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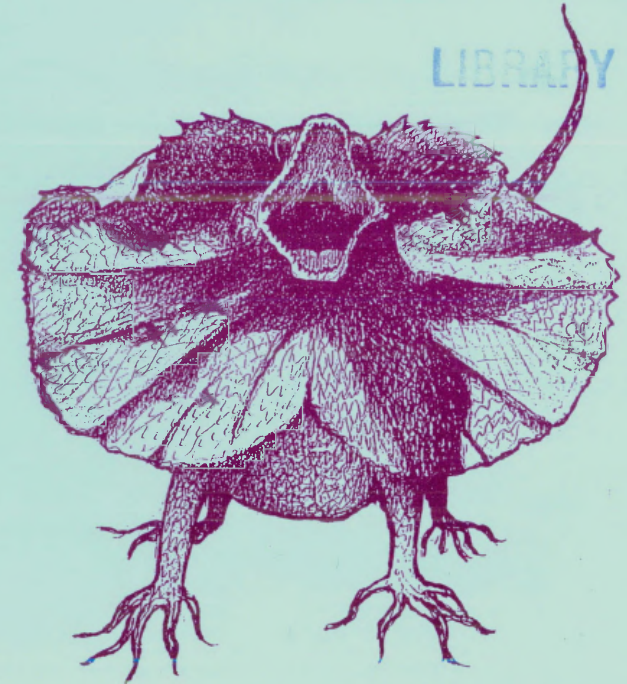
CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE
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(CALLS)

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Mary Lord, 1995 Writer-in-Residence at UNE

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Membership of CALLS

Full Membership of the Centre at a cost of \$10 per annum will be open to all who teach or research in Australian language, literature or drama at a tertiary level. **Associate Membership** will be available to anyone else who is interested, on payment of \$8 per annum. These fees may be revised later. Honorary membership, either for a limited time or for life, will, from time to time, be offered to individuals who have made an important contribution to Australian letters or to the advancement of the Centre's interests. There is provision in the Constitution for the election of a Patron or Patrons, and of Honorary Life Members, and for affiliation with other centres with similar interests, both in Australia and overseas.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Membership of CALLS	2
The Centre for Australian Language and Literature Studies (CALLS)	3
Contents	4
Director's Annual Report 1995	5
(from A.G.M., December 1995)	
Writer in Residence	6
Undergraduate Prizewinner	7
Recent Books Edited by CALLS Members	7
Ewa Gajer Booklaunch	7
Postgraduate Theses Completed in 1995	8
Postgraduate Research in Progress	9
Visitors	10
Petrarch Prize for Patron	11
Activities of CALLS Members in 1995	12
Guidelines for the Centre	18
Membership Application Form	(Loose sheet)

Photographs

Mary Lord	Inside Front Cover
Les Murray	p.11
Ewa Gajer	Inside Back Cover

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1996

This year has been one of consolidation of our publishing programme. In August 1994, along with Animal Science, CALLS published J. S. Ryan's edition of Rolf Boldrewood's *Grazier's Guide*. The volume is of considerable interest not only to the history of Australian literature, but also to the history of Australian agricultural development. In his careful and informative edition of the text, Professor Ryan has provided both classes of readers with an invaluable resource. Considerable media interest was aroused when the volume was published and a high-profile book launch was hosted by Animal Science. This particular publication was a fine example of co-operative endeavour between two usually disparate disciplines on campus. I hope it will not be the last.

In April several members of CALLS attended the Australian Frontiers Conference at Longreach where they gave papers (Ellis, McDougall and Croft) and the *Grazier's Guide* was again promoted at a venue which was particularly fitting — the Stockman's Hall of Fame. During 1995 intense work on the preparation of Louisa Lawson's Collected Poems and related essays by several hands was carried out by Leonie Rutherford assisted by Megan Roughley and Nigel Spence. The book is now in the very last stages of preparation for camera-ready status and will be published early in 1996.

In September CALLS published Ewa Gajer's Bibliography of *Australian Women Short Story Writers*. The book was launched in the Department of English and Communication Studies with a well-attended and well-reported function. A major notice of the work was carried in *Campus Weekly* in October. Demand for the book has been steady since then. This was the culmination of a long research project which was supervised in the early stages by Dr Shirley Walker. Ewa Gajer came to UNE from Poland and completed her PhD under Dr Walker's direction, and CALLS is very pleased to be the publisher of the major resource compiled a scholar trained in our department.

During the year Sally Nicol took over the day-to-day administration of the Centre, and it is very pleasing to report that in the past few months Sally has been selling considerable numbers of our previous publications. A particularly pleasing trend is the steady demand for the Campbell Howard Index, as all of the cover price is now profit which goes directly into CALLS funds.

I have concentrated on the publishing work of CALLS activities because they have been the major feature of this year. We have now published 5 significant books (if we include the Louisa Lawson edition) in the space of three years. It is a remarkable achievement and one I hope which continues.

There was no annual dinner this year though we hope to revive the practice during 1996 — funds permitting. I hope that further initiations can be taken in 1996 to consolidate our relations with the local and regional communities and to develop closer links with the academic departments, the New England Writers' Centre and through them with local literary groups, and the local communities in general. I would hope that CALLS can work through the Department of English and Communication Studies' community relations officer (A/Prof J S Ryan) to promote these initiations. Our major commitment for the coming year, entered into through the able negotiations of Cath Ellis in 1995, is our commitment to host the ASAL conference in Armidale in 1997. CALLS will be the local host and planning for the conference has already started. It is my sincere hope that the ASAL 97 conference will do much to raise the national standing of CALLS and to underpin the development of the Centre for the rest of the decade/century.

Finally I would like to thank the Executive, the English department administrative assistants, and those members of CALLS who have given much support in my two years as Director. I am pleased to look over our achievements in the last two years, and I am confident that even more will be accomplished in the next.

Julian Croft

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The Centre and the Department of English and Communication Studies were delighted to host the nine-week stay of the distinguished biographer and scholar Mary Lord as Writer-in-Residence from 20 February to mid-April.

Mary Lord is best-known for her controversial biography of Hal Porter, *Hal Porter: Man of Many Parts* (1993). In 1980, she edited a collection of Porter's writing, including his first novel (*A Handful of Pennies* (1958)), short stories, poems and autobiography (*Hal Porter*, 1980). Mary Lord's anthology, *The Penguin Best Australian Short Stories* appeared in 1990. Her other works include numerous essays, articles, reviews and journalism. Most recently, Mary Lord has been a regular columnist for the *Melbourne Times* newspaper, but she is chiefly remembered by her New England friends as one of the founders, with the late Barry Andrews (of the Australian Defence Forces Academy) and Julian Croft and Ken Stewart (while both were running Australian literature courses at the University of New England) as a co-founder of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature in 1978. ASAL has since grown into the premier organisation for research into Australian literature, staging annual conferences at Australian universities, attended by international teachers, students of Australian literature. Australian writers, as well as Australian scholars of their writing, owe a great deal to Mary Lord's efforts to promote our national culture. As a director of the National Book Council, based in Melbourne, Mary Lord supported a host of Australian writers in direct ways in the 1980s, providing publicity for their work, venues for their readings and performances, and tours and residencies for other writers throughout Australia. Mary Lord's time as director of the NBC also saw the expansion of efforts by the *Australian Book Review* to expand awareness of Australian writing through support of the *Australian Book Review*, a monthly review of publications by novelists, poets, historians, biographers and other writers.

Mary Lord's links with UNE were strengthened by her stay. She was based in the Department of English and Communication Studies, and met students in the course of seminars and workshops on writing life stories and short fiction. Some of her 'customers' were encouraged to submit their work to student and professional journals, and she reported that their efforts met with success. She was impressed with the general level of writing among those who consulted her for advice, and encouraged several to try their chances with publishers of children's novels and plays.

Her day-to-day meetings with members of the university (including the secretarial staff) were characterised by her terrific sense of humour, shrewdness and professionalism. She gave everyone the benefit of her experience and good sense, and was greatly appreciated at public gatherings, like the capacity Writer's Breakfast arranged by the New England Writers' Centre at a coffee shop in Armidale, and a reading from her work in progress, at the Rumours cafe.

While she was with us, Mary Lord was engaged on writing memoirs of her life in Tasmania in the 1940s and 1950s. She drafted a good deal of this work, while keeping up her contributions to the *Melbourne Times*, and gave us a foretaste of a work that is not just a personal history, but a significant slice of Australian cultural history. Mary's wit, broad erudition and wonderful company in every situation in which we were privileged to meet her are missed by everyone who had dealings with her. She's one of the most entertaining, considerate, and best-liked writers the Centre and the Department have hosted.

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZEWINNER

The 1995 CALLS prize awarded to the best undergraduate student, whether internal or external, in the Australian Literature course at the University of New England, was won by Mr S. J. Gardner, of Ingham, Queensland.

RECENT BOOKS EDITED BY CALLS MEMBERS

Dingley, R. J. (ed.) George Augustus Sala, *The Land of the Golden Fleece*, Canberra: Mulini Press, 1995. Pp.xxvi+242.

Hoddinott, Alison (ed.) Gwen Harwood: *The Present Tense*, Sydney: Imprint/ETT, 1995. pp.135.

Rutherford, L. M (ed.) *Louisa Lawson: Collected Poems, with Selected Critical Commentaries* (due to be published in Feb 1996).

EWA GAJER

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN SHORT STORY WRITERS

Book Launch — CALLS, 29 August 1995

[These remarks are by Professor Julian Croft, on the occasion of the launch of Ewa Gajer's *Australian Women Short Story Writers*. The launch was attended by many members and friends of CALLS, including the Vice-Chancellor of UNE, Professor Bruce Thom.]

When I first started research in Australian Literature in 1964 there were very few Bibliographies. The first (and usually only) source of bibliographic information on an author's work was the card index in the Mitchell Library in Sydney. The lack of comprehensive Bibliographies which allowed generic searches (plays, stories, poems, novels), the identification of regional writers, gender specific searches, the activities of publishers etc, and all the permutations of the above, meant that the level of discussion of the nation's literature was limited to the author/title index of the Mitchell. It's small wonder, then, that the prevailing mode of discourse was New-Critical readings of key works by canonical authors.

Happily all that has changed. Now, with the help of bibliographies such as Ewa's, we can reconstruct through literature how the ways in which we see (and saw) ourselves have changed through time. Ewa's *Bibliography* is a major contribution to the Bibliographic resources of Australian literature. It will be a necessary source for literary researchers, but it will also aid cultural historians and researchers in women's studies. I road-tested the *Bibliography* by looking up some obscure writers whom I knew from some work I had done on literary culture in the 1930s. I couldn't fault it. Nor could I find oversights in the anthologies indexed for the *Bibliography*. I would like to congratulate Ewa on what appears to me (and to her examiners as well) to be a comprehensive and reliable account of short-story writing by women in this century and before. The information is consistently presented and the method of organising it is very 'user-friendly', as others have already noticed. As I know from first-hand experience, there are