

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of
the Society
of Editors
(NSW)

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TO TALK OF ...

- Welcome back to Beverley Barnes who has finished her six-months fellowship as Editor-in-Residence at the University of South Australia. We anticipate Beverley's talk on 1 November will be different; each fellowship and university raises new challenges and responses.
- We hope this issue will find Gary Hayes feeling much better after major surgery, and we look forward to seeing him at society meetings again. All the best, Gary. Been able to read any published books lately?
- Dr Jean Buckley-Moran, one-time editor at Jacaranda Press; academic; writer, and reviewer, died on 9 October 1994. Vale Jean.
- We are able to hold workshops on Successful Freelancing and on Grammar. Who would be interested in attending and when would suit you best?
- The conference of the Australian Society of Technical Communicators will be held at the University of Technology Sydney on 4, 5, and 6 November.
- Please contribute letters to the Editor on any matter of interest, and in particular, on your views and experiences on Ethics in Editing. This is a global issue being addressed by many editors' groups at this moment. Your contributions are valued. Remember, there will be a January issue of *Blue Pencil* to keep us all in touch.

- Radio station 2 SER will hold interviews on political correctness soon. The organisers have contacted the speakers who addressed the society meeting in June.

Robin Appleton

Letters to the Editor

Meetings, meetings, meetings

Well said, Jo Rudd (BP, October 1994). I also have a problem with meetings in the city. Mostly, I don't go either. I find the city meetings troublesome, inconvenient, inaccessible—and expensive.

I worked for several years in the city and got to know the nooks and crannies where parking spaces hide. Useful information, but I'm not always lucky, and then I have to mortgage the farm and walk a mile to a parking station. Yes, I'm addicted to my car. As for voluntarily going into the city in the evening—when I get home from the day job, and the weather is hot or cold, and I'm tired, and I'm wondering whether I can muster the energy to go out again, the prospect of the driving-parking-walking drama is enough to keep me at home.

Because of all this, and because I also have a conscience about meeting organisers and their catering problems, I won't commit to come to meetings—and I'm sad about that. Like Jo, I'd enjoy getting to know other editors—especially I'd enjoy meeting Jo, a kindred spirit. As an editing new chum, I would particularly benefit from hearing the speakers, and I would be happy to contribute to the life of the society. But...

The Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre sounds wonderful! I suppose there's a good reason why it isn't used any more. If that's not an option, what about a school in an inner suburb, or a neighbourhood centre? Somewhere with parking? There are very attractive rooms in some schools, and schools are looking around these days to earn a little extra cash.

Personally, I don't care too much about having a sit-down meal with the meeting; recyclable nibbles and drinks would be fine for me. If it's traditional, though, for the society to have a meal, Jo's suggestion of getting cheaper 'non-commercial' catering of fingerfood makes a lot of sense.

Sandra Bernhart

Next meeting

Beverley Barnes will speak about the challenges and opportunities of being editor-in-residence at a new tertiary institution, the University of South Australia.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1 November at 6.30 pm at the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th Floor, Australian Museum. Enter through William Street.

Drinks and light food will be provided. We need to know the number of people who will attend, so RSVP by 30 October by phoning or faxing Robin Appleton on 560 1017.

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

Blue Pencil

Copy for *Blue Pencil* and letters to the editor should be faxed to (02) 529 9764 or posted direct to The Editor, *Blue Pencil*, 49 Evans Street, Sans Souci NSW 2219.

The last deadline for 1994 is 8 November and the deadline for the January 1995 issue is 13 December 1994.

More About Our Meeting Venue

For those members who prefer Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, commiserations. Some people do not have private transport, some people travel from the far southern suburbs, or Gosford by train or donkey, but it is not possible to please everyone as to the venue.

The Rooftop Function Centre, Level 4, Australian Museum, has a superb outlook; the speakers can be heard; and people with cars often manage to find nearby parking. Many people seem to enjoy the choice of venue and the rent is extremely modest.

Maybe the members of the 1995 committee will decide otherwise. If a school is chosen, count me out. Have you ever felt safe going to the station from a schoolyard, on foot, at night?

Robin Appleton

Meetings, again!

I've been reading with interest the debate on our society's venue. I have noticed, though, (correct me if I'm wrong) that our regular attendees aren't complaining.

To our members who aren't happy with the Museum, I betcha if you actually came to a meeting you would find that it isn't really difficult to park. Believe me, it's refreshing after a hard day to gaze over the coruscating city lights, eat delicious fingerfood (sorry, we *don't* have sit-

down meals at the meetings), and do something different for a change. Begone, suburbia!

Carol D'Costa

Beverley Barnes: Our November Speaker

Beverley will speak about the challenges and opportunities of being editor-in-residence at a new tertiary institution, the University of South Australia.

During the six-month residency (funded by the Literature Board of the Australia Council), she gave dozens of seminars and consultations with academic writers and others involved in publishing.

Her talk will focus on three themes for publishers and editors:

- briefing academic writers on communicating better with their audience;
- debating the merits of Plain English v the language of post-modernism; and
- the rapid growth of distance education programs provided by the universities and the Open Learning Agency.

The Christmas Meeting

Do it now. Book with Robin Appleton for the Christmas dinner meeting at Sketches Bar & Bistro, Hotel Intercontinental, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney on Tuesday, 6 December.

We will have our own room and plenty of opportunity to meet other members and talk about those things for which there is never enough time at our regular meetings. To ensure that the dinner is a social occasion, the committee has decided that there will be no guest speaker (unless the spirit moves you on the night).

Have a delicious pasta meal for \$19 and purchase your own drinks at the bar just outside our room. Added attractions: a door prize and a guessing competition.

Deadline for bookings is 30 November, but do it now.

Welcome ...

to twelve new members:

Stephanie Campion, Ruth Colman, Suzanne Eggins, Michael Elliott, John Gelder, Barry Hicks, Lesley Ljungdahl, Pamela Mawbey, Cathy McCormick, Eileen Patterson, Jean Porter, and Carolyn Uweda.

Future Society Meetings

1994

Tuesday, 1 November

Beverley Barnes, Editor in Residence Fellow, University of South Australia, 1994.

Tuesday, 6 December

Christmas dinner. (See page 6 for latest details.)

1995

There will be no meeting in January. The first society meeting for 1995 will be the Annual General Meeting on 7 February.

All meetings, except the Christmas dinner, will be at 6.30 for 7.00 pm in the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th Floor, Australian Museum. Enter from William Street.

Editing Seminars

Robin Appleton will present a series of weekend editing seminars at the NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle, dealing with the important aspects of editing from manuscript to proofreading.

The dates of the seminars are: 29 and 30 October; 6, 13, and 14 November; 19 November.

For details ring Laurel Cohen at the NSW Writers' Centre on (02) 555 9757.

BULLETIN BOARD

An Introduction to Book Publishing

The long awaited ABPA publication, *Introduction to Book Publishing* is now available.

Written by a team of expert contributors from within the publishing industry, it explains in simple, straightforward terms the business of publishing, the publisher, the editorial process, production techniques, copyright, distribution, export, and sales and marketing.

The book also includes a useful glossary, and there are profiles of some of the leaders in Australian book publishing.

If you are attracted to a career in publishing or have ever wondered how books are made and published, you will find this an interesting and invaluable guide.

For orders or enquiries ring the ABPA on (02) 281 9788.

Galley Club November Meeting

The next Galley Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 November from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm at the Crows Nest Club, 31 Hayberry Street, Crows Nest.

Graham Rendouf (Reno Designs), Nikki Christer (Pan Macmillan), Claire Calvert (Dymocks), and a sales and marketing representative will speak about 'Book Covers: What Works and Why'.

Cost: \$20. Bring along for discussion a book cover or two that you love or hate.

Writing and Editing

The Australian Institute of Professional Communicators (AIPC) will conduct a course on writing and editing from 9 to 15 November 1994 at the Artarmon Inn, Pacific Highway, Artarmon.

The course will be repeated in 1995 from 4 to 10 January and from 18 to 24 January. Enquiries should be directed to Bill Smith, AIPC Course Controller, on (02) 450 1342.

Society Meeting Times

Did you notice the change? No? Well, look back to page 1 and check that the starting time for meetings of the society is now 6.30 pm for 7.00.

This later time suits the Museum and the committee, so we'll see you at 6.30 pm on 1 November.

Postgraduate Course in Editing and Publishing

The University of Canberra will offer a postgraduate course in editing and publishing in 1995. The course comprises 8 units of 40 hours each and has been designed to improve the editing and production skills of those working or wishing to work in various parts of the publishing industry. It covers fiction and non-fiction publishing in different media for a variety of audiences and will have particular relevance to publishing in Canberra.

For enquiries, contact the University of Canberra.

A History of the Book in Australia (HOBA)

The HOBA project is a new and wide-ranging study of Australia's print culture from its beginnings at the time of European settlement to the present. Launched in 1993 by a group of Australian book historians, it will culminate in a series of historical, bibliographical, and reference publications. A major work will be *A History of the Book in Australia*, to be published in three sections at the time of the Centenary of Federation in 2001.

The project also aims to produce *A Dictionary of the Book in Australia* and *A Historical Dictionary of Newspapers and Journals in Australia*.

Members interested in receiving the HOBA newsletter or in contributing advice or information for the project should contact E. Morrison, Department of English, Australian Defence Force Academy, phone (06) 268 8910.