

# Writer-in-Community at the SLQ

**Kim Lander is enthusiastic about a successful innovation**

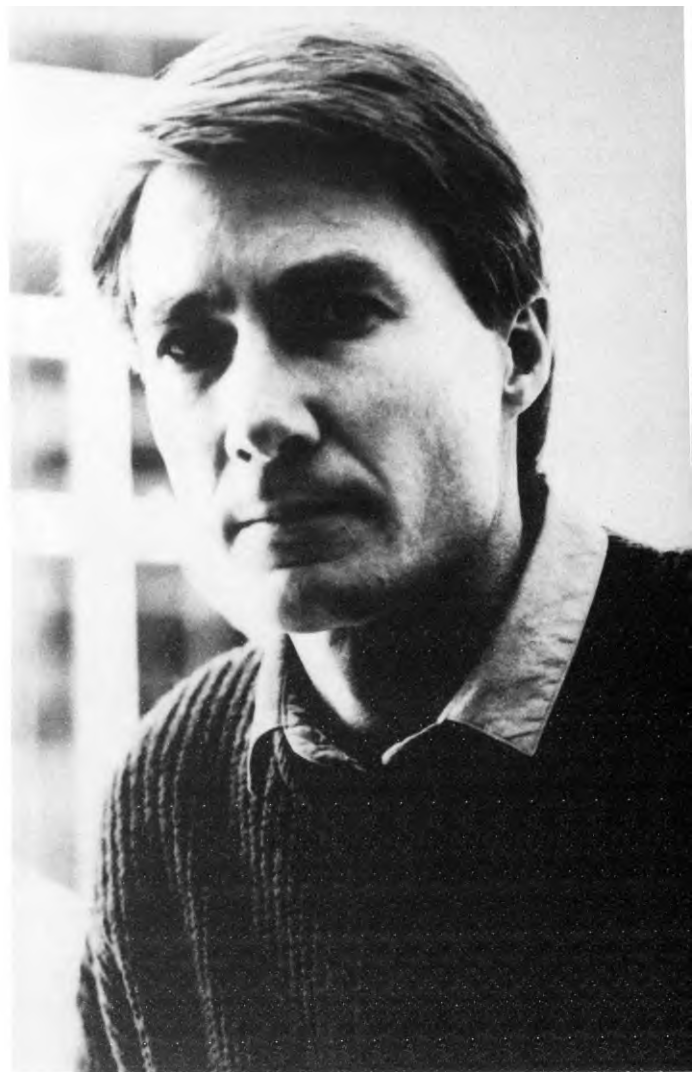
**A**UTHOR GARRY DISHER was the 1992 'writer-in-community' at the State Library of Queensland. His eight-week stay at the State Library of Queensland during August and September was funded by the Literature Board of the Australia Council. The program aimed to introduce people to an author so that they might acquire skills which may help with their own writing.

The success of the program was unquestioned. Hundreds of people attended Garry's seminars held free of charge at the State Library: How to Write a Novel, a Short Story, a Children's Story and a Crime Novel.

Garry also spoke to high schools and at half a dozen prisons in south-east Queensland, including maximum security facilities. Garry's open and honest style was respected by the prisoners, many of whom had been writing poetry or novels.

Garry has published short stories, a children's novel, a novella and two crime novels, and has taught creative writing. He is not only accessible to a wide audience, but also adept at communicating with them. The State Library of Queensland sees the program as a success and hopes to repeat it in 1993. ■

Garry Disher



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