

## ***Garth Boomer Memorial Address: Re-Negotiating the Curriculum***

***Bill Green, Emeritus Professor of Education at Charles Sturt University.***



### ***Abstract***

Garth Boomer can rightly be described as one of Australia's foremost curriculum thinkers. His heyday was the 1970s and 1980s, however, and little is known now about the actual nature or the details of his work. Indeed, I suspect that he functions for many, and especially for more recent curriculum workers, as something of a mythic figure. In this presentation I revisit what is perhaps his most iconic idea: curriculum (as) negotiation, or as it was originally known, 'negotiating the curriculum'. What does this actually involve? How is it to be understood? Why is it important? Taking into account the context of its formulation and asking about its relevance and value now, in what are clearly very different circumstances, I argue that curriculum (as) negotiation is best seen as a distinctive curriculum orientation, with possibilities and opportunities not only for the present moment but also for the future, as a key resource for curriculum inquiry and praxis.

## ***Biography***

Bill Green is Emeritus Professor of Education at Charles Sturt University, NSW. His research and scholarship ranges across curriculum inquiry and literacy studies, with particular interests in curriculum theory and history and in English curriculum studies. Among his publications are two edited volumes of Garth Boomer's writing, *Metaphors and Meanings: Essays on English Teaching* by Garth Boomer (AATE, 1988) and *Designs on Learning: Essays on Curriculum and Teaching* by Garth Boomer (ACSA, 1999). His most recent book is *Engaging Curriculum: Bridging the Curriculum Theory and English Education Divide* (Routledge, 2018).

