

Position title: Editor, *Overland*

Organisation: *Overland* – OL Society Limited

About *Overland*

Overland – Australia's only radical literary magazine – has been showcasing brilliant and progressive fiction, poetry, nonfiction and art since 1954. The not-for-profit magazine has published some of Australia's most iconic writers, and continues to give space to underrepresented voices and brand-new literary talent every single day.

In *Overland's* very first edition in 1954, Stephen Murray-Smith noted that the magazine would 'publish poetry and short stories, articles and criticism by new and by established writers. It will aim high ... [but] will make a special point of developing writing talent in people of diverse backgrounds. We ask of our readers, however inexperienced, that they write for us; that they share our love of living, our optimism, our belief in the traditional dream of a better Australia.'

In 2019, *Overland* is [a quarterly print journal](#) (publishing essay, short fiction and poetry), and [an online magazine](#) publishing cultural commentary each weekday, as well as special online editions of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. The magazine also holds events, discussions and debates, hosts a number of [major literary competitions](#), and runs writing-residencies for underrepresented writers.

Overland is based at Victoria University, Footscray.

Mission

Overland's mission is to foster new, original and progressive writing exploring the relationship between politics and culture, especially literature, and to bring that work to as many people as possible.

Overland values:

- the wide dissemination of new, challenging and progressive ideas about politics and culture, showcasing Australian writers to the world and the world to Australian readers;
- participation in political and cultural debates;
- aesthetic excellence, encouraging contributors to produce their best work;
- the democratisation of politics and culture, providing space for diverse and underrepresented voices alongside the more established;
- social justice in both the cultural and political spheres.

The role

The editor is responsible for the editorial leadership and management of *Overland*. This includes deciding the editorial vision for the magazine and fulfilling the organisation's strategic direction, which guides the day-to-day operation of *Overland*. The role



involves managing a small literary organisation and coordinating many concurrent projects.

The editor will work with a range of stakeholders, including funding bodies, sponsors, staff, contractors, guest-editors and interns, as well as many new and established writers and artists, and the *Overland* board, to ensure *Overland's* relevance, impact and viability.

The editor has responsibility for overseeing all aspects of producing a quarterly print magazine, an online daily magazine, various projects (such as prizes and residencies) and ongoing outreach and engagement to promote progressive writing, politics and culture – aiming to produce excellent work, engage with audiences and grow readership. The editor will be an advocate for *Overland* in correspondence with funding bodies, sponsors and partners, and within the writing and arts communities in Australia.

The ideal candidate will embody the founding mission and values of *Overland*, and bring their own ideas, passions and experience to the role.

Responsibilities

Editorial

- Plan and oversee all aspects of production, printing and publication of the quarterly print, daily online and special digital editions of *Overland* literary journal
- Commission articles, assess pitches and work collaboratively with authors, artists and editors for each edition
- Liaise with a team of satellite online, poetry, fiction and copy editors
- Oversee the *Overland* website and its development and other *Overland* materials (e.g. fortnightly ebulletin, and copy as required)
- Attend board meetings and provide regular editor's reports, including at least one annual report of literary activities against *Overland's* annual KPIs

Leadership and management

- Create and implement strategies with the *Overland* team to strengthen the presence of *Overland* in literary, cultural and political spaces, finding creative ways to continue to grow the organisation and reach new audiences
- Champion progressive Australian literature, politics and culture, and advance debate on key political and cultural issues
- Think strategically about the future of the organisation, and create annual timelines for *Overland* activities as appropriate
- Contribute to the preparation of budgets, in collaboration with the general manager, and the board, as necessary
- Identify project opportunities for *Overland*, such as collaborations or programs for underrepresented writers
- Work closely with the general manager on day-to-day management of *Overland* business, including management of volunteers, interns and student placements
- Monitor and interpret *Overland* analytics, including reader statistics and surveys, feedback, and subscription trends

Funding and partnerships

- Write and develop strategic plans and funding applications
- Develop, maintain and strengthen partner relationships and activities
- Identify new prize and project possibilities that offer opportunities to writers
- Oversee delivery and evaluation of, and reporting and acquittals on *Overland* activities to funding bodies and partners

Key selection criteria

1. Experience with the Australian publishing industry, as a writer, editor and/or publisher.
2. Experience in the planning, editing and production of print or online publications, and an appreciation of working with ongoing tight deadlines.
3. Excellent understanding of contemporary issues and debates in writing, literature, politics and culture, particularly in Australia.
4. Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking and planning, such as developing and writing grant applications, or identifying philanthropic and project opportunities.
5. Commitment to the values and mission of *Overland*.

Desirable

1. A postgraduate degree in writing, literature, publishing, or a related discipline in the humanities.
2. A track record of publication, a media/social media profile, and a capacity for public speaking.

Salary and conditions

- This is 0.8 fraction role
- Salary is \$56,200 per annum for 4 days per week
- 9.5% superannuation
- 16 days annual leave per annum
- 8 days personal leave, inclusive of sick leave, per annum

How to apply

Applicants should submit:

- an editorial vision statement (up to 500 words),
- one to two pages addressing the key selection criteria, and
- a targeted CV, which includes two referees

Applications should be submitted via [this Overland Submittable page](#).

Applications close 6pm **Wednesday 3 July 2019**.

All enquiries to overland@vu.edu.au or alternatively to the current editor Jacinda Woodhead (jacinda@overland.org.au) or the *Overland* chair Dr Bronwyn Cran (chair@overland.org.au)

Overland is an equal opportunity employer. We acknowledge that we live and work on the stolen lands of the Kulin Nations, and pay respect to elders, past, present and emerging. Sovereignty never ceded.