



THE EDITORS

P.O. Box 567,
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

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

Our first meeting for the year will be held at our usual venue, the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre at 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 26 February 1986.

Our speaker will be John Collins, Managing Director of Jacaranda Wiley, who will talk about 'The hazards of educational publishing in Australia in 1986'.

The cost for wine and cheese only before the meeting is \$3; if you stay for dinner after the meeting total cost is \$12. Please RSVP to Richard Tardif at Dictionary Cottage on 887.2041 if you will be attending. We do need to know the numbers attending for catering purposes by Monday 24 February.

LAST MEETING:

Emeritus Professor Manning Clark was, unfortunately, unable to attend as promised. Instead, Stephen Foster of the Bicentennial History Project shared with us some of the behind-the-scenes storms in editorial teacups involved in devising a style manual for the project.

The slice histories and introductions have been written by an impressive array of academic experts covering every field of the Australian experience, from the earliest known occupation of the continent by people (is prehistory a patronising term?) to recent times. Such a work can't fail to be fascinating and stimulating while touching every raw nerve of the national psyche, not to mention the challenge of bringing non-discriminatory and non-sexist language principles to bear in detail.

The first challenge was more generalised: to devise a consistent style for all the contributors. This confronted editors with what Stephen called 'the academic impersonal',

the academic caution typified by such expressions as 'It would appear to be the case that under the kind of circumstances suggested one might reasonably suppose...', etc.

Non-sexist language also presented a larger than usual problem. For example, the traditional use of 'she' to refer to ships creates difficulties of distinction in style between contemporary and current accounts. The impersonal 'he' is no longer considered appropriate for creatures, and 'he or she' following references to, say, a caterpillar, becomes a little hard to bear. All creatures, therefore, became 'it' unless gender-defining biological evidence was found to the contrary.

The choice between 'Aborigine' and 'Aboriginal' also raised problems, as one or the other could have political implications for Aboriginal people.

Despite these tortures, a Style Manual was formulated, and a copy will be available at the meeting for your edification and/or amusement. Both Stephen and the Bicentennial Project are well and headed for publication. The critical response should prove most interesting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The annual subscription to The Editors is now \$15 and payable before 1 March 1986. Prompt payment would be appreciated so that we know what monies we can splurge on workshops and other exciting projects. Please pay at the meeting to Treasurer Maureen Colman, or send your cheque made out to The Editors to PO Box 567, Neutral Bay Junction 2089.

GALLEY CLUB:

The next Galley Club meeting will be on Thursday 20 February 1986 at 7 pm. The venue is the 729 Club at 67 Lithgow Street, St Leonards, and the speaker will be Walter McVitty who is now a publisher of children's books in Sydney. Dinner costs \$13. RSVP by Monday 17 February to Pamela Petty at Adis Press on 949.2022.

Editor's Note: If you want to go to this, move quickly.

ABPA:

The Australian Book Publishers Association still has a few places left in their Production Workshop in Ballarat from 1-4 March 1986. Ring their office on 29.5422 for further details. Sandra Gorman is their training officer.

EDITORS - LOOKING FOR A CHANGE?

The Australian Government Publishing Service is looking for experienced book editors, one for the general editorial section and one for the service publications such as the Commonwealth Government Directories and the Commonwealth Record. AGPS publications cover a wide range of subjects, so a broad general knowledge is required, and preferably tertiary qualifications. A knowledge of the AGPS Style Manual would be an advantage, as well as familiarity with publishing procedures, and keyboarding skills. An eye for detail and consistency of style of essential. Work is sometimes performed under pressure to meet deadlines.

Salary is \$26 041 to \$27 694 and normal Public Service conditions apply. Applications should be made as soon as possible. For more information ring Mike Greenane on (062) 95.4823 or Janet Wyatt on (062) 95.4727.

EDITORS' COURSE AT TAFE:

There has been some confusion about the Editors' course at TAFE this year. Let me clarify the situation. There will be a 12-week course at Waverley College on Thursday nights for 3 hours from 6-9 pm. This will be a repeat of the course offered at Seaforth last year. Starting date is probably 27 February. If you wish to join the course please write a short letter giving your background and experience and reasons for wishing to do the course. Address your letter to: David Barr, Senior Head Teacher, School of Business and Administrative Studies, Waverley College, Corner Blake and Napier Streets, Dover Heights 2030. If you have any further questions ring David on 371.9999 (the College no.). You may have to leave a message for him to ring back as he has not been allocated a phone yet.

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