1. Foundation and Staffing

The Centre was inaugurated on 29 August 1997 at a ceremony introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Professor Gavin Brown. Four scholars, Margaret Clunies Ross (English, University of Sydney), Nigel Palmer (Germanic Studies, St. Edmund Hall, University of Oxford), Carol Williams (Music, Monash University), and John O. Ward (History, University of Sydney) presented papers on this occasion and Geraldine Barnes (English, University of Sydney) gave a concluding address.

The Centre for Medieval Studies is a Comprehensive Centre of the University of Sydney in terms of the University’s policy document of June 1995 governing the establishment, management, and review of Centres: one that has teaching and research responsibilities to varying degrees.

The Centre for Medieval Studies is located in the John Woolley Building (A20) and is part of the School of Letters, Art, and Media (SLAM) within the Faculty of Arts. The office of the Director, Associate Professor John Pryor, is Woolley N306. He makes it available for meetings and other activities of the Centre.

As part of this review process in 2007, consideration is being given to new Rules of Procedure for the Centre, beginning with definitions of Membership. Since the Centre was established entirely within the structure of the University and has no formal association with an outside body, it does not require a ‘Constitution’ [see Policy, 1995]. A census of all members is being conducted in
September 2007. Members who are still active and wish to continue to be members will be polled electronically to elect a new Board (Management Committee) whose composition will conform to the University’s policy as suggested below and defined in the Rules of Procedure attached. The new Board will confirm the Centre’s membership at its first meeting. Thereafter, all applications for new memberships will be confirmed by the Board. The new Board will be confirmed by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and will hold office for three years (in accordance with the new Policy) until the AGM in November 2010.

Membership of the Centre is defined in four categories. The following is the membership mid way through the Census of September 2007.

1. Members : members of the academic staff, and employees, Honorary Associates, or Research Fellows, of the University of Sydney. At its discretion, the Board may continue to define as Members persons previously defined as Members but who, for reasons of retirement or relocation, etc., cease to qualify in this category.

Current Members are: Dr D. Anlezark (English), Prof. G. Barnes (English), Dr P. Bright (English), Prof. M. Carter (Med. St.), Assoc. Prof. J. Clifton-Everest (ex-German), Prof. Margaret Clunies Ross (English), Dr R. Curry (Med. St.), Dr C. Cusack (Religious Studies), Dr D. Daintree (St John’s College), Prof. R. Ebied (Semitic Studies), Dr N. Eckstein (History), Dr Melanie Heyworth (Medieval Studies), Dr Iain Gardner (Religious Studies), Dr M. Glozier (Med. St.), Prof. R. Green (ex-Archaeology), Dr A. Hansen (English), Dr J. Hardie (Med. St.), Assoc. Prof. R. Huisman (ex-English), Dr A. Jones (ex-English), Dr D. Juste (Med. St.), Assoc. Prof. V. Karalis (Modern Greek), Dr Louise Marshall (Art History), D. C. Marvillet (ex-French), Mr C. McCarthy (USyd General Staff), Dr D. McLelland (Italian and St Paul’s College), Dr D. Modesto (Italian), Dr F. Muecke (Classics), Dr K. Nelson (Conservatorium), Dr M. Nelson (ex-German), Prof. N. Newbigin (Italian), Dr L. Olson (History), Dr U. Potter (English), Assoc. Prof. John Pryor (Med. St.), Dr M. Rogerson (English), Dr S. Rutland (Jewish Studies), Dr J. Ruys (Med. St.), Dr J. Shaw (English), Assoc. Prof. A. Shboul (Arabic & Islamic St.), Dr J.-A. Smith (History), Dr D. Speed (ex-English), Dr Betsy Taylor (ex-English), Dr Brian Taylor (ex-German), Mr M. Walkley (Med. St.), Dr J. O. Ward (Med. St.), Dr L. Warner (English), and Dr A. Williams (French).

2. Student Members : students of the University of Sydney, either undergraduate or postgraduate. Current total 16.

3. Honorary Members : employees, honorary associates, or students of any other academy or institution of tertiary education. Current total 37.

4. Associate Members : all other persons who may wish to be members of the Centre. Current total 12.

The Centre has a Director, two Associate Directors, and a Board all of whom have up till now been elected annually at the AGM (except for the undergraduate student member, who has been elected early in the academic year in class by the students). This will have to be changed to conform to new Policy. The current Director and Associate Directors are:

Director : Associate Professor John Pryor (History & Medieval Studies; but Medieval Studies only from 2008)
Associate Directors : Dr Juanita Ruys (Medieval Studies), Dr Andrea Williams (French Studies).
The current Board structure will cease to exist upon receipt of Confirmation of the Centre from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, since its composition is not in conformity with the current policy on the composition of Management Committees; i.e.

(a) the Director of the Centre, Deputy Director, or nominee
(b) the University Officer (Centres) or nominee
(c) up to three other members from Faculties and/or Schools associated with the Centre
(d) any other member co-opted as required.

As the current Director, I wish to take advantage of clause (d) above to constitute the Centre's Board as follows. I think that it is important for a Comprehensive Centre to have a somewhat wider membership of its Board than the policy envisages. In particular, I would like to have student representation.

(a) The Director and Associate Directors
(b) The University Officer (Centres) [the Dean of Arts or nominee]
(c) Two other Members
(d) One Honorary Member
(e) Two Student Members, one Undergraduate and one Postgraduate
(f) any other member co-opted as required.

As soon as Confirmation of the Centre is received from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I intend to proceed to the election of a new Board (see Rules of Procedure) - to be confirmed by the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor - which will then consider all current objectives and take proposals to the AGM in November 2007.

Current Staff of the Centre for Medieval Studies are:

**Director**
Associate Professor John Pryor, BA Adelaide, PhD Toronto (History & Medieval Studies)

**Associate Directors**
Dr Juanita Ruys, BA, PhD (Medieval Studies Queen Elizabeth II ARC Research Fellow)
Dr Andrea Williams, BA, PhD (French Studies)

**Honorary Professor**
Professor Michael Carter, BA, MA, DPhil (Oxford), PhD *honoris causa* (Lund)

**University of Sydney Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Dr David Juste, BA, PhD Université libre de Bruxelles, AM Harvard

**Honorary Research Associates**
Elizabeth Bonner, BA, PhD (Associate)
Robert Curry, MMus(SUNY), MA(SUNY), PhD (Monash) (Senior Lecturer)
Matthew Glozier, BA, MPhil, PhD UWS (Associate)
Jane M. Hardie, BMus Melb, PhD Michigan (Senior Lecturer)
Martin Rorke, MA, MSc, PhD Edinburgh (Associate)
John O. Ward, BA Melb, PhD Tor (Reader)
Max Walkley, BA, MA (Senior Lecturer)

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1. See Rules of Procedure
My own (John Pryor’s) appointment will terminate in 2010 and the future staffing of the Centre and its teaching functions will need to be considered over the next couple of years. The Centre will need to argue for at least one position at a Lecturer level, possibly shared with one of the major departments if its teaching functions are to continue.

2. **Rationale for the Establishment of a Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney**

The rationale for the establishment of the Centre for Medieval Studies was set out in a Proposal, dated 26-8-1996, where the main objectives of the proposed Centre were also enunciated. Extracts from that document are reproduced here:

**Major Objectives of the Proposed Centre**

A. **Research**

1. To undertake world-class research in Medieval Studies across the discipline areas represented by staff and postdoctoral fellows, and specialising in the following three areas: inter-civilisational relations, the editing of medieval texts, and medievalism (the history of the discipline of Medieval Studies and the cultural influence of the medieval upon the modern).

2. To develop links with Centres for Medieval Studies in other parts of the world via shared research projects and exchanges of personnel.

3. To provide a supportive research environment for University of Sydney medievalists and for staff from other universities by means of short-term research fellowships. Subject to the availability of funds, the Centre would offer short-term relief from undergraduate teaching to enable staff to concentrate on research for a limited period. Some visiting positions would be offered to medievalists from other universities to enable them to use the resources of Fisher Library and to collaborate with local researchers. Preference would be shown to Australasian researchers.

4. To attract postdoctoral researchers to the Centre through the ARC Fellowship programme and through University of Sydney initiatives and to offer them a supportive and resource-rich research environment and the opportunity to supervise postgraduate students and give a limited number of undergraduate courses.

5. To sponsor national and international conferences and symposia in Medieval Studies. Assuming the Centre is established, the Directorate already has two major international conferences in mind, the International Saga Conference in 2000 and the Conference for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East in 2003. We will look to co-operating with the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS) and the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) at the Australian National University in arranging other conferences and symposia and sharing speakers.

6. To establish a publication series in Medieval Studies, assuming responsibility for current projects in the field in the Faculty, and to produce a regular Newsletter reporting the Centre’s research activities and advertising its various programmes and awards.

7. To hold regular lectures and seminars in Medieval Studies for the benefit of staff and students, and to attract visiting speakers to the seminar as often as possible.
B. Postgraduate Study

1. To provide high-class supervision and training for postgraduate research students in Medieval Studies. The Centre would aim to be the major Australian focus for research training in this field, following the resources of staff, library, and IT that are already in place. There are already upwards of 30 postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts whose research theses are on medieval subjects. They are supervised on a one-to-one basis by staff located in the various Departments and Schools in the Faculty. The creation of a Centre will enable a far better organised and richer research environment for those students and be a means of attracting students from other universities.

2. To assist Centre postgraduates to undertake periods of exchange at universities in other parts of the world for the specialist study of resources unavailable in Sydney (e.g. manuscripts, specialist library collections, foreign language study unavailable in Australia).

3. Subject to the availability of finances, to offer classes in Medieval Latin to all its postgraduate students. At present, such classes can be offered only on an ad hoc basis.

4. To provide opportunities for teaching experience for Medieval Studies postgraduates, chiefly in the undergraduate Medieval Studies core course tutorial programme (see C below).

5. To assign to a staff member responsibility for the administration of the Centre’s work in postgraduate studies.

C. Undergraduate Study

1. To provide a sound basis for the undergraduate study of the Middle Ages through a programme of courses at both Pass and Honours level.

2. To give all medievalists within the Faculty of Arts the opportunity to teach courses in Medieval Studies. At present some staff, particularly within modern language departments, have little opportunity to give courses in their specialty because of staffing pressures within their home departments. The Faculty of Arts already offers to undergraduates an interdisciplinary programme in Medieval Studies, which allows students to combine options and courses from various departmental offerings in a composite programme of study. Associate Professor Pryor is the Co-Ordinator of this programme.

   The Directorate is at present drawing up a core course in Medieval Studies, which will be available to students in the Faculty of Arts at Senior undergraduate level. It will comprise eight 4-unit modules, which will be available according to a 2-year rotating cycle, in which two options will be taught in each semester. The Medieval Studies core course is designed to provide a general training in Medieval Studies for undergraduates. It will be team-taught by staff from several Departments in the Faculty and administered by the Centre, under the direction of Associate Professor Pryor, for whom a 0.5 secondment from the Department of History will be requested. Other staff will request temporary partial secondments, when appropriate, to teach specific modules of the core course.

   Medieval Studies undergraduates will be able to take additional courses from Departmental offerings in the field of Medieval Studies, as now, and the Centre will offer its core modules to other Departments and Schools in the Faculty, subject to the agreement of their respective Heads, on the basis of cross-listing.
D. Community Outreach

The proposed Centre Directors believe that there is a substantial market for the promotion of research and teaching in Medieval Studies to the wider community, and see an opportunity to develop a shopfront on our work to the general public through public lectures, workshops, and presentations of various kinds. We have a responsibility to the community to inform people of the nature of medieval culture, partly to satisfy the public interest in cultural roots and partly in order to offer a forum for the appraisal of some contemporary fantasies of the medieval that are influential in modern religious, nationalistic, and escapist movements in Australia and elsewhere. Medieval study days and courses held by the University’s Centre for Continuing Education are extremely successful and we consider that our researchers and senior students could make a major contribution to this programme while at the same time directing some of the profits towards a fund to promote the Centre’s work. Associate Professor Pryor will take responsibility for the Community Outreach side of the Centre’s work.

3. Assessment of the Centre’s performance against the 1997 objectives

Naturally, it goes without saying that nothing remains static and that the Centre’s foci and achievements have mutated over time but, that being said, it has been remarkably successful in fulfilling most of its original objectives.

A. Research

The stated objective of undertaking and publishing world-class research in Medieval Studies across the disciplines represented at the University of Sydney has most certainly been met. During the period 1997-2007 the publications of members of the Centre have been outstanding. Many of the members’ publications have been in the three areas proposed as major areas of the Centre’s research: inter-civilisational relations, the editing of medieval texts, and medievalism.

1. Books published

It has become a tradition at the Centre to hold celebratory lunches for members who have recently published a book. Over the period surveyed the following Members and Honorary Members have published books (numbers of books in brackets):¹

Dan Anlezark (1), Geraldine Barnes (3), Elizabeth Bonner (2), Michael Carter (2), Margaret Clunies Ross (9), Carole Cusack (1), Rifaat Ebied (4), Matthew Glozier (2), Richard Green (3, 2 being translations of earlier publications), Jane Hardie (3), Antonina Harbus (3), Rosemary Huismans (1), David Juste (1), Frances Muecke (1), Nerida Newbiggin (1), Lynette Olson (1), John Pryor (3, 1 being a translation), Juanita Ruys (1 & 3 in press), David Scott-Macnab (1), John Ward (2), Andrea Williams (1).

The output of articles, book chapters, and published refereed conference papers, by

¹ Note that this is by no means a complete list of Members’ publications. It includes only those books that have been notified to the Centre.
Centre members is also considerable, and these have been documented in Newsletters. A full listing is available on the Centre’s web site under Publications.

The range of books published in the years 1997-2007 speaks for the strength and diversity of the Centre’s research programme and the productivity of its members. In order to keep this report as short as possible, the list includes only the books of Members. Other types of publications and the books of Honorary Members are omitted here.

Barnes, Geraldine, Viking America: the first millennium (Woodbridge: D. S. Brewer, 2001)

----------, and *Margaret Clunies Ross, eds., Preprints of the 11th International Saga Conference, Old Norse myths, literature and society (Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney, 2000).

----------, with Gabrielle Singleton, Travel and Travellers from Bede to Dampier: papers from the Travel and Cartography from Bede to the Enlightenment Workshop at the Centre for Medieval Studies in August 2001 (Newcastle, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2005).


Clunies Ross, Margaret, Prolonged echoes: Old Norse myths in medieval Northern society. 2: The reception of Norse myths in medieval Iceland [The Viking Collection, 10] (Odense: Odense University Press, 1998).


----------, *et al., ed., Norse-Icelandic poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages - a new edition. Editors’ manual* (Sydney, University of Sydney Centre for Medieval Studies, 2000).

----------, The Old Norse poetic translations of Thomas Percy [Making the Middle Ages, 4] (Turnhout: Brepols, 2001).


----------, ed., Old Norse myths, Literature and society [The Viking Collection, 14] (Odense, University Press of Southern Denmark, 2003).


----------, A history of Old Norse poetry and poetics (Cambridge, Brewer, 2005).


———, and Herman Teule, eds, *Studies on the Christian Arabic heritage in honour of Father Prof. Dr Samir Khalil Samir S.I. on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday* [Eastern Christian studies, 5] (Louvain, 2004).


Glozier, Matthew, *Scottish soldiers in France in the reign of the Sun King: nursery for men of honour* (Leiden and Boston, Brill, 2004).


———, *The life of the mind in Old English poetry* (Amsterdam and New York, Rodopi, 2003).


———, ed., *Logistics of warfare in the age of the Crusades: Proceedings of a
Workshop held at the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney, 30 September to 4 October 2002 (Aldershot, Ashgate, 2006).

———, with Elizabeth M. Jeffreys, *The age of the DROMWN; the Byzantine Navy ca 500-1204* (Leiden, Brill, 2006).


2. **Centre for Medieval Studies Publication Series: Making the Middle Ages and Medieval Voyaging**

In pursuit of one of its three research emphases, medievalism and the history of Medieval Studies, the Centre, in collaboration with Brepols Publishers (Turnhout, Belgium), sponsors the monograph series *Making the Middle Ages*, which comprises books on post-medieval constructions of the Middle Ages. The establishment of such a series was foreshadowed in objective 6 of the Centre’s original rationale.

The series, edited by Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross, with the assistance of an international Advisory Board, has been very successful. To date it has published eight volumes (vols. 1-8 of the series). A ninth volume has been promised by the author of this report. Most of the volumes published so far or accepted for publication are by Australian authors, and several are by Centre members. The series is clearly acting as a vehicle for the presentation of research into medievalism for which Australian authors have become well known in the international world of Medieval Studies.

Full details of *Making the Middle Ages* publications are available on the Centre’s web site under *Publications*.

Following discussion between the General Editors and Simon Forde of Brepols in February 2005, it was agreed to wind down *Making the Middle Ages* gradually and to begin a new series entitled *Medieval Voyaging*. Although new proposals in the *Making the Middle Ages* continue to be considered, attention has been turned to getting the new series up and running. It was launched officially at a Round Table Discussion on 11 July 2006 at the International Medieval Congress at Leeds. In addition to Geraldine
Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross, there are three international members of the Editorial Board: Professor Suzanne Conklin Akbari, Department of English and Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, Dr Alfred Hiatt, School of English and Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, and Professor John Tolan, Département d'histoire, Université de Nantes.

The new series will present innovative interdisciplinary research on voyages of body and mind from the Early Middle Ages to 1500. It will focus on physical and metaphorical travel in literary, historical, and geographical texts and images. It will explore intellectual mappings and encounters, as well as actual and imagined voyages of discovery, settlement, and pilgrimage, and the medieval engagement with the other.

3. **Honorary Research Appointments**

One development not envisaged in our original Proposal has been the number of Honorary Research Fellows who have migrated to the Centre and whose research and publications have strengthened the Centre’s output. As well as those who are current Honorary Associates and are listed above, Jennifer Carpenter (History) and David Scott-Macnab (English) have also been Associates in the past. The Centre currently has before it an application from Dr Sarah Randles to be considered as an Honorary Research Associate.

Three of the Centre’s Honorary Associates also contribute to its teaching programme in MDST2601, the Written Record of the Middles Ages, and/or MDST2607, Medieval Literary and Artistic genres: Dr Hardie, Dr Ward, and Mr Walkley.

4. **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Juanita Ruys

The Centre was very pleased to have, as its first ARC Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Juanita Ruys in 2003-5. She worked on medieval advice-texts written by parents for their children. Following the conclusion of her Fellowship, Juanita was offered a Bridging Support Fellowship by the University for 2006. Her project that year was “Personal expression and auctoritas in medieval and Early Modern meditations on old age and death”. During that year Juanita was successful in her application for an ARC Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellowship, which she will hold in the Centre for 2007-2011. Her project is entitled “Learning from Life: the creation of experiential and life-long learning in Europe in medieval and Early Modern periods”.

David Juste

In 2005 the Centre was pleased to be able to support successfully Dr David Juste in his application for a University of Sydney Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2006-8. His research project is entitled “The uses of astrology, 1200-1700 AD”.

The Centre is also pleased that Drs Ruys and Juste have volunteered to do some teaching this year in their fields of expertise. Dr Ruys is teaching an Honours seminar, MDST3601 Medieval Latin literature and culture, and Dr Juste is teaching MDST2610 Medieval Cosmology.
A number of scholars has applied for Fellowships through the Centre over the years, but such is the competition that to date only Drs Ruys and Juste have been successful. We hope that others will follow. The Centre supports such young scholars in their applications as strongly as it can.

5. Research Grants

During the period 1997-2007 members of the Centre have been extremely successful in gaining both external (mostly ARC) and internal research grants, and their publications have been outstanding.

Some Members (not including Honorary Members) who have held, and/or currently hold, such grants include: Dan Anlezark, Geraldine Barnes, Margaret Clunies Ross, Rifaat Ebied, Nick Eckstein, Helen Fulton, Iain Gardner, Richard Green, Jane Hardie, Louise Marshall, Frances Muecke, Kathleen Nelson, Nerida Newbigin. However, all these have been applied for through the Members’ own departments.

An ARC Grant of $258,172 to Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross for “Writing from the edge of the world: medieval Icelandic literature and the quest for social identity” (2005 for 2006-8) was attributed 50% to English and 50% to Medieval Studies.

The only successful applications for research grants actually made through the Centre were by Geraldine Barnes ($6,000) and John Pryor ($30,000) in 2000-1 from Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor David Siddle in recognition the Centre’s status as a Centre of Research Excellence in the University. These were used to fund two Workshops: a Travel and Cartography Workshop in August 2001 ($6,000) and a Workshop on the Logistics of Crusading ($30,000) held in September-October 2002. It should be emphasized that these were competitive.

6. Memberships of Learned Academies, Honorary Doctorates and Visiting Appointments of Centre Members

During the time that the Centre has been in existence, the following members of the Centre have been elected Fellows of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA):

Penny Gay (elected 2005)
Geraldine Barnes (elected 2003)
John O. Ward (elected 1999),

The following Centre members were already Fellows of the Academy at the time of the Centre’s inauguration:

Margaret Clunies Ross (elected 1990), Council 1992-2001, President 1995-8
Conal Condren (elected 1990)
Rifaat Ebied (elected 1982)
Nerida Newbigin (elected 1995), Council 2001-4,

The following members of the Centre have had other honours and visiting appointments bestowed on them during the period 1997-2007:
Elizabeth Bonner, awarded a French Government Scientific Fellowship at the Centre de recherches d'histoire moderne, Université de Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne (2000); made a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the Consul General of France, 8 June 2005; awarded a Columbia University (New York) Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall, Paris, Research Fellowship for the academic year 2007-8.

Michael Carter, Honorary doctorate of philosophy, University of Lund, Sweden, 2003; Corresponding member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; Corresponding member of the Arab Academy, Cairo. Michael was also presented with a Festschrift in his honour in 2006.

Margaret Clunies Ross, Honorary doctorate of philosophy, University of Göteborg, Sweden, 2000; elected Fellow of the Royal Gustav Adolfs Academy, Uppsala, 2001; Visiting Fellow, All Souls College Oxford, April-July 2003; Centenary medal in 2003 “for services to Australian society and the humanities in the study of languages and literature”. Margaret was presented with a festschrift at a Symposium in her honour held at Newnham College Cambridge on 20-21 July 2007. The volume is entitled Learning and understanding in the Old Norse World : essays in honour of Margaret Clunies Ross.

Rifaat Ebied, Centenary medal for “services to Australia, the Humanities and Asian Studies” (2003); Visiting Fellowship, Centre of Theological Enquiry, Princeton University, from January 2005.

Richard Green, T. B. L. Webster Visiting Fellow, Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, February-March 2004, during which he delivered the T. B. L. Webster Lecture on ‘Picturing Performance’, on the occasion of the Institute’s 50th anniversary.

Jane Hardie, Senior Fulbright Fellowship, Harvard University, 1999-2000.

John Pryor, to be nominated by Professors Benjamin Kedar (Hebrew University) and Michel Balard (Sorbonne) for the Presidency of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East when Michel Balard’s Presidency expires in 2009.


7. National and International Research Links

One objective (no. 2) of the Centre was to establish links with other Centres for Medieval Studies elsewhere in the world via shared research projects and exchanges of personnel. During the years 1997-2007 this objective has been met not by the ratification of formal exchanges with other Centres but rather by informal visits and
exchanges and by shared research projects. One of the most important ways by which such links have been maintained is through the Centre’s Visiting Scholar programme (see 8. below) which has allowed the Centre to benefit from the presence of visiting scholars from a number of institutions, both in Australia and overseas.

Several Centre members are engaged in research projects that involve international collaboration. An example, which is based at the Centre but involves over 40 researchers in 9 countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), is the Skaldic Poetry Project (for further details see web site), under the direction of Professor Margaret Clunies Ross and Research Associates Drs Tarrin Wills and Hannah Burrows. The purpose of this project is to re-edit (both in hard copy and electronic format) the corpus of Old Norse medieval poetry, with the exception of the poetry of The Elder Edda collection.

Professor Clunies Ross was appointed to the Board of the University of Auckland’s Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies in 2004. The subsequent visit to Sydney of the Auckland Centre’s Director, Professor Stephanie Hollis, has strengthened links between the two Centres.

Seven Members of the Centre were associated with the application by a group of European medievalists and Early Modernists at the University of Western Australia for an Award under the ARC’s new Research Networks funding Scheme for a Network for Early European Research (NEER). The application was successful to the tune of an award of $1,600,000 over five years 2004-9. Members of the Centre continue to be associated with NEER and to receive funding from it for research activities.

8. Centre for Medieval Studies Visiting Scholars Programme

One of the Centre’s original objectives (no. 3) was to sponsor short-term visiting fellowships for scholars from Australia and overseas wishing to make use of the resources of the Centre and Fisher Library or simply to spend a sabbatical period at the Centre. It has not been possible to fund these visitors from Centre resources as originally envisaged, but some limited financial assistance with travel has been provided to visitors.

The Visiting Scholars programme has been extremely successful both for the Centre and the Visitors and has enriched the Centre’s research culture. Visitors have made themselves available for consultation with staff and students and delivered lectures and seminars. The following is a list of the Centre’s Visitors since its inception:

1997 Dr Henrik Williams, University of Uppsala (Medieval Scandinavian Studies)
1998 Dr (now Professor) Richard Perkins, University College London (Old Norse-Icelandic Studies)
1999 Professor Roberta Frank, then Director, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, now Department of English, Yale University (Old English and Old Norse Studies)
2000 Semester 1 Professor Michael Carter, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Oslo
    Semester 2 Professor Dr. Rudolf Simek, Deutsches Seminar, University of Bonn
(Scandinavian Studies) on exchange with Professor Clunies Ross, and Dr Hilary Carey, University of Newcastle, NSW (Medieval History)

2001 Dr Jenna Mead, School of English & European Languages and Literature, University of Tasmania (Medieval English)

2002 Semester 1 Professor Christopher Given-Wilson, Department of Mediaeval History, University of St. Andrews (Late Medieval English History)
 Semester 2 Dr Judy Quinn, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Studies, University of Cambridge (Old Norse poetry)

2003 Semester 1 Professor Michael Carter, University of Oslo (Medieval Arabic)
 Semester 2 Dr. Louise D’Arcens, Department of English, University of Wollongong (Mediaeval Studies in Australia)

2004 September 2003-August 2004 Professor Adrian Gully, H. H. Sheikh Dr Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi Professor of Arabic Studies, University of Exeter, Leverhulme Fellow (Medieval Arabic)

2006 9 January – 19 February Professor Torfi Tulinius, Professor of French and Medieval Literature, University of Iceland
  9 April – 20 May Professor Anders Andrén, Department of Archaeology and Classics, University of Stockholm and 2005-6 Exchange Visitor between the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Vitterhets Akademi, Stockholm

2007 1 January – 31 December, Dr Piers Mitchell, Honorary Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, and Orthopaedic Specialist Registrar, North West Thames Rotation

2008 31 March – 31 May Professor Edward James, University College Dublin

9. The Centre’s Lecture Series

1. The Thursday Evening series

Each year during semester the Centre holds a Lecture Series at which local and visiting Medievalists present lectures on their current research. This Series is the heart of the Centre’s lecture and seminar programmes. Over the eleven years of operation, some 70-80 lectures on a wide variety of topics have been delivered. These lectures are normally held once a month (sometimes more frequently, depending on visitor movements) between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m., after which the speaker is taken to dinner at a local restaurant. The Centre usually puts on at least one lecture per semester in the daytime (usually 1.00-2.00 p.m.), so that students, who tend not to attend evening lectures very often, can be present. A full listing of the Centre’s lecturers and their topics is on the web site under Events / Lectures. The following is the programme for 2007:

Semester 1

Thursday 29 March
Dr David Juste, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
Deciphering Astrological Notes in an Eleventh-Century Manuscript - The Horoscope of Ademar of Chabannes

Thursday 26 April
Professor Bernard Muir, Department of English, University of Melbourne
Tradition & Innovation in the Illustrating of Terence’s Latin Comedies
24 May
Dr Piers Mitchell, Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, & Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
The world of the Crusader surgeon

7 June
Dr Monica Azzolini, School of History, University of New South Wales
The Politics of Prognostication: The Horoscope of Galeazzo Maria Sforza

Semester 2

26 July
Ms Frances Muecke, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney
Poems on Rome from the circle of Pomponio Leto: history, topography, encomium

3 August
Professor Sam Lieu, Professor of Ancient History & Co-Director of the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University
Gallipoli before Gallipoli: Kallipolis (Gelibolu) between Byzantium and the Catalan Grand Company

20 September
Dr Piers Mitchell, Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, & Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
Health and medicine in the Crusades

25 October
Dr Kathryn M. Rudy, Keeper of illuminated manuscripts, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague
Nuns’ virtual pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Notes

26 April
Tradition & Innovation in the Illustrating of Terence’s Latin Comedies
Professor Muir is preparing a new scholarly digital facsimile edition of the Six Latin Comedies of the Roman Playwright Terence, based on the 12c illustrated manuscript in The Bodleian Library, Oxford (MS Auct. F. 2. 13). The facsimile will be published in DVD format in the Bodleian’s new Digital Texts Series. There are several surviving Carolingian illustrated Comedies executed in a style highly imitative of (lost) late-antique exemplars. In another small set of witnesses, which includes the Bodley manuscript, the artists have “updated” the style of the drawings, incorporating Romanesque features into the architectural elements and the clothing of the characters in the 150 or so illustrations (generally one for each scene of the six plays). The Bodley Terence is of special interest because it is the best example of this Romanesque updating and also because a clear set of leadpoint “underdrawings” is still visible in the manuscript. These are done in the late-antique style, but the 12c artists have modified them to reflect contemporary taste. Professor Muir will discuss the Bodley Terence in the context of the other illustrated witnesses and also demonstrate features of the innovative software developed for the Digital Texts Series.

24 May
The world of the Crusader surgeon
Dr Piers Mitchell is an orthopaedic surgeon and a historian and archaeologist of medicine and is in Sydney for a year. Dr Mitchell is especially interested in the history and archaeology of medicine in the Crusader Levant during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. He has been involved in numerous
archaeological investigations at various castles, towns, and cemeteries, as well as being famous among Crusade historians for analysing remains in cess pits. He has recently published a totally new and original book on Medicine in the Crusades. This lecture will cover such topics as injuries and their treatment.

7 June
*The Politics of Prognostication: The Horoscope of Galeazzo Maria Sforza*
A discussion of the political currency of Renaissance horoscopes as both sensitive news and object of self-fashioning and political propaganda and an examination of the case of the Duke of Milan Galeazzo Maria Sforza (1444-1476) to will illustrate how horoscopes, besides having a private consumption, had also public currency and were quite instrumental in fashioning the figure of the prince and managing his public persona.

30 August
*Gallipoli before Gallipoli - Kallipolis (Gelibolu) between Byzantium and the Catalan Grand Company*
The lecture charts the rise of Callipolis/Kallipolis in Late Antiquity and Byzantium from a little known Graeco-Roman city to the centre of confrontation between Byzantium and the Latin West in the Crusading period and a strategic crossing for the Ottoman invasion of Europe before 1453. Many of the naval and land battles fought on the peninsula from the 13th-15th C reflect strategic and military factors which underlie the famous Dardanelles (ANZAC) Campaign in 1915. This lecture will draw on Catalan and Byzantine sources which have hitherto been little consulted.

20 September
*Health and medicine in the Crusades*
This lecture will cover topics such as the spread of disease with the Crusades, Crusader perceptions of disease, and healing pilgrimage.

2. New Semester Address Series
One of the new initiatives that I wish to make as the new Director is to establish a new once per Semester Address series on Wednesdays at lunch time, followed by late lunch with the lecturer. There will be only one such address per Semester and they are intended to complement the Lecture Series but to be more broad-ranging. They are intended to target wider audiences and students in particular. I shall give the first address on Wednesday 17 October : *A medieval Siege of Troy: the Third Crusade’s Fight to the Death at Acre.*

10. Brief presentations on current research
Associate Professor Pryor was responsible for organising a half-day workshop in 2003, preceding the Centre’s AGM, at which Centre members gave brief presentations on their current research and how it relates to both their past and future work. The workshop worked brilliantly and has been repeated every year since. It has been extremely interesting to hear from a number of researchers in different fields of Medieval Studies about how they see their work in the context of international research in their own field and how they envisage it may proceed in the future.

11. Conferences, symposia, and workshops organised or supported by the Centre for Medieval Studies
One of the Centre’s most visible and successful activities has been the organisation or sponsorship of conferences, symposia, and workshops. Such activities require both sufficient funds and large allocations of time and energy on the part of the organisers. The Centre has aimed to act in both a supportive and an initiatory rôle with regard to
these events. Full details of conferences etc. sponsored wholly (W) or partly (P) by the Centre are given under **Conferences and Symposia** on the web site. A list of titles, and organizers in parentheses, is included here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1997</td>
<td>Inauguration Symposium (John Pryor) (W)</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Workshop on electronic resources in teaching (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June-July 2000</td>
<td>Eighth International Congress for Syriac Studies : Symposium Syriacum VIII (Rifaat Ebied) (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2000</td>
<td>Sixth International Conference on Christian Arabic Studies (Rifaat Ebied) (P)</td>
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<td>July 2000</td>
<td>11th International Saga Conference (Margaret Clunies Ross) (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2001</td>
<td>Travel and Cartography from Bede to the Enlightenment (Geraldine Barnes) (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September-October 2002</td>
<td>The Logistics of Crusading and Related Military Activities (John Pryor) (W)</td>
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<td>September 2002</td>
<td>Fantastic Fictions : Medieval and Modern (Kim Selling) (W)</td>
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<td>September 2003</td>
<td>Symposium in honour of John O. Ward (Dugald McLellan) (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July 2004</td>
<td>Commemoration, Ritual and Performance : A Symposium on Medieval and Early Modern Music (Jane Hardie) (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 November 2004</td>
<td>Symposium on Medieval Didactic Literature (Juanita Ruys) (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2005</td>
<td>In and around the Latin East : Peoples of the Levant in the Age of the Crusades (John Pryor) (W)</td>
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<td>27-29 July 2006</td>
<td>The Classics in the Classroom Colloquium (John O. Ward &amp; Juanita Ruys) (W)</td>
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<td>8-10 July 2007</td>
<td>ARAM Twenty Fourth International Conference on Mandaean Studies (Rifaat Ebied) (P)</td>
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<td>10-15 July 2007</td>
<td>The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium (Andrea Williams) (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28 September 2007</td>
<td>The Australian Early Medieval Association Fourth Annual Conference (Carole Cusack) (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORTHCOMING</td>
<td>Symposium on Fisher Library’s collection of Spanish liturgical music manuscripts (Jane Hardie) (P)</td>
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**12. Reading Groups**

In order to assist students and members of staff who wish to acquire expertise in medieval languages, the Centre has five language reading groups operating under its auspices.

1. Mr Hilbert Chiu (M.Phil. student) convenes an elementary Latin Reading Group on Wednesday evenings.
2. Dr John Ward convenes an Advanced Medieval Latin Reading Group on Friday afternoons.
3. Dr Melanie Heyworth convenes an Old English Reading Group on Thursday afternoons.
4. Ms Diana Jefferies (Ph.D. student in English, Student Member of the Centre) convenes a Middle English Reading Group on Wednesdays at lunchtime.
5. Ms Bridgette Slavin convenes Middle Welsh and Old Irish reading groups on Wednesday afternoons.
B. Postgraduate research and training

The Centre has had four successful Postgraduate Students: Peter Hupfauf (PhD 2003), Kim Selling (PhD 2005), Melanie Heyworth (PhD 2006), and Matthew Sayles (M.Phil 2006). The theses of David Duchesne (PhD) and Deslee Campbell (PhD) are currently under examination.

Yvette Debergue (PhD) and Hilbert Chiu (MPhil) are currently enrolled. Fiona Walmsley-Weir (PhD) is currently suspended because she is having a young family and her husband was relocated by his employer to Brisbane. All three have Australian Postgraduate Awards (APAs) or University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPAs).

I currently have three enquiries about commencing PhDs: D. Hill (Crusades), Michael Hope (Mongol Administration), and Jeremy Ward (Vandal warfare). Whether these will produce formal applications to enrol remains to be seen.

The Centre’s success in attracting postgraduate students has been relatively modest in comparison with our original expectations. In part this is because the numbers of Honours students in Medieval Studies have also been modest, in comparison with students with interests in Medieval Studies who nevertheless take Honours in large departments, principally History and English. Most students with medieval interests who follow single disciplinary paths at Honours level continue on those paths as postgraduates. The best students in Medieval Studies, it goes without saying, are encouraged to go to major universities overseas if their circumstances allow. That being said, it is probably true that the Centre needs to become more proactive in attracting postgraduate students.

C. Undergraduate teaching in Medieval Studies

The Centre has established a small but flourishing undergraduate teaching programme in Medieval Studies. While numbers are not large, the students are very committed and highly talented. Results are invariably very pleasing.

Units taught over the past five years and to be offered in 2008 are:

2003 MDST 2001 *The Written Record of the Middle Ages* (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I
  MDST 2008 *The First Crusade* (John Pryor), Sem. II
2004 MDST 2001 *The Written Record of the Middle Ages* (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I
  MDST 2607 *Medieval literary and artistic genres* (Co-ordinator Craig Ronalds), Sem. II
2005 MDST 2001 *The Written Record of the Middle Ages* (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I
  MDST 2008 *The First Crusade* (John Pryor), Sem. II
2006 MDST 2001 *The Written Record of the Middle Ages* (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I
  MDST 2607 *Medieval literary and artistic genres* (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. II
MDST 2609 Crusade and Jihad (John Pryor), Sem. II 
2007 MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I 
MDST 2008 The First Crusade (John Pryor), Sem. I 
MDST 2610, Medieval Cosmology (David Juste), Sem II 
MDST 3601 Medieval Latin literature and culture (Juanita Ruys), Sem. II 
2008 MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages (Co-ordinator John Pryor), Sem. I 
MDST 2611 Byzantium between East and West (Vrasidas Karalis), Sem I 
MDST 2609 Crusade and Jihad (John Pryor), Sem. II 
MDST 2612 Heroes and Heroines of the Middle Ages (Andrea Williams), Sem. II 

Total enrolments in the four units offered this year are 63, more than we have ever had. We now require an additional MDST unit for the Major in addition to MDST 2601. One of our current postgraduate students and one post-doctoral student regularly liaise with the undergraduate students and provide a supportive environment for them. Students currently taking MDST courses who are known to me to want to proceed to MDST IV Honours in 2008 or 2009 include: Barbara Radzevicius, Amy Brown, Denise Blackett, Jennifer Green, Vanessa Alexander, Tahlia Birnbaum, James Kane, Dominic McNeil, April Bartels-Garnsey, and Leanne McGregor. These are only those I know about. Jennifer Green wants to go on to a PhD. 

Several of the objectives outlined in 1996 have eventuated with regard to undergraduate study in Medieval Studies. A core unit at senior level, MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages, worth 6 credit points, has been taught in First Semester each year by a consortium of staff from various departments, co-ordinated by John Pryor. This unit, compulsory for students taking a Major in Medieval Studies, has usually attracted about 25 students a year. Until 2005, students were offered a second senior unit in Second Semester of each year. The topic of, and those teaching, this second unit varied from year to year. In 2005 we offered a second unit in Semester II and in 2007 and 2008 are offering a second unit in Semester I. 

In addition to the units of study mounted by the Centre for Medieval Studies itself, students choose units from a range of cross-listed offerings with medieval content from various departments at both senior Pass, Advanced, and Honours levels. 

One problem directly relates to the declining numbers of medievalist staff in departments and to the prospect that some of those remaining will retire shortly and may not be replaced by medievalists. In language departments there is only one medievalist, often the only medievalist in this discipline in Australia. Frequently departments have been so stretched with basic language teaching that medievalists have been unable to teach their speciality. The range of offerings to students of Medieval Studies is becoming increasingly restricted. Old and Middle High German have disappeared and in 2008 it looks as though there will be no Senior unit in medieval History. History used to have four medievalists but from 2008 will have only two, one of whom will be on leave. The situation is of serious concern to the Centre and must be of significance Australia-wide. 

As a consequence, from 2009 the Centre will simply have to change its requirements for entry to IV Honours. At present students must do a Major (6x6 = 36 points) of MDST
and cross-listed units plus an additional 2x6 = 12 points of MDST or cross-listed Special Entry Seminars. However, when the Faculty Handbook for 2008 was being produced, it emerged that there are simply no such seminars being offered in any department in 2008 except for English. We will simply have to change the resolutions to require simply 8x6 = 48 points of any Senior-level units. There is no alternative. Faculty is currently conducting a review of Honours and I have informed the sub-Dean in charge of this.

D. Community outreach

The Centre has been only moderately successful in this area. Although it has a number of Associate Members (currently 12), relatively few play an active part in Centre activities.

At the beginning of its operation, the Centre organised study days through the University’s Centre for Continuing Education. However, the first of these was only moderately successful and the then administration of Continuing Education informed the Board that Medieval Studies was not currently attracting a large number of its clientele. We were then advised to cancel another study day we had projected. The lack of success with Continuing Education continues to be puzzling, as various individual presenters of courses with a medieval focus appear to be successful in this arena. Several Members and Student Members of the Centre (e.g. Dr Carole Cusack and Ms Yvette Debergue) regularly teach courses through the Centre for Continuing Education.

Members are also engaged continually in offering public lectures in various venues. Several participate in the public lecture programme of the NSW Art Gallery. John Pryor and Carole Cusack have given lectures at the National Maritime Museum. And there are many others.

Another problem with community outreach is simply the lack of time for Centre staff outside their expected teaching, research, and administrative commitments.

Against this, several of our own Symposia and Colloquia have attracted large numbers of participants from the community and, also, students. I would single out: Travel and Cartography from Bede to the Enlightenment, The Logistics of Crusading and Related Military Activities, Fantastic Fictions: Medieval and Modern, the Symposium in honour of John O. Ward, and The Classics in the Classroom.

4. Administration

When the Centre was established in 1997 it enjoyed the luxury of the equivalent of one day a week of the time of an Administrative Assistant who also worked for the Department of English. However, in 2000 the Faculty of Arts administration was completely re-organised and the Centre no longer has any administrative assistance. Student needs are met in part by staff in the General Office of SLAM in the John Woolley Building, but all other administrative work, including communication with members, organising and publicising lectures and seminars, travel and accommodation for visitors, the writing of the Newsletter, reports, and submissions, upkeep of the Centre’s web site (in the design of which we have help from the SLAM Information Technology
personnel), and many other things, is carried out by the Director and Associate Directors. We have
the benefit of voluntary assistance from Mrs Gabrielle Singleton, for which we are extremely
grateful. However, the fact remains that lack of funded administrative assistance places limitations
on the range and level of activities the Centre is able to undertake and a considerable burden on its
staff.

5. Funding

The Centre’s start-up funding came from a grant of $100,000 in 1997-8 awarded by the then Pro-
Vice-Chancellor, Research, Professor Roger Tanner, to three runners-up for University of Sydney
nomination to the Australian Research Council for Special Research Centre status. Since that time,
the Centre has received an additional grant of $36,000 in 2000-1 from Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor David Siddle in recognition of its status as a Centre of Research Excellence in the
University of Sydney. The $36,000 was used to fund two Workshops: a Travel and Cartography
Workshop in August 2001 ($6,000) and a Workshop on the Logistics of Crusading ($30,000) held
in September-October 2002. Both these Workshops produced publications [see below]. In 2001
the Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Classical Archaeology, was awarded $5,000
under the University’s International Development Fund Good Neighbour programme to fund the
visit of a medieval archaeologist, Edna Stern, from Israel who gave two lectures.

The Centre also draws funds from a variety of other sources:

1. Individual researchers have won external grants, mainly from the Australian Research
Council (ARC), and internal grants under the University’s Sesqui scheme for their own
research projects. These grants are listed under Research Funding on the Centre’s web site.
This money is paid into individual researchers’ accounts, not into Centre funds, but the
externally funded portion contributes indirectly to the Centre’s eligibility for Research
Infrastructure funding (RIBG) from the University.

The Centre receives from the University’s operating grant an amount covering half the salary
of John Pryor, the other portion of his salary being paid through the Department of History.
From 2008, he will be on a half-time contract entirely in Medieval Studies. No other staff
positions of Centre members are funded by the University, except that a small proportion of
the time of general staff in the School of SLAM is given to Medieval Studies student
business.

The Centre currently has two Research Fellows, Drs David Juste (University of Sydney
Postdoctoral Fellowship - $62,000 p.a. + $25,000 lump sum, 2006-8) and Juanita Ruys
(Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellowship - $625,000 over 5 years, 2007-2011), whose
stipends are attributed to the Centre.

Professor Edward James (University College Dublin) has also been funded by the
University’s International Visiting Research Fellowship Scheme to the amount of $16,000 for
a Visiting Research Fellowship in the Centre for nine weeks from 31/03/2008.

2. The Centre has won various sums of research infrastructure money from the University of
Sydney’s RIBG grant, distributed through the School of English, Art History, Film and Media
Studies. This support has gone towards the purchase of computing equipment, research
assistance, and conference support for the benefit of Centre members and research students.
3. The Centre has also received funding for conferences, symposia, colloquia, and the production of CDs from the Faculty of Arts and CHASS.

4. The Centre attempts to ensure that its conferences, colloquia, symposia, etc. make small profits.

5. An anonymous donor has, since 2003, made a generous annual donation of $5,000 to fund the Centre’s activities.

Over the period of its existence, funds from the Centre have been used to support: the holding of conferences, workshops, and symposia by the Centre or Centre members, including postgraduate students; Centre members (such as Honorary Associates) ineligible for University or Faculty funding for conference travel and other research expenses; research by postgraduate students of the Centre ineligible for University or Faculty support (for conference travel etc.). Centre funds are also used to pay travel, entertainment, and accommodation costs for visiting lecturers and Centre Visitors. The Centre has also given money to the organisers of other conferences in Australia (e.g. ANZAMEMS) to support the funding of international speakers.

A statement of the Centre’s financial position at 31 August 2007, prepared by the School Accountant, Mr. Jay Chandra, is attached to this report.

6. Into the future

By any standards, the Centre has achieved a great deal during its eleven-year existence and has made the profile of Medieval Studies much more visible at the University of Sydney, in Australia generally, and also overseas. At present, of the Honorary Members 55 are in Australia and 24 overseas. This is a significant index of external interest in the Centre’s activities. The Centre has provided a stimulating and supportive environment for the conduct of research into all aspects of Medieval Studies and has enabled students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, to specialise in this area of study. Its undergraduate programme and student clientèle are currently stronger than its postgraduate ones.

This report identifies the following issues as requiring the Board’s attention:

1. The Centre’s on-going funding and status as a recognised site of research strength at the University of Sydney. These two are linked as, over the first eleven years of its existence, the major portion of non-recurrent operating grant funds the Centre has received has come from the University’s research budget in one form or another.

   A matter of concern is that the 2003 scoping exercise\(^3\), undertaken by the University in order to identify its areas of research strength based on quality and performance measures did not identify Medieval Studies as an area making a prominent national and international contribution to research, even though this is clearly the case and has been recognised as such.

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Major criteria invoked to determine research excellence were: research income, research higher degree completions, research enrolments, and research publications.
by previous Pro-Vice-Chancellors’ Research. The Centre had no direct input into this scoping exercise and therefore no opportunity to argue its case for excellence in research in Medieval Studies.

A major reason why the Centre would not have been identified in this exercise as an area of research strength may be that external and internal grants received by individuals and publications by individual Centre members, who are staff or research students of the University of Sydney, would have been attributed to their Department ‘of origin’, and thus to different Departments and Schools within the Faculty of Arts, rather than to the Centre itself. The only research grants and publications attributed directly to the Centre would have been those of Associate Professor Pryor, Dr Ruys, Medieval Studies research students, and the Honorary Associates. But, that said, since the only staff the Centre currently has is 0.5 of Professor Pryor, the Centre in fact is a powerhouse of research output when reckoned amongst Faculty’s statistics.

There may be ways of improving the Centre’s visibility to the University’s research management and the new Board will discuss these in order to assure the Centre’s ongoing funding, which in turn enables it to support the research of its staff and postgraduates, as well as its conference, lecture and visitors programme.

The Centre regrets that the exercise of identifying areas of research strength initiated by Professor Siddle has not been continued. Under that exercise Medieval Studies were identified as a major area of research strength in the Faculty of Arts. The Centre points out that the two grants received by the Centre under that exercise both produced significant publications that have been received extremely well in review. In the current RQF exercise being conducted by the University, Medieval Studies is to be a major grouping of the Faculty of Arts.

2. The Centre’s lack of administrative support continues to place a considerable administrative load on the Directors, even though the voluntary support given to the Centre by Gabrielle Singleton has proved extremely valuable. In fact Faculty and the University provide very little support to the Centre and even such assistance as a one-day-a-week administrative assistant would be of enormous assistance to the Centre.

3. The Board should give consideration to mounting an active recruitment programme to increase its number of ARC and other postdoctoral and research fellows. It should also encourage Medievalists within the Faculty to consider applying for research grants through the Centre.

4. One of the first things that the new Board will do will be to empower the two student representatives to form a Student subcommittee of the Board, under the supervision of the Director, to develop relationships between students of the Centre and medievalist students in other departments, to form their own seminar series or undertake other activities, and to advise the Board on how to strengthen both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Centre will support them financially. In particular, the Board will consider whether it is possible for the Centre to offer a postgraduate programme by coursework.

5. The Centre should seek to vary its activities somewhat beyond its monthly lecture series. In addition to the Semester Addresses referred to above, other activities might include student-run seminars and seminar/lecture days for students, and dedicated theme days that might be
advertised to the public. Re-opening relationships with the Centre for Continuing Education should be attempted.

6. The Centre should more pro-actively seek to develop stronger relationships with medievalist, late Antique, and Renaissance scholars at UNSW, Macquarie University, and the Catholic University, in particular with the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre (which extends into the early Middle Ages) at Macquarie University. Consideration should be given to mounting joint activities.

7. The Centre should take a leading rôlé in discussion of the serious loss of medieval expertise in departments within the Faculty, to see whether anything can be done to ameliorate it. This is a matter for national as well as local concern since Sydney University still has by far the strongest contingent of medievalists in the country and the strongest teaching programme. This is, however, slipping on both counts. When other departments choose to allow medievalist positions to lapse, either because they must in order to improve their staff-student ratios or because they choose to move to other fields, this impacts on the Centre and Medieval Studies in the Faculty at large. The Board of the Centre should move to make its voice heard more strongly.

8. The Centre has from its inception embraced both ends of the European Middle Ages, that is Late Antiquity and the Renaissance, and medieval Europe’s geographical neighbours, the Byzantine Empire and the Mediterranean Muslim World. Four of the Centre’s current Honorary Research Associates are in fact Renaissance Scholars and its Honorary Professor is an Arabist. Consideration should be given to reflecting this in a change of name some time in the future, perhaps to something like “The Centre for Medieval, Late Antique, and Renaissance Studies”. This would have to be done by negotiation with others and through the Faculty.

John H. Pryor, 10 September, 2007