. How Charlotte came to be known as Charlotte Thunder is well known, but we’ll repeat it here. The town in Sicily, near the volcano Mount Etna, was named “Brontë”, no doubt because of the thunderous noise given out by the volcano during an eruption. Lord Nelson won an important victory at this place and received the title “Duke of Brontë”. Patrick Brunty, for whom Nelson was a great hero, adapted the spelling of his name while he was at Cambridge. And then he, or one of his daughters, decorated the “e” with the two dots.

The final reference in the name is the fact that the word “thunderer” contains the word “under”, reflecting the fact that this journal represents the Brontë followers “down under”.

# THE AUSTRALIAN BRONTË ASSOCIATION

In 1986 Fergus McClory was appointed the Australian Representative of the Brontë Society, serving the members of that society who lived in Australia and meetings were held in Sydney. Then, in 1998 the Australian Brontë Association was formed as an independent but complementary organization, in order to expand the local Brontë activities. Our patron is the distinguished Brontë scholar Christine Alexander, professor of English at the University of New South Wales. We currently meet on certain Saturday mornings in the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney, founded shortly after the Keighley Mechanics Institute, of which Patrick Brontë was a member.

The current committee is as follows:

Patron: Professor Christine Alexander

President: Dr Christopher Cooper

Secretary: Geraldine Rawlings

Membership Secretary: Brigitte Lucey

Treasurer: Ann Lock

Publicity Officer: Annette Harman

We maintain a web site at:

[www.maths.mq.edu.au/~chris/bronte/aba.htm](http://www.maths.mq.edu.au/~chris/bronte/aba.htm)

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