

# Blue Pencil

Newsletter of  
the Society  
of Editors  
(NSW)

Patron: Hazel Hawke

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## To Talk of Other Things

### Thanks due

I would like to thank all the people who came to the evening on 'political correctness' on 7 June, those who told others of it, and all those who helped before the meeting and on the night.

As the museum lift was being serviced, all the food, beverages, and equipment had to be carried up many flights of stairs (often concealed), and 100 people were forced to partake of unexpected, unwelcomed exercise after a full day's work. Let's hope the lift is working on 5 July.

### Outcome

Of the meeting, I hope people were stimulated to think further about the language and how it is changing and is changed, and in their workplaces will feel confident to be part of the decision-making process if there are discussions about implementing changes so that language is inclusive.

### Oh, for a definition!

The panel spoke of non-discriminatory language, spoke around their perceptions of 'pc', and spoke of feminist aspects of language. The point is that 'pc' goes beyond feminist views, and beyond non-discriminatory speech. None defined or described 'pc' adequately. It is clear that 'pc' is many things to many people. Used moderately it serves a purpose — that we are sensitive to the needs of others; in its extreme form it is suggested we put aside such words as 'nomad(ic)', 'myth', and 'walkabout'. It is at this point I ask, for what reason and why?

Journalists often refer to 'pc' in print media; they have yet to define or describe the term too. *Blue Pencil*

will print any definitions you care to send in. Enlighten us, please.

*Robin Appleton*

## The Language of Disability

The panel discussion on 'pc' was certainly lively — I don't think too many guests found it otherwise!

In an attempt to solidify some concepts that have been floating around in a generic ether, please read some practical guidelines for the use of non-discriminatory language — the wiser sister (in my opinion) of 'pc'. You may or may not be familiar with them.

People with disabilities prefer that you focus on their individuality, not their disability, unless of course, it is the topic about which you are writing or speaking. Sometimes the time in life during which the disability occurred has an influence on the language used. Many congenitally or prelingually deaf children may identify with the Deaf community (note the use of the upper case 'D' in this case). However,

people who acquire deafness post-lingually will almost universally identify with the hearing community and prefer the phrase 'person with a hearing impairment'.

The term 'handicapped' is falling into disuse and should be avoided. The terms 'able-bodied', 'physically challenged', 'differently abled', and 'sufferer' are also strongly discouraged. Please avoid euphemisms. The following are some recommendations:

- Never use the article 'the' with an adjective to describe people with disabilities.

The preferred usage, 'people with disabilities', stresses the essential humanity of individuals and avoids objectification. Alternatively, the term 'disabled people' is acceptable, but note that this term still defines people as disabled first, and people second. Also, don't use the term visually impaired, use instead, people with vision impairment.

- If it is appropriate to refer to a person's disability, choose the correct terminology for the specific disability.

Appropriate terminology includes: people who are blind; vision impaired; deaf, hearing impaired;

## NEXT MEETING

### Indexers and publishers: What they need from each other

Publisher Fiona Marcar, editor David Millis, and indexers Glenda Browne and Kingsley Siebel will share the rostrum to tell us how publishers and indexers can and should work together to produce good indexes in good books.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5 July at 6.00 pm at the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th floor, Australian Museum. Enter through William Street. Refreshments provided. We need to know the number of people who will attend, so please RSVP by 3 July by phoning or faxing Robin Appleton on 560 1017. If you book, but finally are unable to attend, please notify as catering is pre-paid.

Members \$10; non-members and those who forget to notify us before the RSVP date, \$12.

intellectually impaired; mobility impaired. Departure from the recommended terminology occurs when referring to a group which has adopted a particular term to describe itself, such as the National Federation of Blind Citizens of Australia and the Australian Association of the Deaf.

- Be careful not to imply that people with disabilities are to be pitied, feared or ignored, or that they are somehow more heroic, courageous, patient, or 'special' than others. Never use the term 'normal' in contrast.

- A person in a wheelchair is a 'wheelchair user' or 'uses a wheelchair'. Avoid terms that define the disability as a limitation, such as 'confined to a wheelchair' or 'wheelchair bound'. A wheelchair liberates, it doesn't confine.

- Never use the terms 'victim' or 'sufferer' to refer to a person who has or has had a disease or disability. This term dehumanises the person and emphasises powerlessness.

*These guidelines are based on those presented in a publication titled Reasonable Accommodations and comments offered by the Deputy Chief Executive of The Royal New South Wales Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. Permission to quote from Reasonable Accommodations has been given by the University of NSW.*

Carol D'Costa

## DEADLINES FOR 1994 BLUE PENCIL ISSUES

12 July, 16 August,  
13 September,  
11 October, and  
8 November

## Letter to the Editor

I write to offer some musings upon the June meeting of the society, at which a panel of people, many speaking from positions of power, offered their reflections upon the issue of 'political correctness'.

To my mind the focus of the issue blurred, as the various speakers demonstrated the inability to distinguish between the separate issues of antidiscrimination, political correctness, and feminism(s). Yes, it can be argued that these issues do overlap, and their nexus must seem ironclad to those who uncritically accept the proposition that language dominates and perpetuates power structures. The intelligentsia has been telling us that language is power for decades now, and so it must be true. Best not argue the point, except perhaps to suggest that perceptions of reality are filtered by the imagination, and each individual imagination operates in a different way. Does this make some people right and others wrong?

The challenge facing western culture is just how do we respect the plurality of discourse without overturning the reference conventions of language. And the question is just how do we do this without violating freedom of speech and personal integrity. Surely there is a middle road between the kind of nominalism which suggests that language is nothing more than language, and the kind of political correctness which insists that language created structures of power that have been abused, and so need to be changed. The risk is one of exchanging older oppressions for new ones (or of perpetuating older oppressions in a fashionable disguise). The risk is also one of sacrificing truth for opinion.

Of course we can only relate to such lofty issues on a personal level, and language is only real for me if I can link it to my own experience of being. For me it seemed a pity that I was not able to existentially ground any of the rhetoric which flowed out of the panel, even though I belong to at least two categories of people who are now described as excluded and oppressed.

I left the meeting with some feelings reinforced. I do not like powerful and oppressive people telling me that I am powerless and oppressed because of my sexuality (and implying that I am somehow unenlightened for not having worked this out for myself), or that I am powerful and oppressive because of my gender and my race, or that because of psychodrama that these tensions must create, so my religion must make me seem even more of a misfit. But those politically correct views have, I'm afraid, become the new-imperialism, and so every interpersonal encounter between me and you (or *us* and *them*) becomes a struggle between the coloniser and the colonised, depending upon nothing more than the turn of phrase.

Perhaps we need a different perspective upon the myths of language and power, and upon the all inclusive nature of powerlessness.

Dr Michael Giffin

## Meetings for 1994

### Tuesday 5, July

Fiona Marcar and David Milliss Indexers and publishers: What they need from each other

### Saturday, 23 July

Sharon Paull, Anita Phillips, and Gregory Scott Heard (Convenors Workshop: Technical & scientific editing) (See details on page 6)

### Tuesday, 2 August

Rhana Pike: Report on the Conference of the Council of Biology Editors, Quebec City, in May

### Tuesday, 6 September

Jane Palfreyman (Pan Macmillan), Fiona Inglis (Curtis Brown), and Monica Joyce (Allen & Unwin): The roles and interactions of the publisher, literary agent, and publicist

### Tuesday, 4 October

Pat Woolley of Fast Books (Wild & Woolley), Glebe

### Tuesday, 1 November

Any ideas? If so, ring 560 1017 and speak up.

### Tuesday, 6 December

Christmas dinner, guest speaker  
In previous years, the society meeting in November has been the last meeting for the year, the Christmas

## BULLETIN BOARD

### PC OR NOT PC?

Well, not in this issue, but in our August *Blue Pencil* we will feature a full, edited transcript of the addresses given at the Political Correctness meeting of the society on 7 June.

### Another Blue Pencil

At the end of the society meeting on 7 June a clutch pencil was found on the floor under one of the chairs. Look for me (John Fleming) at the next meeting and if you can identify the colour, it's yours.

### Register of Editorial Services 1994/95: last chance to register

Members who joined in recent months and who did not receive an entry form for the 1994/95 *Register of Editorial Services* may still submit an entry. The cost (for members) is \$40 and the deadline for submission is 12 July.

Fax or post entries and cheques (made payable to Society of Editors (NSW)) to Robyn Flemming, 1/154 Hastings Parade, Bondi NSW 2026, fax: 300 0225.

Content of entry:

- Name (indicate whether entry is to appear under own name or business name)
- Address
- Telephone/fax numbers
- Whether full- or part-time freelance
- Services offered (8 words)
- Experience: In-house (30 words) and freelance (30 words)
- Recent projects (20 words)
- Academic qualifications
- Special skills, including languages (20 words)
- Special interests (20 words)
- Computer services.

NOTE: Proof copies will be sent this month to members who have already submitted entries.

### FOR SALE

The following software has never been loaded onto a computer and comes with a written guarantee to that effect:

**Norton Desktop for Windows with Antivirus:** \$120 ono (normally retails for around \$200).

**Norton Backup for Windows:** \$180 ono (normally retails for around \$255).

**Just Write** (a full-featured word processing program): \$60 ono (normally retails for \$119).

### SLR Camera

**Canon AV-1** (electronically controlled automatic exposure, breech-lock mount, fixed eye-level pentaprism) in excellent condition. Included: three lenses – 135mm, 28mm, and 50mm, all protected with a Vivitar 52mm skylight filter, plus a polarising filter; a lens hood; flash attachment; lens pouches. Perfect camera for someone contemplating photography classes. \$120 ono.

*Enquiries, please, to Liz Goodman, tel: 973 1970.*

meeting. November is a bit early for Christmas, so this year the committee plans to hold an ordinary general meeting in November and organise a Christmas dinner during December.

The dinner will be at an inexpensive city restaurant, not too formal, where members can relax and enjoy each other's company in festive mode.

If you don't think much of the idea, don't just stay away, let us know now how you feel about it. Ring or fax Terry Johnston (Phone: 850 7466, Fax: 850 7480) and let him know. If there are no complaints, we'll go ahead with the plan.

Watch *Blue Pencil* for the venue of the Christmas dinner. All other meetings are at 6.00 for 6.30 pm in the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th floor, Australian Museum. Enter through William Street. Cost of meetings: Members \$10, Visitors \$12. Bookings for meetings should be made by ringing 552 0039 or 560 1017.

Annual membership of the Society of Editors (NSW) covers the period from 1 February to 31 January. New membership applications cost \$45, renewals of membership \$40. For those joining after 30 June, \$25.

## PC SPEAK

*Alternative dentation:* toothless, or with false choppers.

*Aurally inconvenienced:* deaf.

*Cerebrally challenged:* stupid.

*Diseasism:* discrimination against the ill by the well.

*Environmental hygienist:* a cleaner or janitor.

*Incomplete success:* There's no such word as 'failure' in the PC campaigner's vocabulary.

*Mutant albino genetic-recessive global minority:* White people.

*Overexploited nations:* underdeveloped nations.

*Sex care provider:* prostitute.

*Wimmin, Wimyn, Womyn:* alternative spellings of 'women'.

(Source: Mike Barfield, *The Weekly Telegraph*, London, issue No. 148.)

## Our July speakers

Indexers need publishers and publishers need indexers. The best indexes are produced for the best books when both publisher and indexer recognise what the other needs to do the best work. Frequently, they don't, but at the society meeting on 5 July, Fiona Marcar (for the publishers), Glenda Browne and Kingsley Siebel (for the indexers), and David Millis (for the editors) will make it clear to all.

Fiona Marcar joined Butterworths as a legal editor in the loose-leaf services department after graduating in English and History from the University of New South Wales. She worked for a year as a legal book editor for CCH in Toronto, Canada then, after returning to Sydney, joined Prentice Hall as a production editor. In her current position of Editorial Manager, she manages the operations of the Production Department.

Glenda Browne, whose background is in science and information studies, has worked as a librarian, mainly for a hospital library. In addition to teaching library practice, she indexes the full range of titles for a large academic publisher as well as general books for other publishers.

Kingsley Siebel, a barrister, worked for many years as an editor in the field of legal and commercial publishing, most recently as Editorial Director for Butterworths. For the last ten years he has been a publisher and indexer in these special fields. David Millis was in charge of publications at the University of New South Wales from 1974 to 1986. Now a full-time freelancer, he specialises in supervision and cost control of all aspects of the production of books, brochures, and annual reports: concept development, graphic and typographic design; editing; cartoon graphics; logo concept design; and specifications for typesetting and printing.

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# GALLEY CLUB AWARDS FOR 1994

The *Collection of 1993 Australian Stamps* (published by *Australia Post* and printed by Printset Cambec) was the major winner at this year's Galley Club Awards, held at the State Library of New South Wales on 18 May. The surprise winner received three awards: the Galley club Award for excellence, the Judges' Commendation for Printing, and the Best Casebound Book (in the \$45 to \$75 category). In taking out these prizes, including the coveted Galley Club trophy, *The Collection of 1993 Australian Stamps* overcame strong competition from superb books in the limited edition category.

The Australian Paper Award, an inaugural award for the best book printed in Australia on Australian paper, was won by *Dark and Hurrying Days: Menzies' 1941 Diary* (published by the National Library of Australia and printed by Goanna Print). This book also won the award for Best Monotone Book.

Winners in other categories were: Judges' Commendation for Design: *Stephanie's Seasons* (published by Allen & Unwin, designed by Guy Mirabella, production management by Julie Gibbs and Rhonda Black).

Judges' Commendation for Binding and winner of the Limited Edition Award: *Van Gogh: His Sources, Genius and Influence* (published by Art Exhibitions Australia, bound by Chasdor Binding, production management by George Jaksic, and printed by Frank Daniels).

Casebound Book (\$75 and over): *Geebung: The Story of Australian Polo* (published by Hamilton Publishing, production management by Liisa Naar, printed by McPhersons Printing Group).

Casebound Book (\$30 to \$45): *Dessert: The Grand Finale* (packaged by Weldon Russell for Sedgewood Press, production management by Diane Leddy, printed by South China Press).

Casebound Book (under \$30): *Australia the Gift* (published by Steve Parish Publishing, production management by Steve Parish, printed by Inprint).

Non-retail Book: *Australia's Top 500 Companies* (published by Riddell Information Services, production management by Michael Bleakley and Glen Carter, printed by Print Liaison).

Limp (over \$20): *Arthur Boyd Retrospective* (published by the Art Gallery of NSW, production management by Lou Klepac, printed by Toppan).

Limp (under \$20): *Crococoos and Kangadiles* (published by Allan Cornwell, printed by The Craftsman Press).

The response to the awards this year was exceptional; the judges evaluated a record field of 180 nominated titles from 45 printers and over 70 publishers throughout Australia. Of the 14 awards, 11 were won by Australian printers.

## Paper recycling in jeopardy

Since 1989 Australians have had a choice of two Australian made brands of 100% recycled, unbleached printing and writing papers. Office waste-paper and pre-consumer waste-paper collections were established in major capital cities, and consumers responded to the new products with rapidly increasing demand.

Now, as a result of a recent take-over within the paper industry, it appears that both of the 100% recycled, unbleached brands are being quietly killed off, and only one type of bleached product, apparently not utilising post-consumer office waste, will be offered.

From initially small production runs, production of Re-Right from APM and Recycle 100 from APPM now constitutes nearly 8% of annual production of printing and writing papers. All this is now in jeopardy.

Late last year the Amcor Group (owners of APM) announced a \$415 million take-over of APPM. The deal, approved by the Trade Practices Tribunal, effectively created a monopoly for local production of print-

ing and writing papers.

The new production and distribution subsidiary by Amcor, Australian Paper, will supply between 80-90% of the business and office paper markets. This is very significant dominance. Amcor also owns or controls almost all major paper merchants/distributors and major stationery, envelope, security printing, greeting cards, and carton/packaging manufacturing.

In an attempt to totally restructure virgin wood fibre paper making in Australia and shut out imports as much as possible, Amcor has begun a massive five-year program of rationalisation to provide export to Asia.

In recent announcements Amcor has indicated jobs will go at the only two mills making recycled printing and writing papers. At Fairfield Mill in Victoria, production of Australia's first 100% writing paper ended at the end of March.

At the only other recycled paper mill, the Shoalhaven Mill on the south coast of NSW, 130 jobs are scheduled to go, and product rationalisation will see recycled grades moved from the newer number one machine to the smaller, older machine. The world class 200,000 tonnes per annum recycling plant proposed by APPM last year will now go ahead.

Con Goik

Reprinted from Friends of the Earth (Sydney) Newsletter, April 1994.

## Coming to a screen near you...

Jack Nicholson howls away a treat in *Wolf* as a New York book editor who becomes a werewolf, suddenly finding hair growing in unwanted places and disturbing quantity (*The Advertiser*, 9 June 1994 — spotted by Beverley Barnes). We're sure that many editors will identify with Jack's problem.