



# THE EDITORS

P.O. Box 567,  
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

NEXT MEETING ... NEXT MEETING ... NEXT MEETING ... NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6 August at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli, from 6.30 p.m.

Subject: Research -- Where to Go and What to Ask

Speakers: Vere Dodds and Norma Cowper, Chief Researchers at *Reader's Digest*; Peter Taylor, author and publisher.

RSVP

Narelle Konte - 888-2733 )  
or ) BY MONDAY 4 AUGUST.  
Janet Champion on 977-3430 )

If you don't RSVP, everybody has less to eat.

Followed by

Wednesday, 17 September

Subject: Legal and Medical Publishing

Speakers: Martin Shanahan, Marketing Manager, C.C.H. (Formerly Chief Editor, Industrial Law and Management Division, and Manager, Education Division)  
Dr Laurel Thomas, Editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

## THE FREELANCE REGISTER

Yes, progress is being made! We have contacted the Society of Editors in Melbourne, who will discuss the possibility of doing a joint register at their AGM in July.

The Society of Editors will also be using our questionnaire to gauge their members' feelings on the new, joint register. The deadline for both Sydney and Melbourne completed questionnaires is 30 July.

August should see both groups with their heads together trying to assess the response to the questionnaire and to consider the costs and means of producing their year's vastly improved national register.

You will all receive, with the next newsletter, a new application form for the register. The deadline for completed forms will have to be short, so that the new register can hit the streets sometime in spring.

## REPORT OF LAST MEETING

Held on 25 June at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre.

### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING AND THE *SYTLE* MANUAL

The guest was Michael Greenane, Assistant Director Standards and Design for the Australian Government Publishing Service; the meeting was chaired by Jacqueline Kent.

Michael made it clear that before 1970, the publishing of Commonwealth Government documents and records was a particularly *ad hoc* business; no central agency was responsible for the distribution and printing of Government publications. From time to time, attempts were made to set up a Government publishing service, but nothing much happened until a committee was set up, chaired by the Hon. Dudley Erwin, which published its conclusions in 1964. The Committee made no fewer than sixty-seven recommendations, the main ones being that a central Government publishing office should be set up as the sole publisher of departmental publications, and that it should be called the Australian Government Publishing Service. The Committee also recommended the establishment of official bookshops, a proper catalogue service and a mail-order service. As a result of these recommendations, the AGPS was set up in 1970.

Michael said that he did not wish to dwell at any great length upon the difficulties that have faced the AGPS since 1970, but he described several of them with considerable feeling. The first one, of course, was lack of consistent finance. Then the AGPS didn't know where it belonged; in two years it went from the Treasury Department to the Department of the Vice President of the Executive Council to the Department of the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts (by this stage the AGPS probably identified strongly with disadvantaged minority groups). During the Whitlam years, it found a home in the Department of the Media, and after the change of government in 1975 it was transferred to the Department of Administrative Services, where it still is.

Over the years, various politicians have tampered with the operation of the AGPS. Australia's very own Managing Editor, Malcolm Fraser, has been unable to resist the temptation of playing publisher. Among his suggestions has been one that every Government publication should carry the Australian crest, printed in four colours. When it was mildly pointed out to him that this might significantly increase the national deficit, he changed his mind. His latest idea is that the Australian flag should appear on all Government publications...in four colours.

The AGPS is divided into three main sections -- management support, publishing and printing; it employs three editors and thirteen designers. Since work comes to the AGPS from Government departments that employ their own editors, little editorial work needs to be done.

Michael then went on to discuss the AGPS *Style Manual*, the publication of most direct interest to us, but first he gave us a brief history of style manuals (or styles manual). The first one was probably Hornschuch's *Orthotypographia* of 1608. Hornschuch modestly described himself as 'a corrector of the press', but his recommendations were far from modest. A good 'corrector', he said '...must have extremely good eyesight, which he needs not so much for the smaller letters but for reading precisely every syllable of every word, and indeed every letter.... The corrector, too, should shun the vice of drink, lest he should see either nothing at all, or more than is actually there.' Having sternly admonished editors over the centuries, he then gave a few hints on the presentation of manuscript. The author 'should not send his actual rough copy to the printers, for there is nothing they hate more than this; but send it rewritten as neatly as possible either by himself or by his amanuensis, on firm, non-absorbent paper." *Plus ça change...*

Our present *Style Manual* came about as a result of the 1964 Erwin Committee Report. The Style Manual Committee, whose members included Dudley Erwin and Frank Eyre (then Australian Manager of OUP) was set up to establish general rules and conventions of editorial practice to be used as a guide by authors, editors, printers and others associated with the preparation of Government publications.

The first edition was published in 1966, and it suffered the fate of most books published by a committee and intended for a wide range of users: some thought it was not detailed enough, others that it was too permissive. However, by December 1967 the Treasurer was 'delighted' to agree to a second edition, which appeared with lightning speed in 1972. The third edition (the one with the green cover) appeared in 1978, and a new edition is planned within the next few years.

Michael concluded by saying that to date the *Style Manual* has sold about 29 300 copies.

#### JOBS GOING

Sue Butler is looking for four editors to work on the Macquarie Dictionary of Australian English. For further details, ring her on 88-3022.

## INTERSTATE AND COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP

The current city membership of \$10.00 is to be reduced to \$8.00 for interstate and country members.

## FURTHER REGISTER ENTRIES

JOHN CARRICK - 47 Cascade Street, Paddington, 2021  
Telephone: 31 1988; 31 8490

Previous experience: Reporter and sub-editor, The Australian newspaper and The Sydney Morning Herald; book editor, Angus & Robertson and The Reader's Digest.

Duties: Writing, rewriting, editing, sub-editing, proofreading, production.

Specialities: special specialities: history, politics, arts, natural history; general specialities: all kinds of trade books.

Freelance experience: Angus & Robertson, The Reader's Digest, Cassell Australia, Holt-Saunders, Ashton Scholastic, NSW University Press, William Collins, McGraw-Hill, Mead and Beckett, The Australia Council, the Crafts Council of Australia, the Australian Graduate School of Management, The National Times, the National ank.

PAMELA CLEMENTS - 2/19 Kensington Road, Summer Hill, 2130  
Telephone: 799 6673

Previous experience: editor with Angus & Robertson 1970-74; Holt-Saunders 1974-75; Curriculum Development Centre 1975-76; freelance in Australia 1977-78; in London 1978-80.

Duties: Copy-editing, commissioning, audiovisuals at A&R; copy-editing and audiovisuals at Holts; managing editor with production responsibilities plus writing (graded Journalist A1) at CDC; copy-editing, rewriting, picture research, research and writing, market research, proof-reading, caption-writing and copyfitting while freelancing.

Specialities: educational (secondary and tertiary); also interested in general and children's books. Special interest: Australian history.

Freelance experience: CDC, ANU Press, Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Charter Books, Cassell; in London, Granada, Hutchinson, Methuen, Hodder & Stoughton.

DEBBY CRAMER - 14 Waterloo Street, Rozelle, 2039  
Telephone: 827-2702

Previous experience: assistant editor, Oswald Ziegler Publications, 1974-77; freelance writer/researcher/editor since April 1979.

Freelance experience: Judicator Publications, Hamlyn, Macmillan.

LAURIE DEE - RMB 2116 Greta Road, Kulnura, 2250  
(043) 76 1358

Previous experience: freelance copy editing for Collins and Hamlyn.

Duties: subbing, updating, etc.

Other relevant experience: 11 years as journalist (A grade) on magazines and newspapers, most recently with Australian Consolidated Press (1975-9) in London, Sydney and Queensland.

Specialities: feature-writing, women's magazines.

Freelance experience: Collins, Hamlyn.

BRIAN GREGSON - 17/65 Albert Street, Hornsby, 2077  
Telephone: 476 3694

Previous experience: Butterworths, Magman International, TV Times.

Duties: sub-editing, typing, checking/correcting manuscripts, writing, checking references, etc.

Specialities: sport, politics, social issues, children's material, history, practical guides.

PATRICIA JANE OPDYKE - 279 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra, 2025  
Telephone: 328-6924

Previous experience: editor, Forum Magazine, New Zealand; production assistant, Modern Medicine of New Zealand; New Zealand Family Planning Association, where responsibilities included researching, writing and producing 200 page training manual for family planning volunteers; journalist with Hobart Mercury and The Australian; plus freelance jobs.

Duties: Forum Magazine - sole responsibility for editorial and technical production of monthly journal and follow-through to post-production including editing, layout and design; Modern Medicine of NZ, technical production of four colour magazine plus some copy marking and proofreading; writing and producing manual for Family Planning Association; reporting for newspapers; freelance jobs including editing, layout and design and liasing with printers.

BRENDA PITTARD - 3 Waratah Street, Bexley, 2207  
Telephone: 587 1571

Previous experience: has editing much of Bay Books' Complete Reference Encyclopedia, plus cookery books, art book, etc. Is writing categories on history, literature, primary industry for Bay Books' revised edition of Australia and New Zealand Encyclopedia; has written articles for House and Garden.