

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of the Society of Editors (NSW)

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March 1990

Next meeting 4 April 1990

The speaker at the next meeting of the Society of Editors, on Wednesday 4 April, will be Nikki Christer, Fiction Editor at Angus & Robertson. Nikki is responsible for the well-known Imprint list and Angus & Robertson's new crime list, Blacklist.

Nikki has had extensive experience editing both literary and some mass market fiction and boasts such publications as Peter Goldsworthy's *Maestro*, Rod Usher's *Man of Marbles* and John Kingsmill's *Innocent*.

We hope you will join us to hear Nikki speak about what makes good fiction and how to edit it. The meeting will be held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli, on 4 April 1990 at 7.30 pm. Wine, soft drinks and eats will be served at no cost to members; non-members will be charged \$5.

RSVP by telephoning Michael Wyatt on 699 9491 during business hours, or 332 1414 after hours.

President's report 1989

Change, they say, is a slow process, and indeed it could not be slower than the attempts made by the committee to change our constitution. For those of you who have failed to notice the proxy form that quietly slipped out of your newsletter on more than one occasion last year, and for those who, dare I say it, have thrust their newsletter into the bin without turning the first page, many of the 195 members are not eligible to become members according to the current constitution. This is because they are not *book* editors.

In the interests of all members it was decided to change the constitution. Easier said than done! To do this we needed a quorum of at least one third of the members, or about 70 "yes" votes. Needless to say we came very close, and indeed from our last efforts it now seems possible that we may have a quorum at the next meeting, but only if those truant proxies come in. It is important to note that to date approximately 99% of votes have been "yes", or for the amendment.

Our newsletter, under the editorship of Jeane Balcombe, has gone from strength to strength. Not only has Jeane made it much more appealing but she has endeavoured to keep us abreast of all the latest seminars, conferences and other "goings on about town". Often a thankless task, the job of preparing the newsletter is one of the most time-consuming tasks for a committee member and on behalf of all the committee and our members I extend a warm thank you.

Another tireless committee member has been Anne Sahlin, who has retired from the

committee this year. Anne has not only acted as treasurer, but has also been our de facto membership secretary. Needless to say our accounts are in ship shape order and we have a tidy \$4,000 in the bank.

The *Freelance Register* this year was put out with speed and accuracy by Ken McGuire without so much as a whimper for help. This enormous task consumed a great deal of Ken's valuable time and it has been decided by the committee that in future the register will be compiled by a freelance editor who will be paid at the going rate. The cost of this will largely be underwritten by the

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Committee 1990**

Michael Wyatt (President). Ph 699 9491 (Keyword Editorial Services)

Kim Anderson (Library and Immediate Past President). Ph 888 4111 (Angus & Robertson)

Jeane Balcombe (Newsletter). Ph 212 4600 (Community Child Care) or 713 9696

Gary Cousins (Minutes Secretary). Ph 955 1525

Lesley Dow. Ph 698 7888 (Sydney University Press)

Alison Mahoney. Ph 267 8816 (Hobsons Press)

Kathy Metcalf. Ph 888 4111 (Angus & Robertson)

Anyone wishing to know more about the Society may write to PO Box 254, Broadway 2007 or telephone any committee member.

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changes to the cost of being in the Freelance Register. In 1988-89 it was \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. In 1989-90 it was \$30 for members and \$60 for non-members. No doubt this year the committee will continue to charge a higher fee for non-members, making the register self supporting.

On behalf of all the members, thank you, Anne and Ken, for your hard work and valuable help.

Those of you who attend Society meetings this year will notice other changes. Members will no longer be charged a fee to listen to speakers; this cost will be included in the annual membership fee. You will also have noticed that we no longer have the use of the kitchen at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre. This is because the hiring fee increased. Fortunately, our caterer Jill Wilson has managed to supply us with imaginative and tasty savouries at every meeting, proving that it is possible to keep food simple and scrumptious. Unfortunately for us, Jill is not able to serve on the committee this year. Being such a hard act to follow, it has been decided that the job of catering will be shared among committee members.

Finally, a farewell to Christine Mackinnon, who is unable to continue to write up the minutes of each meeting, and a warm welcome to the new committee. I have very much enjoyed my period as president, but I am sad to say

that other commitments make it impossible for me to stay on.

Farewell.

Kim Anderson

From the incoming President

Welcome to a new year for the Editors.

I would like to record my warm thanks to the outgoing president, Kim Anderson, on behalf of all the members, for her dedication and enthusiasm as president during the past two years. She has continually and cheerfully taken on extra tasks and done a wonderful job of finding interesting and varied speakers. I also thank the other outgoing committee members for their efforts.

There are three areas that will engage my special attention during 1990.

Firstly, I would like to strengthen and formalise our links with organisations engaged in the same business as ours, that of kneading the written word into effective communication. Such organisations include

- editors' societies in other states
- professional societies established to further specialist techniques such as business communication or scientific and technical communication

- societies representing people working in other areas of publishing
- teaching institutions offering courses in writing, communications, and publishing
- standards setting bodies

Secondly, I intend to examine the role of the president and the committee, to ensure that they function in a way most beneficial to the Society membership and rewarding to the committee members.

Finally, speakers and activities will be chosen to reflect the mix of background and interests of both the existing membership and the potential membership:

- freelance editors and full-time employees
- trade and non-trade publishing

- editing work and editing-related work

I hope to attract speakers to discuss with us

- other areas of the publishing industry, such as writing, illustration, design, sales, and marketing
- editing for non-trade publishing, such as government, corporations, learned societies, and PR
- editing in non-publishing fields, such as procedure manuals, technical manuals, and house journals

With a program such as the one your committee hopes to create for you, I look forward to an entertaining and fruitful year.

Michael Wyatt

Society library

The Society's library will in future be looked after by Kim Anderson, who lives in Mosman. If you want to contact her, telephone 969 6853 between 6 pm and 8.30 pm or leave a message on her answering machine during the day.

Future meetings

Please note that the May meeting of the Society of Editors (NSW) will be held on Wednesday 2 May and the June meeting on Wednesday 6 June.

Position vacant

We need someone to take responsibility for publishing the Freelance Register. In the past this has been a voluntary task, but because of the huge amount of work involved, we have decided to pay someone to do it. If you wish to quote for the job, please telephone Michael Wyatt on 699 9491 during the day or 332 1414 after hours.

SOCIETY OF EDITORS (NSW)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 1990

1989		1990	1990
\$		\$	\$
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
3240	Membership Subscriptions		3065
1910	Freelance Register		2160
392	Catering (net) and Miscellaneous		323
283	Interest - Bank Accounts		484

5825	TOTAL RECEIPTS		6032
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
2184	Freelance Register Expenses	2346	
61	Catering for Meetings (net)	200	
-	Insurance	150	
612	Newsletter Printing	2318	
284	Postage	876	
32	Stationery	1032	
736	Rent	500	
124	Subscriptions & Library	305	
120	Auditor's Honorarium	120	
299	Sundry Expenses	141	
17	Bank Fees	29	
4469	TOTAL PAYMENTS	8017	

1356	DEFICIT OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		\$(-1985)

Reconciliation to Cheque Bank Balance

Add Opening Bank Balance	\$ 1769
Add Transfer from Investmt a/c	1500
Less Interest in Invstmt a/c	415
Add Current deficit	[1985]
Cheque Account Closing Balance	\$ 869

Note to Accounts

Income and expenses are recorded as received and paid. Catering for food and beverages is no longer accounted for in the Society's books, with the exception of the Society's contribution to the Christmas Party.

SOCIETY OF EDITORS (NSW)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 JANUARY 1990

1988		1990	1990
\$		\$	\$
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
	Commonwealth Savings Bank		
1769	Current Account	869	
4272	Investment A/c (5002527)	3187	
-	Cash on Hand	-	
6041	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4056
	<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
2000	Computer	2000	
2000	TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2000
8041	TOTAL ASSETS		6056
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
-	Unpresented cheques		
-	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		-
8041	NET ASSETS		\$ 6056

Reconciliation

Assets as at 31 January 1989	8041
Net surplus (deficit) on current account	[1985]
Assets as at 31 January 1988	\$ 6056

Note to Accounts

The computer was revalued to more accurately reflect its market value should it be sold or traded-in. The value is in accordance with the Society's estimate.