



THE EDITORS

PO. Box 567,
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NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING

This will take place as usual at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre at 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 10 July 1985.

Speaker: Professor Dame Leonie Kramer will be talking about the recently published Oxford Anthology of Australian Literature. In particular she will discuss the gap in perception between the original intentions of the editor and the critic's understanding of them.

Cost: \$3 for Wine and Cheese only, \$12 if you stay for Dinner after the meeting

RSVP: Jenny, Weldon's, 929.5677 by 8 July if attending

Future Meetings: Wednesday 7 August - Professor Manning Clark
Wednesday 25 September

LAST MEETING:

Brian Johns, Publishing Director of Penguin Books Australia, had some thought-provoking suggestions to make on increasing the percentage of Australian books on the Australian market. 'Australian for Australian' books have been a major growth area in recent years. From being artificially restrained through organisational circumstances, Australian originated books now make up 50 per cent of books sold in Australia.

There are still organisation problems - for example, overseas books still dominate review pages of major newspapers - but there has certainly been a shift towards indigenous publishing despite a past history of publishing houses functioning as distributors for British and US publishing networks.

Brian believes that the Australian component could be stronger, if local publishers were more enthusiastic and resilient. This is particularly important now that more competition can be expected with US links with the export-oriented British industry grow.

It is a peculiarity of book-publishing in Australia that it has maintained a very separate identity to other media, although

links with television and newspapers have proven potential for adding commercial viability to books which, as separate entities, can only expect a small print run and reading public. Newspapers and television have both shown more confidence and have benefited commercially from a strong domestic coverage.

If Australian publishing, instead of perceiving itself as relatively small and embattled, saw itself as part of the general media, there could be a far greater exploitation of mutual resources. If television rights and syndication were considered part of the whole concept of a book then origination costs could be shared to the mutual benefit of publisher, writer and the rest of the media.

Brian emphasised the potential for tapping into other branches of the media, and tapping in earlier. Like publishing, all areas of the media are responsive to stimulating ideas, social change and making a quid. Australian publishers should be looking at taking a much broader economic view through a more active initiative towards the rest of the media.

AJA: Summary of Freelance article.

The April/May issue of Freelance reports a strong call for freelancers to 'go national', made at the first national consultation of AJA freelance members held recently. Ten resolutions were passed aimed at consolidating freelance issues on a nationwide basis, in order to better the freelancers lot. Among these there was a call for the casual rate 'to be pegged to the A grade as a minimum, for freelancers to be able to communicate copy in any form and for the NSW newsletter to be expanded into a national bulletin'.

The Federal President, John Lawrence, emphasised in his introduction that 'Because freelancing provided one of the few 'parachutes' for journalists at a time when control of media groups was being concentrated in fewer hands, a national consultation was particularly important'.

Peter Banki who is a lawyer from the Australian Copyright Council, as well as being a director of the Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL), told delegates that the AJA could notify him of members who felt their work was being used but unpaid for. Thus freelancers were urged, through the AJA, to ensure they were paid for work which is syndicated or photostatted.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE NATIONAL FREELANCE CONSULTATION

1. The State freelance sections urgently request that the Federal Executive of the Australian Journalists' Association fund a national freelance advisory committee to be elected by those freelance sections.
2. The State freelance sections reject the current Federal Council policy on the use of micro-computers by freelancers and affirms the freelancer's right to communicate copy in any form.
3. That the AJA award rates for casuals be reviewed at the earliest possible time, bearing in mind that the B grade rate is inappropriate because it no longer covers the majority of members; and that therefore the casual rate should in future be based, as a minimum, upon the A grade rate.
4. The freelance sections note the increase in fees for freelance members and recommends that the Federal Executive provide funds for State Branches to appoint freelance organisers to be selected by the committee of those freelance sections.
5. The freelance sections request that the Federal Executive institute a national system of contracts with the advice and approval of the freelance sections. The freelance sections also request that the Federal Executive establish a freelance rate structure, in consultation with the freelance sections.
6. The freelance sections ask the Federal Executive to arrange and fund the expansion of the New South Wales freelance newsletter into a national newsletter.
7. The freelance sections request the Federal Executive to fund the production of a national freelance register.
8. The freelance sections urge the Federal Executive to expedite the production of the national media identification card.
9. The freelance sections propose that the Federal Executive adopt a policy that all regular contributors to the media should be AJA members and change the rules accordingly to accommodate this.
10. That the freelance sections appoint urgently one representative each to act as an interim national advisory committee.

FULL BENCH JUDGMENT:

The May issue of The Journalist reports that a full bench of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission refused to ratify an agreement to increase award salaries for book editors and senior book editors. The bench found that this agreement was contrary to wage indexation principles. The bench also rejected an agreement to increase the loading for part-time book editors. This was to have been increased from 15 to 20 per cent. The bench did agree to reduce standard hours from 40 to 38 and to increase the notice period for trainee book editors from one week to two weeks.

The Federal Industrial Committee resolved to advise the relevant publishers that the AJA expects them to pay the new rates negotiated for book editors and senior book editors as industry over-award payments.

TAFE:

There has been a tremendous response to the TAFE pilot course in the second half of this year. Because it is a pilot course they have decided that it is better to stick to their original idea of a group of about 20 rather than attempt at this stage to cope with the demand which everyone knew was there by putting on extra courses, so some people who have applied to go in the pilot course will inevitably be disappointed. TAFE would like these people to be patient and wait for the course which begins next year. We are also proposing that the Editors meeting in September should invite people in the TAFE course to discuss what sort of certification is appropriate for the course next year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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