



# THE EDITORS

P.O. Box 567,  
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

MARCH 1982

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING . . . . ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING . . .

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 31 March, at 7 p.m. at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli.

Elections will be held for the following positions:

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Catering Treasurer  
Newsletter editors (2)

Nominations on the forms enclosed, should reach PO Box 567, Neutral Bay Junction 2089 or any member of the committee by Wednesday, 17 March.

AGENDA:

1. President's Report
2. Treasurers' Reports
3. Subcommittee's Report
4. Election of officers
5. Other Business:

It will be proposed that the Editors hold study groups or workshops to enable editors to discuss problems encountered in their profession. Do you really understand costing?. casting off?. sizing art work? Would you like help?

## LAST MEETING

At our last meeting our speaker was Paul Brunton who is the Manuscript Cataloguer at Mitchell Library. He set out to tell us exactly what is in the Mitchell, what its basic function is, and how we as editors could benefit from what they had actually collected over the years and had catalogued.

He gave us the historical background of how Mitchell originally was a collection (by David Scott Mitchell) of manuscripts, books, etc that had collected over a period of thirty years. The collection was wealthy in Elizabethan literature as well as medieval manuscripts. Things such as the first edition of Tennyson were included in this. He also bought entire collections of works and offered these at one stage to the N.S.W. Government as an Australiana collection. It was eventually through an independent committee of enquiry that these materials were finally accepted on these conditions:

1. That they form the basis of a new state library.
2. That they were not given to the government as such but were incorporated as an independent trustee's body where politicians had no claim on what was offered.

Mitchell died in 1907 and the building known as the Mitchell Wing was opened in 1910 forming the basis of the State Library. The rest of that building was opened in the 1940's. Mitchell left an endowment of £70,000 to go towards the development and upkeep of this particular collection. The policy which was developed to go with this Mitchell Wing was this:

That materials to be added were:

1. To be Australian.
2. To do with the South-West Pacific Region.
3. Would have something to do with the Antarctic.

At the time of this formation it was the only research library on Australiana. The original material and maps that were in the collection were mainly to do with New South Wales in the beginning. But the nucleus of the collection now is a very solid collection of Australiana material. It is one of only four collections on the Pacific Region.

Paul made the point that Mitchell's endowment is now mainly used to buy manuscript materials. There are government funds issued for the purchase of printed works and maps. At present there are some 35,000 printed works and some 15,000 feet of other forms of manuscript in the collection. Original printed materials such as menus, brochures, original Gould, and Banks Florilegia, including engravings, are in the collection. Because it is an Australiana collection there are also copies of The Women's Weekly and New Idea.

The Mitchell also collects current material, for example, things like the Fox Enquiry on Uranium. In fact it is the only library to have such a document. It also collects material in any language that is related to Australia as a geographical area. In its field it is one of the best collections of this type of language material that is available in the Pacific Region. As if this isn't enough, there are also people's personal libraries included in the collection. For example, works of Miles Franklin, Mary Gilmore, and also numerous copies of small press poetry have been added.

The library also features special collections such as woodcuts, ships, sport materials, and Judaic materials. It also is the proud possessor of the H.L. White stamp collection, which is one of the greatest stamp collections in the world and is worth somewhere in the vicinity of \$2,000,000.

Paul went on to describe what is termed in Mitchell language, a manuscript. Broadly speaking, it was anything that is unpublished in this particular geographical area. The exception of course being N.S.W. Government records and procedures as would be covered by Hansard. Personal papers; social history documents such as, war diaries, personal diaries; records of businesses; charities; churches; municipal councils; and small businesses fall into these categories. The Mitchell also buys in manuscript collections - for example, the Angus & Robertson records. But much of the material that comes in is either donated or placed there on loan. Many of the manuscripts contain great treasures of our actual history and the credit must go to Mitchell for things such as, journals of Flinders, Banks, Cook and Macarthur.

In an effort to make the collection as complete as possible Paul described one of the hassles over the purchase of one of Cook's journals in 1923 when it came up for sale, in which Prime Minister Bruce was attempting to pick it up for the National Collection and at the same time the British Government didn't want to give it away.

Mitchell as the third party were the ones who went in there and effected a sale. Other items in the collection are Bradley's journal from the First Fleet and many watercolour drawings of early Sydney; Flinder's papers, the three volume journal of his circumnavigation of Australia. Included in there in the National treasures are the Kingsford Smith and Ulm notes from their historic journey. Also there are the papers of Florence Broadhurst - many wallpaper designs from the mid-last century.

There are many assorted oils and watercolours and pencil sketches, architectural drawings, and paintings, and also gum leaf illustrations from the early goldrush days. There is included in the collection Melba's drinking cup, Miles Franklin's Waratah cup, the pencils (not the pencil sketches) of Henry Lawson, and even an elaborate bird call instrument that had been designed here in Australia. There are also a great many maps of the Tasman Region in the 1640's, and included with this from all parts of Australia, many parish and county maps.

With regard to services that the Mitchell can provide, Paul went on to explain that they do have a copying service that is available. They are currently involved in a micro-filming program, which is a joint venture with the National Library, and it is usually of mainly unavailable materials as well as the most commonly used materials. He mentioned that Mitchell is a research library rather than a reference library and that all material is available for use by the public - but only on the premises. To provide all of these services there is a staff of 50 who, as he stated, are only too willing to help those who wish to go and research into Australiana.