

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-

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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.

Systematics Pty. Limited

4 Help Street (PO Box 563) Chatswood NSW 2067

Tel: (02) 411 3455

Library Association of
Australia

**NATIONAL
CE PROGRAM**

Advance Notice

**MICROCOMPUTERS
AND THEIR
APPLICATIONS IN
LIBRARIES**

SYDNEY

11-12 NOVEMBER 1983

This program aims to give interested persons a review of recent developments in this field, and to provide an overview of 'micro' applications in library and information services.

It is not a specialised course, nor is it a programming course.

Topics include:

- Recent hardware and software developments
- Microcomputers in library and information services - some applications
- Criteria for evaluating hardware and software

There will also be an opportunity to examine a range of microcomputers.

Cost: \$80 (LAA members) \$110 non members

If interested return the coupon below.

Yes! Send me some information on **Microcomputers and their applications in Libraries.**

Name

Address

.....PC.....

Mail to: Merilyn Bryce, Continuing Education Officer, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. (02) 692 9233.

Changed Entry Requirements for the Teacher Librarianship Course at Sydney Institute of Education

From 1984 entry to the Teacher Librarianship course in the Diploma in Education program will be open only to candidates who have qualified as professional librarians.

The change in admission requirements and consequential changes in the course have been made to ensure that students who successfully complete a Diploma in Education which includes the Teacher Librarianship course will be acceptable for employment as teacher-librarians by the NSW Department of Education.

Sydney Institute of Education is an Institute of Sydney College of Advanced Education.

Further details about specific entry requirements may be obtained by phoning the Institute (660 2855 ext 427) or writing to the Dean, School of Postgraduate and Continuing Education, Sydney Institute of Education, PO Box 63, Camperdown, NSW 2050.

Local ordering by Oz libraries

THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE for the Book Trade was established in 1981, following recommendations at a Seminar on Local Ordering at the 1981 Congress of the International Booksellers Federation. The Committee, comprising representatives of the ABA, the ABPA and the LAA has spent some time considering proposals to encourage local ordering - ie, the purchase in Australia of books published overseas, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Committee held a Workshop on Local Ordering in Adelaide in August 1982, with delegates including publishers, booksellers and librarians examining the reasons librarians order overseas publications in the country of origin. *These can be briefly summed up as price, availability and service.*

All librarians and many booksellers agreed that while the price difference between books purchased in Australia and in the country of origin could be significant, it was not the only reason for ordering overseas. Sophisticated services were offered by overseas library suppliers, such as information on new titles in a format to suit libraries; binding, pocketing and labelling services (particularly attractive to public libraries); and adequate reporting. Although some library suppliers in Australia are now providing similar services there are still aspects of supply which could be improved.

The following statement on local ordering by Australian libraries was drawn up:

It was agreed that the specification of performance by publishers set out below would, if met by Australian publishers, enable Australian booksellers to provide satisfactory terms and conditions of service to Australian libraries placing orders with them. Recognising that neither publishers nor booksellers can be compelled to provide particular terms and conditions of service, nor libraries to place their orders with particular suppliers the Joint Standing Committee therefore recommends the following specification of performance to the three constituent bodies. It is proposed that if the specification receives the endorsement of the three bodies then it can be publicly promoted amongst the respective membership of the three bodies. Publishers will be encouraged to indicate their readiness to supply the trade on terms and conditions which accord with the specification thus enabling booksellers to seek business from Australian libraries on terms and conditions which are competitive with overseas suppliers and libraries would in turn be encouraged to place their orders with Australian suppliers.

Publishers subscribing to this specification have agreed to the following performance criteria:

1. That their stocks will be maintained with the objective of meeting the reasonable expectation of librarians for immediate supply of most items provided on a closed market basis.
2. That where items cannot be stocked economically or are out-of-stock, they will place urgent special orders for out-of-stock titles to ensure delivery within 4 months of receipt of order.
3. That all titles not able to be supplied immediately will be immediately reported on indicating a realistic delivery date, and provide regular updates to such reports in a form acceptable to librarians, attached as Appendix A.
4. That pricing policies will reflect the ability of Australian libraries to purchase from overseas suppliers.
5. That trained staff capable of answering normal bibliographic and delivery queries will be contactable during normal business hours.
6. That current catalogues of the publishers represented by any agent will be made available on request.

This statement, and reports on outstanding orders have been ratified by the three constituent bodies. *It is now up to individual publishers to consider whether they will adopt these recommendations in order to sell more books to Australian libraries, and up to individual libraries to recognize that publishers are listening to criticism and are now prepared to offer the services librarians require.*

It will take time for publishers prepared to subscribe to the performance criteria to change their reporting codes, and to revise their internal procedures; it will take time for libraries to change their purchasing patterns. Not all publishers will meet the criteria; not all libraries are in a position to sever their relationships with overseas suppliers who have served them well in the past, and who will still be needed to supply titles by publishers not represented in Australia.

To sum up: certain Australian publishers and distributors have agreed to support Australian booksellers who serve Australian libraries, by supplying titles at close to overseas price converted to Australian dollars; by holding in stock a high proportion of their titles; and by reporting on outstanding orders in a form acceptable to libraries. As a result of these proposed improvements in service, Australian libraries should seriously consider placing more orders for titles published by these publishers with Australian suppliers.

Details of standard reports on orders are available on request. *Pam Trier* Chairmar
Joint Standing Committee
for the Book Trade

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Many of the newer software developments are still controversial within the computer profession and the claims of companies that sell the techniques need to be viewed with some scepticism. However librarians should be aware of the range of techniques available to the end-user. The trend towards flexible and low-cost computer systems designed for in-house use and programmable by the user also raises questions of how libraries manage the introduction of those in-house systems and what changes in skills or organisational structures may be required.

Doreen Parke
Member
LAA/AACOBS Joint Committee
on Information Technology

Inserts in this issue
The only insert is for New South Wales readers, from Kurling-gal CAE

Information Management Workshops
26 Oct & 9 Nov. See page 8

LAA-NZLA Conference
Brisbane, 27-31 August 1984

TENDERS
**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Tenders are invited for the purchase of from one to thirty, 36-drawer catalogue card cabinets.
For inspection, contact Mr R. Gilmour, phone 662 3221.
Tenders, closing 31 October 1983, should be submitted in writing to:
The Property Manager
The University of NSW
PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033.