

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY  
OF AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE



***CURRENT TENSIONS***

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**6 - 11 JULY 1996**

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OF AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE**

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**6 - 11 JULY 1996**

CONFERENCE CONVENORS: SHARYN PEARCE AND PHILIP NEILSEN

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND  
SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND JOURNALISM  
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY





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## FOREWORD

The 1996 annual conference of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature was held in Brisbane from 6 - 11 July. The following is a record of the formal proceedings of the conference, published by ASAL for its members.

Our title for this collection, "Current Tensions", is a phrase taken from the keynote address by Simon During, which examined the historical and current position of literary studies. There was no overall theme stipulated for this year's conference, resulting in a wide-ranging number of papers, which included a diversity of critical and theoretical perspectives. Almost all of the papers given during the conference have been included in this collection.

The conference included readings by David Foster, Amanda Lohrey, Venero Armano, Rosie Scott, Joanne Burns, Laurie Duggan, Lisa Bellear and Jay Verney. There were panel sessions with a number of these writers, as well as a day trip to the rainforest at Binna Burra, book launches, a parody night and the conference dinner.

The papers are arranged here in the order in which they were given. Editing has been kept to a minimum, and papers remain close to the form in which they were delivered.

We are grateful to Margaret Miles for her tireless work in preparing these papers, the assistance of Vivienne Muller, Patrick Buckridge, Christine Higgins and Samantha Organ-Moore from the conference organising team, the Literature Board of the Australia Council for its assistance in funding the attendance of the writers, and the Schools of Humanities and Media and Journalism in the Faculty of Arts at QUT for their support.

Sharyn Pearce  
Philip Neilsen  
(ASAL 96 Convenors)

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