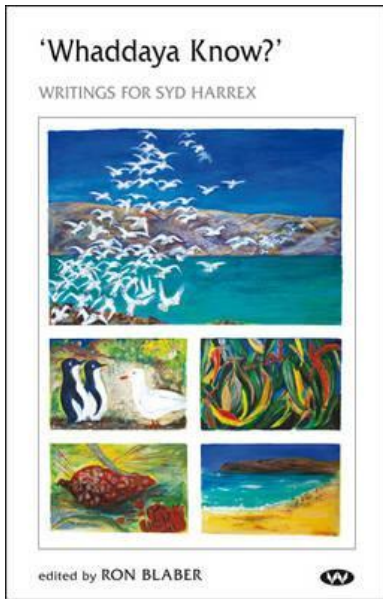


## Syd Harrex: A Tribute



I first came to know Syd when the Centre for Research in New Literatures in English (CRNLE) was recommended to me by a former Professor in New Zealand. I was looking for a place to do my PhD in this area. I wrote to Syd and expressed my research interest. Syd was honest right from the very beginning. He said there was very little material in the area I wanted to study but the Centre would be happy to receive me. Such open-mindedness about under-explored and uncharted research topic is something I cherish till today, 22 years from the first correspondence I had with Syd.

He was my Supervisor for the first part of my first year. I was impatient. Syd was the happy-go-lucky professor who would be meticulous and critical when he sat to do his

work. While under his supervision, I learnt much about the power of knowledge and networking. Syd was a master of both and I benefitted from his world-wide circle of friends, some of whom I am still in touch with today. A few came for the 15<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Biennial Symposium on Literature and Culture which the Department of English Language and Literature of the International Islamic University Malaysia hosted some years ago. Syd's students are now everywhere in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. If there's anything that keeps us in touch, it is our common experience of being Syd's students or friends.

Here's a tribute to a teacher whose big contribution you only realise after he is gone:

Your love for recognition of the down-trodden  
is only known by your friends and students  
who write about their plight and pain in their  
poems, short stories and novels  
which you ardently promoted  
You set up a centre  
You initiated a journal  
CRNLE became known to others  
who once sneered on new literatures in English

What new? What literature, they mocked  
But you plodded along  
Believing what you believed in  
Until generations of students  
became your disciples,  
diasporic all over

They carve their names,  
made famous by your intelligence

RIP Syd Harrex  
You will be sadly missed,  
by students, now your orphans.

**Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf**  
**International Islamic University Malaysia**