



THE EDITORS

P.O. Box 567,
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING.....NEXT MEETING

Our final meeting for the year (barring our Christmas revels) will be held as usual at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre at 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 6 November 1985. We gather in an upstairs room and consume wine and other delectables until our meeting room is vacated by the yoga class.

Historian Professor Manning Clark will be our guest and speak on the writing of the History of Australia, and his relationships with editors.

Cost is \$3 for wine and cheese only, \$12 if you stay for dinner after the meeting. RSVP to Jenny at Weldon's on 929.5677 by Monday 4 November if you are attending.

LAST MEETING - TAFE COURSE:

A forum discussion was held on the recent experience of a trial Editors' Course organised through TAFE. The course was offered to editors already working in the field, and the group discussion with the teachers, Pam Brewster, Patrick Coyle and Jacquie Kent, and students touched on various aspects of the course, from the general logistics of its location (Seaforth Technical College) to the content and the necessity for feedback.

While there were difficulties - Friday nights at Seaforth Tech. were less attractive to people than other evenings - there was also a great deal of enthusiasm. The course had attracted so many more applications than the fifteen available places that the interest in such a course, following the demise of in-house training, was established at the start.

Part of the value of a trial course was to establish areas in which most editors felt a need for training. Copy-editing was considered a high priority, although all the participants showed a high level of competence in that area, as well as relating readily to design.

The course helped to give a total overview of all areas of production, including design and marketing skills, in which the editor may be involved and freelancers often miss the everyday contact available in-house.

Mr Ray Bennett of the School of Business and Administrative Studies, TAFE, also attended the forum. It seems that a further course will be held by TAFE, given the support and enthusiasm it generated, as a response to a need perceived in the industry. There are, however, still unresolved questions. Book editors are, after all, a small community of people, and this may suggest extending the terms of reference to the editing of documents, such as Annual Reports, to create a more viable course serving more people. TAFE administrators could also facilitate such a course being held by other institutions, such as a C.A.E., although this move is inhibited by the limited opportunities book editing offers inexperienced graduates.

CHINESE BANQUET:

Included with this newsletter should be an invitation to our Christmas Party, this year a joint function with the Galley Club. The cost per head of \$24 includes a Chinese banquet of many courses, carafe wine, beer and soft drinks. There is dancing downstairs and conversation upstairs, though this may be disrupted at some stage by some kind of Galley Club ritual (I forgot to get details before their President took off for the Greek Islands). Please support the organisers by turning out in full force and bringing along spouses et al. The place is Sonia's Malaysian Restaurant at 111 Regent Street, Chippendale; date Friday 29 November; time 7.30 for 8 pm.

ABPA:

The Australian Book Publishers Association has scheduled several seminars for 1986.

1-4 March	Production Workshop, Ballarat, Vic.
April/May	Direct Mail Selling, Sydney/Melbourne.
June	Personal Computers in Publishing, Melbourne.
10-13 August	Publishing Economics Workshop, Canberra.
September	Pre-Frankfurt briefings, Melbourne/Sydney.

Further details will be announced as they become available, but enrolment forms for the Production Workshop should already have been received by members. Contact Sandra Gorman on 29.5422 for more information.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF EDITING:

Continuing the discussion which arose from Ruth Park's letter in the March issue of the ASA journal about editors she had known, the following extract is from a letter by Richard Walsh of Angus & Robertson to Teresa Pitt (immediate past president of the Melbourne Society of Editors).

"It would be extremely useful for The Society of Editors (in conjunction with The Editors?) to undertake some research on the development of editorial skills in Australia while the last of its participants are still with us - people like Frank Cheshire, George Ferguson, Vern Branson, Beatrice Davis and even authors like Ruth Park. The truth is that many of the old hands, like Kylie Tennant and Eleanor Dark, I think, were edited outside Australia. Was this partly because of a lack of trained editors in Australia?

Unfortunately the early story of editing in Australia is only likely to be of interest to ourselves, but surely it is important enough to gather together that story so that we can all understand better the tradition of publishing we have inherited in this country."

Teresa replies:

"It would be nice if a few people in Melbourne and Sydney could record on tape the reminiscences of some of the 'old-timers' and maybe one day someone will actually write up the story. Thank you for the idea."

Any takers?

INFORMATION AUSTRALIA:

Information Australia - Margaret Gee Media Group is researching the second edition of its directory of freelance journalists. Entries in the directory are free. If you haven't been approached for your entry ring (03) 62.5995 for an entry form.

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