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**CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE  
AND LITERATURE STUDIES**  
(C.A.L.L.S.)

**YEARBOOK No.8**

Edited by R. McDougall



The University of New England  
ARMIDALE, NSW  
AUSTRALIA

1996

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AND LITERATURE STUDIES**

**(C.A.L.L.S.)**

**1997 Office-bearers**

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<b>LIFE MEMBERS:</b>	DOROTHY HEWETT GWEN KELLY K. R. (JOE) MASSINGHAM SHIRLEY WALKER

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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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## Annual Report

1996

1996 was a difficult year for CALLS; nevertheless there have been some significant developments in the Centre's activities. Book sales of our publications from previous years have continued strongly. The Gajer Bibliography was reprinted, and copies of the Campbell Howard Index are still selling. J S Ryan's edition of Boldrewood's *Grazier's Guide* sold well, and at last report was approaching the point where it would cover its costs. Leonie Rutherford's, Megan Roughley's, and Nigel Spence's edition of *Louisa Lawson's Collected Poems* was finally launched in March 1996 at the CALLS annual dinner. Production of the book was a very difficult process. The first printing was pulped because of production and design problems. A second printing with a redesigned cover and some internal changes was carried out by the UNE printery. Given these difficulties, it is unlikely, sadly, that the Louisa Lawson book will cover its costs. The book was launched, very elegantly, by Marion Halligan at the CALLS Annual dinner, and her speech on Australian literature and food to a large and receptive audience was a model of its kind: personal, erudite, thoughtful, and witty. It was a very successful dinner, which attracted a wide range of people from across the University and the town.

As a result of the difficulties associated with the production of the *Louisa Lawson Collected Poems*, the Director and Secretary of CALLS resigned. This was a considerable blow to the Centre, for we lost the services of Dr Michael Sharkey and Ms Cath Ellis, both of whom had done a great deal for the Centre over the past few years. Dr Russell McDougall has been Acting Director for the past few months and Dr Shirley Walker has acted as Secretary. They have overseen the operations of the Centre and have started plans which it is hoped the new executive will carry through to successful conclusions in 1997. Sales of the Louisa Lawson book have been very encouraging — over 50% of the printing has been sold, mostly, it would seem, to libraries.

In conclusion I would like to thank the acting executive, and the former executive for the work they have done for the Centre in 1996. Despite the difficulties earlier in the year, there has been progress with the publication programme and the opportunity in 1997 to reposition the Centre in the restructured university.

Julian Croft,  
December 1996.

**1996 Conference of EACLALS  
at Oviedo, Spain**

Two members of CALLS, Russell McDougall and Shirley Walker, attended the Silver Jubilee Conference of the European Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies at the University of Oviedo, Spain, in March 1996. The Conference theme was "Translating Cultures". The keynote address was given by Professor Gayatri Spivak of Columbia University and Elizabeth Jolley, John Kinsella, Beverley Farmer and Jennifer Strauss were among the Australian writers present.

Oviedo is the capital of the Asturias, noted for the magnificent mountain scenery provided by the Picos de Europa, the mountain range which runs through the region, often only 40km from the coast. Delegates to the conference were able to visit, in Oviedo, the late-Gothic Cathedral and the Pre-Romanesque church of Santa Maria del Naranco. They were also taken to the port-city of Gijon, the basilica of Covadonga where the Moors suffered their first defeat in Spain, and to an important site of pre-historic cave paintings.

Among a number of papers given by Australian delegates was Shirley Walker's on Ethel Anderson's poetry. Initiatives by the two CALLS delegates at Oviedo have now reached fruition. A course on Australian Women's Writing is being taught by Shirley Walker to a group of post-graduate students at Oviedo, and an agreement for an exchange of students and staff between the Universities of Oviedo and New England has been negotiated by Russell McDougall.

Shirley Walker

**Exchange with Oviedo**

Russell McDougall has been negotiating for several months with International Programs at UNE and the Vice Rector at the University of Oviedo, with the result that a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation has now been drafted between the Faculty of Arts, UNE, and the Departamento de Filologia Anglogermanica y Francesca, Oviedo, in Spain. It includes a staff/student exchange agreement, and it is envisaged that the first five students from Oviedo should arrive in Armidale to commence their studies next year.

**Launch of *Louisa Lawson's Collected Poems***

(edited by Megan Roughley, Leonie Rutherford,  
and assisted by Nigel Spence)

Wright College, 18 April 1996

Poetry can be a very private solace (or vice); it can also be a very public act. When the poet is a woman with domestic difficulties, is poor, burdened by children, lonely, but with an intellectual curiosity, and a burning political ambition to change the existing order of things, then the poetry will be interesting, even if its quality might be variable (according to some tastes). Louisa Lawson was a remarkable woman who committed herself to the public prosecution of great tasks: suffrage, women's rights, to the nature of public and domestic relations through the political process of education and direct action. But there was also a remarkable personality within the public figure.

Both can be seen in her poetry. Yet that poetry has been lost from view for almost all of this century. In order to bring back to life again the private and public sides of Louisa Lawson, Leonie Rutherford, Megan Roughley, and Nigel Spence have collected Louisa Lawson's poems from many fugitive sources — files of old newspapers, manuscript sources, the one collection of her poetry published during her life-time — and meticulously prepared a text from these sources. Leonie's work of scholarship in establishing a reading text with annotations of variants will stand for many years, and is a monument to her abilities as a textual editor.

But a text of poems is only half of the equation. What do readers make of Louisa Lawson and her work? This edition of Louisa's poetic output comes with a selection of critical writing on that corpus and its historical context. It ranges from Megan Roughley's Introduction through essays from various perspectives, many of them written by scholars associated with UNE: Susan Pfisterer, Robert Dingley, Nigel Spence.

None of this would have been possible had it not been for a grant from the Vice-Chancellor's Quality Assurance Fund for Research Centres, which enabled Leonie to work with Nigel in the labour-intensive process of scouring libraries for poems, and the equally arduous task of annotating the many allusions and contemporary references which are now lost to contemporary readers.

I congratulate them on the difficulties they have overcome in publishing this book, and I am very happy to launch it today, and to thank the Vice-Chancellor in particular for his support in completing a work which will be of major importance in the rewriting of Australian literary history.

Julian Croft