



**australian
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**edited by
Alison Bartlett,
Robert Dixon and
Christopher Lee**

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Association for the Study of Australian Literature



Australian Literature and the Public Sphere

Refereed Proceedings
of the 1998 Conference

held at
The Empire Theatre
and the University of Southern Queensland
Toowoomba

3-7 July 1998

edited by

Alison Bartlett, Robert Dixon and Christopher Lee

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Foreword

The twenty first annual conference of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature was hosted by the University of Southern Queensland and held at the Empire Theatre, Toowoomba, Queensland from 3 to 7 July 1998. This publication is a refereed selection of the papers offered at the conference, focusing particularly on papers relating to the conference theme. A full list of papers given at the conference appears at the end of this volume.

The theme of the conference, 'Australian Literature and the Public Sphere,' is developed in the keynote address by Graeme Turner and in Elizabeth Webby's 1998 Dorothy Green Memorial Lecture, 'Australian Literature and the Market Place.' A range of issues raised in these addresses were taken up in other papers, which have been presented here in five broad thematic groups: 'Australian Literature and the Public Sphere,' 'Publishing History,' 'Authorship Writing Culture,' 'Politics of Identity,' and 'Australian Literary Criticism: 1950-1995.'

The Australia Council for the Arts generously funded public readings by Lisa Belleair, James Cowan, Bruce Dawe, Robert Dessaix, Emma Lew, Cassandra Pybus, John Tranter, and Sue Woolfe and many of these writers also took an active part in the academic program. Roger McDonald read courtesy of Random House.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the successful planning and running of the conference: Felicity Akins, Jayson Althofer, Jenny Boyle, Deb Comerford, Cath Darcy, Anne Galligan, Ken Goodwin, Donna Moodie, Chris Ridler, Glen Ross, Vicki-Ann Speechley Golden, Sonia Wilson, Joy Pugh and the USQ Marketing Staff, McGregor Residential College, the management of the Empire Theatre, and the staff of the Mary Ryan Bookshop. Special thanks are due to Professor Maurice French, Dean of Arts and the Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Swannell.

Acknowledgment is due to the session chairs who helped keep the program on time even in adversity: Simon Ryan, Ken Goodwin, David Carter, Marie-Louise Ayers, Gillian Sykes, Michael Deves, Ron Blaber, Brian Kiernan, Delys Bird, Russell McDougall, Lyn McCredden, Pat Buckridge, Anne Galligan, Elizabeth Webby, C.A. Cranston, Susan K. Martin and Neil Mudge.

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Australian Literature and the Public Sphere