

Australian Book Trade Committee

The Australian Book Trade Committee (ABTC) was established to foster cooperation between Australian booksellers, librarians and publishers, and to provide a forum for discussion of issues of relevance to all three sectors. The Committee comprises two representatives from each of the following: the Australian Booksellers' Association (ABA), the Australian Book Publishers' Association (ABPA) and ALIA. The 1989 membership is:

Richard Gilmour (Thames and Hudson Australia, ABPA)

Sally Milner (Australian Consolidated Press/Greenhouse, ABPA)

Len Woodley (Standard Book, ABA)

Jean Ferguson (ABA)

Derek Whitehead (ALIA)

Bill Cations (ALIA), Chairman.

The ABTC recently established a sub-committee to monitor technological developments relating to the transfer of information between publishers, booksellers and librarians. The sub-committee, to be known as the Standing Committee on Technology (SCOT), will meet three times a year, and will be chaired by Peter Dart of Penguin Books Australia.

Other members of the sub-committee are Jim Hart of Lonely Planet who, together with Peter, represents the ABPA; Stephen Hall from the State Library of Victoria and Tony Mays from Deakin University representing ALIA; Alan Magnussen from the University Co-operative Bookshops representing the ABA; and Len Woodley from Standard Book representing the ABTC.

The following guidelines have been laid down by the sub-committee:

1. It will act as an advisory body to the industry, not as individuals advising organisations.
2. Emphasis will be placed on the interfaces between the various sections of the book industry rather than developments within the constituent organisations of the ABTC.

For its first project, the Committee will conduct a survey throughout the industry to ascertain the use of technology within each group. Each constituent body will be responsible for the survey of its own members.

SCOT will maintain affiliations with other relevant bodies both within Australia and overseas, with a policy of adopting overseas standards if practical. Statements will be prepared explaining and promoting certain industry standards such as SANS and Order Reporting Codes.

Vendors seeking endorsement will be referred to the advertising sections of relevant publications within the industry. Individuals seeking advice will be referred to their constituent organisations.

The members of SCOT will be available to speak at or attend forums or

seminars within the industry.

Other issues currently being addressed by the ABTC include the production of a video on library acquisitions work and the book trade, a national book distribution survey and a national seminar on 'book trade basics' for librarians.

W.T. Cations
Chairman, ABTC



From 5 •••

Digging to China Garage Sale from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday 27 May at Hunters Hill, Sydney, RSL Hall. The sale will offer an interesting and valuable collection of memorabilia and artwork from children's books, together with T-shirts featuring signatures of Australia's most prominent authors of children's books.

But what has this to do with China? Proceeds of the sale will go towards the cost of hosting the Children's Book Council Chinese Delegation to Australia. Five Chinese authors and publishers will visit Australia in October, in return for the CBC Australian delegates' tour of China in 1987. The Chinese will visit Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart. The China Committee hopes to raise Chinese awareness of Australian children's books, authors and illustrators — with far-reaching benefits for all concerned.



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