

AUSTRALIAN BOOK WEEK OCTOBER 14-21

Short, squat and enigmatic!

THAT IS how Malcolm Muggeridge described George Sprod, well-known Sydney writer, illustrator and cartoonist with Punch for more than 20 years. Find out for yourself what Sprod is really like by attending the launching of his latest book *Life on a square-wheeled bike*, published by Kangaroo Press.

The launching is to be in Australian Book Week, at the Virginian Gardens Restaurant, Rawson Street, Epping, on Friday October 21 12.30 pm.

Two years ago George Sprod's book *Bambooby round my shoulder: Changi, the lighter side* was a runaway success, and his latest book promises to be just as enjoyable.

As well as George Sprod, who says with a name like that what else could he be but a

cartoonist, another guest at the launch lunch (try saying that 12 times quickly) will be the irresistible George Finey, now in his eighties, but still working – his latest book *Puddy plates*, will be published later this year (also by Kangaroo Press).

This will be an occasion of fun and good humour – and not to be missed because the book will be launched by none other than Nancy Keesing, author of, among many others, the delightful *Lily on the Dustbin*, one of the most successful and entertaining books of 1982.

Don't miss this special lunch – the cost is a mere \$10 per head and the venue has been highly recommended. *RSVP by October 14 to Mary Lord on 358 6328.*

COMPUTER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

An Australian high technology industry

The Australian Computer Society has argued for some time for the need for government assistance to encourage the development of high technology industry in Australia through research and development grants and an increase in computer education in the tertiary sector.

At the recent IAC hearings for the inquiry into computers and related industries, the Australian Computer manufacturers (represented by the Australian Computer Equipment Manufacturers Association) advocated tariffs against imports and preferential government procurement policies in favour of Australian firms and products. The equipment suppliers (represented by the Australian Computer Equipment Suppliers Association) and the software industry (represented by the Australian Software Houses Association) submitted arguments opposing the current tariffs and preferential government policies on the grounds that they are anomalous and prohibitive. Instead, they requested subsidies to local manufacture through bounties based on sales and the level of Australian content.

A positive move towards the development

of high technology industry has been made by the government in its legislation to revamp the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board. The legislation will allow the board to invest in high technology ventures, put computer software on the same footing as other products for R and D grants and empower the minister to single out specific industries for financial assistance.

It is difficult for bodies, like AACOBS or the LAA to approach government bodies directly on issues of this type as libraries are only users of computer systems, and it would be wrong for either body to take action that favoured a particular supplier in the eyes of the government. Nevertheless, we need to respond in a positive way to ensure that those requirements of libraries which are specialised are not ignored.

Personal Computers

1982 was claimed by a leading American computer manufacturer to be the year of the personal computer. This is certainly the impression one gets from the array of new journals on personal computing, the personal computer retail trade and trade exhibitions. Nevertheless, the use of personal computers in libraries is still on a small scale.

A low-key approach to the use of personal computers seems to be typical of business

NATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM NOTICE FOR MEMBERS IN A.C.T. SOUTH AUSTRALIA TIME MANAGEMENT

This program has already been run successfully in Queensland and N.S.W. and will be offered in your State on the dates listed below.

The course will demonstrate how individuals can apply the principles and techniques of time management to use their work time more productively and with less stress. It will assist participants to analyse, plan and monitor the way that they use their work time, and introduce techniques for dealing with specific time management problems.

Topics to be covered include:

- Time Managements – personal and expert approaches.
- Time Management – methods.
- Controlling "time wasters".

Preliminary work is required

Canberra 28 October, 1983
Adelaide 4 November, 1983

For details see *Happenings* in this issue.

generally at present. This is probably because of the lack of hardware and software to enable personal computers to be linked to other computer systems within organisations and to external networks. Hardware developments are underway now that will make such links feasible and software development is likely to follow. We could then see personal computers used widely within libraries as administrative/managerial aids with links to word processing, library operational and information retrieval systems.

Software development techniques

The term 'fourth generation language' is now being used to describe the newer flexible programming languages that are designed for the end-user. These are particularly suited for use with the new relational data base systems.

Data or information oriented systems design methodologies are also developing rapidly both for use with relational data base systems and as general systems design methods.

There are already library systems available in Australia that utilise relational data base management software and fourth generation languages including the AWA Urica system and the Prime ADLIB system. They offer greater flexibility to the end-user in designing inputs and outputs, screen formats and processes than many previous systems.

At this stage some use has been made of the new systems design methodologies, particularly those based on information flow, in conjunction with these systems but in general it is an area where more work could be usefully done by library systems analysts/systems librarians. Information analysis techniques have been used in the design of a number of systems but the only reported use of the data analysis techniques has been at the University of New South Wales, and, as an academic exercise, at the University of Melbourne.

Many of the newer software develop-

Information Management Workshops

Systematics offers two Workshops on Information Management Systems. Together these Workshops provide a practical introduction to the use of free text computer systems to manage the storage and retrieval of information.

1. Principles of Information Management Systems 26 October 1983

- Characteristics of the free text software
- Features in software such as ASSASSIN, CAIRS and STATUS
- Practical work on a CAIRS system
- No computer or other experience necessary

2. Implementing an Information Management System 9 November 1983

- Implementation from the user's point of view
- Case studies on categories of textual data
- Decision steps for implementation
- Some knowledge of free text assumed (eg Workshop 1)

Both courses will be presented by John Kerrisk, Lecturer in Information Studies at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education.

As practical work at computer terminals is included the number of participants is limited. Call today to reserve a place and obtain your Enrollment Form. For further information call Anthony Meggitt.

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