

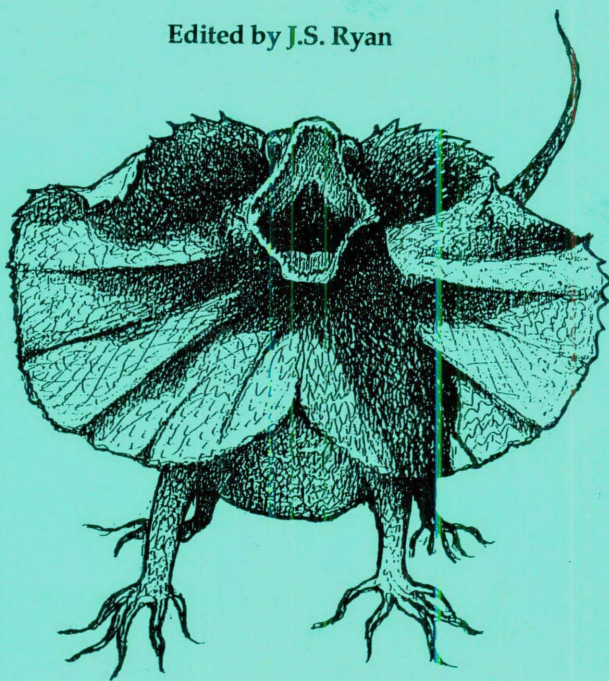
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**CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE STUDIES
(CALLS)**

YEARBOOK No. 5

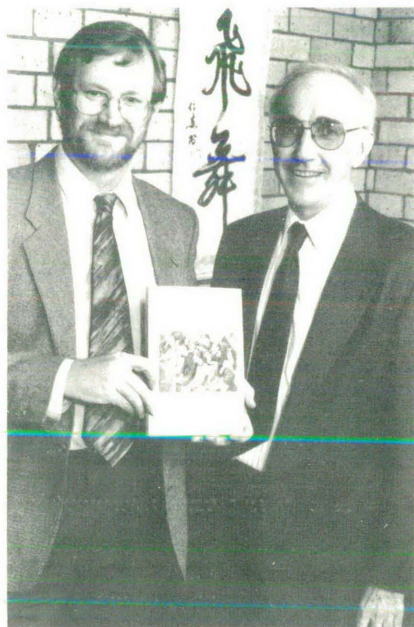
Edited by J.S. Ryan



**The University of New England
ARMIDALE, NSW
AUSTRALIA**

June, 1994





Associate Professor J C B Croft and J Bedson
Photograph taken at launch of the Campbell Howard *Play Index*.

* *

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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CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES CALLS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	The Office Bearers listed above, and JULIAN CROFT (Head, Department of English and Communication Studies), CLIFF GODDARD (Head, Department of Linguistics), LAUNT THOMPSON (Head, Department of Theatre Studies), GWEN KELLY, ANDREW McCUE (Theatre Studies).
LIFE MEMBERS:	GWEN KELLY, DOROTHY HEWETT

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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 1993	5
Undergraduate Prizewinner	6
Recent Books/Journals from CALLS members	7
Books by Friends to the Centre	7
Writer in Residence	8
Campbell Howard Book Launch	9
Occasional Publication No.1 - <i>Absences</i> by Peter Pierce	13
New England Writers' Centre	14
Open Learning	15
Aboriginal Literature for (Overseas) New England Students	16
First New England Literature Doctorate for Chinese Student	16
Higher Degree Theses Completed in 1993	16
Postgraduate Research in Progress: PhDs, MAs, MLitts	17
The Speech Laboratory within the Department of Linguistics	19
CALLS first visiting scholar	19
Other Visitors	20
Distinctions Achieved	20
Activities of CALLS Members in 1993	21
News of Former Staff and Students	28
Obituary	29
Farewells	29
Guidelines for the Centre	30
Membership Application Form	(Loose sheet)

Photographs

Associate Professor J. C. B. Croft and J. Bedson at the Campbell Howard
Play Index launch, February 1994

Inside Front Cover

Dr Yi-Feng Hu and Dr Barbara Holloway at University of New England Graduation,
March 1994

Inside Back Cover

Professor Hu Wenzhong with CALLS members at the New England Lookout,
February 1993

Inside Back Cover

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993

THE CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES (CALLS)

On the occasion of my leaving the Directorship of CALLS and stepping back to observe, it seems timely to review the first four years of the Centre, emphasising its achievements and positive strengths and not dwelling too much on its obvious handicaps - the lack of money which frustrates all such centres in Australia bar one, and the prevailing rationalism which sees little value in anything which doesn't earn instant cash.

I'll begin with our identity and our logo: In Australia and overseas, our identity is celebrated each year in our *Yearbook*, the achievement of our enthusiastic publications officer John Ryan. The *Yearbook* is our best advertisement. The lizard, our logo, designed by David Evans, is memorable. In our lighter moments it seems to sum up the essential nature of CALLS: slinky and highly ornamental, we are thoroughly Australian and committed to fostering our Australian identity. Our title too sums up a lot. I was challenged by a prominent member last year to standardise the pronunciation. Should it be laconic and Australian (CALLS, rhyming with DRAWLS) or should it be short (rhyming with PALS) and sharp, like the bark of a native dog, or the cough of a distressed Koala? I'll settle for the laconic CALLS. That takes care of our identity for the time being, remembering that identity cannot be artificially constructed, but evolves from a sense of place, of time, and of the individual effort that goes into an organization such as ours. Identity needs space, time and creative evolution.

Mention of place brings to mind our achievements in the region. Two regional conferences have not only brought our work to public attention, but have taught us much. Our first, at Kendall High School, took place in cyclonic rain. The attendance was poor, and we learned to be better prepared in future. With our second, in the historic township of Gulgong, we experienced the strength of that region's commitment to their history and literature. While Russell and Leonie started the ghosts of Louisa and Henry with their music, we encountered, in the Henry Lawson Centre, the ghosts of the past, in particular those of the young Nellie Melba, who performed there, and of Les Darcy, who fought his last Australian fight in the Gulgong Opera House.

In our next venture, to the colonial precincts of Grafton, we should start up more than the ghosts of Kendall and Michael. I am reminded of the young Havelock Ellis, stranded at the Grafton Grammar School, at the very periphery of the intellectual world, dreaming of sexual theory through the steamy summers. I think too of Sir Grafton Eliot Smith, the famous Egyptologist, who deserted the Clarence for Cambridge and Cairo. His scholarly account of the unwrapping of the royal mummies in the Cairo museum in 1901 is a literary document of some style. I think too of Ion Idriess, whose *Drums of Mer* first described the culture and rituals of the Murray Islands, the home of Mabo, and of Brian James, sitting in the stuffy staff-room of the Grafton High School and detailing in his autobiography text, *The Advancement of Spenser Button* his frustration with Grafton, the Education Department and his wife, and his passion for the Geography mistress. This is only a random selection, but it demonstrates that there is much in the literature of our region to explore and write about.