

## AUSTRALIAN LITERARY STUDIES

Australian Literary Studies is the only journal exclusively devoted to the critical, historical and scholarly studies of Australian Literature and language, from the beginnings up to the present time. One of the main aims of Australian Literary Studies is to relate the literature at its various stages of growth to the development of Australian society and culture, so that from time to time individual works are considered in the context of their own times. Past issues of Australian Literary Studies have included such studies as the historical basis and background of the classic bushranger novel, Rolf Boldrewood's Robbery Under Arms, of the famous convict novel, Marcus Clarke's For the Term of his Natural Life, and of Boldrewood's novel of goldmining days, The Miner's Right (which is shortly to be reprinted).

Australian Literary Studies also aims to extend biographical knowledge about Australian writers which is useful to a fuller understanding of their works, and recent issues have included such studies of Henry Lawson, Australia's most notable short story writer, and Kenneth Mackenzie, modern novelist and poet.

Critical studies of important contemporary writers, such as Patrick White, have also appeared in Australian Literary Studies, and a series of articles on contemporary poets has recently been commenced with James McAuley's essay on Judith Wright. This series is designed to offer close readings of a representative longer poem or group of shorter poems, usually found in the main anthologies of Australian poetry, and the next contribution will be concerned with the use of history and other background elements in Kenneth Slessor's important but challenging poem on Captain Cook.

Another feature of Australian Literary Studies that is useful to teachers and to student-projects is the Annual Bibliography of Studies in Australian Literature, which is the most comprehensive of its kind and includes a generous listing of reviews.

The review section includes substantial assessments of the main current books that are important to the study of Australian literature, and documents of special interest are reprinted and discussed in the Notes and Documents section.

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