



Dear Member,

Some months ago, Bruce arranged one of his regular half-yearly (nocturnal) meetings with George at a local ale-house of some repute. Bruce then espoused, among other matters close to his heart, the cause of "the lonely editor". Beset on one side by Managing Directors, Publishing Directors, Marketing Managers, etc., who want books to appear magically on schedule, each of them best-sellers; beset on another side by Production Managers with their costing and specification limits; beset by reps who don't know the difference between a book and a box of Kleenex; beset not least by authors who promise manuscripts in time and in style, form and content which will negate all these above harassments, but who do not deliver; and beset finally by the human frailty of editors who have not foreseen, either by lack of experience or of clairvoyance, any of the above problems associated with editing a book, Bruce wanted to share his loneliness. George shared. Bruce was still not satisfied.

He spoke with Jim and Gil, and they agreed with him.

He spoke with Barbara, Jackie and Elaine, and they agreed with him. But this was not enough.

The above seven met over dinner to share more widely. The notion of an "Editor's Club" in Sydney was conceived, and it was decided to contact as many other editors as possible to gauge their feelings towards the present situation of editors. Support for the formation of such a group was almost unanimous, and this support was for a gathering which would develop professional skills as well as fulfil social needs.

The seven took it upon themselves to act as an interim committee to organise initial meetings and to set out the aims and objectives of "The Editors". Barbara, very concerned with standards, was a natural choice for the position of Standard bearer — "The Editor".

A brief draft constitution was put together and distributed. It said

1. The name of this organisation shall be THE EDITORS.
2. The purpose of this organisation is to maintain and develop standards of editorial skills and to promote the exchange of ideas among editors.
3. Membership of this organisation is open to:
 - (a) Any employee/employer who is engaged full-time in any aspect of book editing;
 - (b) Any self-employed book editor;
 - (c) Any former editor in either of the above categories.
4. Membership is open to anyone satisfying the conditions set out in Clause 3 above who pays the annual subscription fee of \$10.00, due on 1 February each year.
5. A committee consisting of a President, two Secretaries, two Treasurers and three other members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting in February each year.

At the first meeting at Julie's Swiss Inn, some 75 editors dined, wine and talked at and with each other. Their presence alone augured well for the success of "The Editors".

To begin the developmental meetings of "Editors in Context", a list of topics that would be of interest to editors was compiled, and arrangements made for the first of these meetings to be held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre.

The topic for this was *Editor and Author*. Guest speakers were Jon Cleary as author, Beatrice Davis as editor, and David Brownlow who spoke as both author and editor from an educational publishing viewpoint.

Once again the need for such gatherings was evident from the attendance of 65 editors. The speakers discussed their relationships in the writing and editing of many manuscripts. Quite a lengthy and lively discussion period followed. Perhaps it was the buffet dinner and booze that kept many talking until 11.30 p.m., but talk they did.

Round two of "Editors in Context" discussed *Editor-Publisher relationships*. Jenny Rowe as editor chaired a lively forty minutes during which publishers Bill Mackarell and Bill Douglas gave us their requirements in regard to editorial functions. Those who attended kept talking, eating, (and drinking) until evicted.

Our third gathering discussed the role of an editor in relation to *Contracts and Copyright*. Members of the Australian Society of Authors attended, and professional and social intercourse was again the high point of the evening. The speakers were Barbra Jefferis, Richard Walsh and David Catterns, with Jim Hall as chairperson.

The inaugural AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 16 May and is open to financial members only (more than 70 at last count). Members will receive details of the agenda together with nomination forms for the election of inaugural committee members in the near future.

It is hoped that the aims and objectives of "The Editors" will be continued by the elected committee, and that the professional gatherings of "Editors in Context" will be contributed to, by editors keen to develop professionally and to meet socially with their colleagues as well.

Your interim committee, Bruce Champion, Jackie Kent, George Morrison, Jim Robins, Annette Robinson, Elaine Russell, Barbara Ker Wilson, Gil Teague.

Some Afterthoughts

Membership

At present, membership is open to any person who is engaged full-time in book editorial work, as employer, employee, or as a freelancer.

Membership is also open to any former editor who has been involved in the above work. From a professional and social point of view, their experience will undoubtedly be welcomed.

Editors in Context

Many editors have expressed a desire to develop deeper knowledge of some aspects of editorial work in which they are not currently engaged. From an endless number of topics, the following list has been compiled.

What is an Editor?

The Beginning of a Book.

Standards of Editing.

Editors and the National Library.

Editors and the Literature Board.

Editors and the P.L.R.

The Editor in Research, Indexing

and Bibliographies.

The Editor and Packaging.

The Editor in Education.

Editors, Book Reviews, and Reviewers.

*The Editor's Role in Illustration
and Design.*

Audio-visuals and Editors.

The Editor and Dictionaries.

Cartography and the Editor.

Editors and Economics.

*Editors — Translations, Adaptations,
and Co-editions.*

With the assistance of specialist speakers, it is hoped that future gatherings will continue to give editors a better understanding of their functions.

Proposed Courses

Following our initial meetings, there have been approaches from tertiary institutions to construct and service courses dealing with publishing and its editorial aspects. At a recent meeting, staff of Kuring-gai CAE met with David Ell (ABPA Convenor of the Book Publishing Development Committee) and several members of "The Editors" interim committee.

As such courses would cover areas other than editorial aspects, it was decided initially to survey interested members of the publishing trade, and to ascertain what courses already exist throughout Australia.

To this end, a survey of members of "The Editors" is envisaged. The results of this survey will be included with those from ABPA surveys and colleges interested in developing courses.

Liaison with Other Groups

While we would like to become established in our own right initially, we see no reason why at some time in the future we shouldn't share with other similar or related groups. Two which immediately come to mind are the Galley Club in Sydney and the Society of Editors in Melbourne. The matter of affiliation with overseas groups should also not be forgotten.

Freelance Register

Another very concrete service we as a group can provide is a freelance register similar to that developed by the Society of Editors. The register is designed to include editors, artists, designers and packagers. If this register is ever to become available, we need a close-off date for applications. The date of the AGM, 16 May, would seem to be a convenient time. You all know about deadlines. Please ensure your application is sent to our postal address by the above date. If you don't have an application form yet, please contact Jackie Kent (949 1296) or Elaine Russell (211 5611).

— THE EDITORS —

THE FEBRUARY FUNCTION

AUTHORS AND EDITORS

This is the first of a planned series of "gatherings of editors", at which their many and varied functions will be discussed.

THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY.

6.30 P.M.

KIRRIBILLI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE,
16-18 FITZROY STREET,
KIRRIBILLI

SPEAKERS: Sandra Forbes, Beatrice Davis, Jim Robins,
and A PROMINENT AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR.

Parking is available in Fitzroy and Bligh Streets

BUFFET DINNER AND WINE \$6

RSVP by Tuesday 22nd February
Narelle 435 207
438 1451