

# The Source

## 1788 and all that

When was left-hand driving enforced in Australia? When did the six o'clock swill end in Sydney? When did the Garden Palace burn down? When did the Aussie dollar begin to float? What was the national debt in 1902? When was John Macarthur formally declared insane?

No, this isn't an Oz Game contestant's nightmare. It's an example of the kind of question you can now easily answer, thanks to Anthony Barker's impressive *When was that?*, a chronology of white Australia from Phillip's arrival in Botany Bay to the Australia Day celebrations and demonstrations two hundred years later. For each year Barker lists the principal occurrences, then outlines under various headings other notable events, such as births and death of the famous, statistics, sporting achievements, literary milestones, developments in the arts, entertainment, science, technology, architecture and building.

This is a very browsable book, as well as being, with its excellent 140-page index, a bona fide reference work. Historians, social and otherwise, can leaf through the years, getting a feel for contemporary events. Writers can look for noteworthy anniversaries to commemorate in popular print. And all manner of users will consult it for—to judge from a more than cursory sampling—reliable facts and dates.

Anthony Barker's *When was that?* was published in 1988 by John Ferguson and costs \$49.95. (ISBN 0 949118 18 4)

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## Browse high and low

Victorians who may have envied Sydneysiders their access to bookshops (if not their CPI), thanks to Christine Flynn's timely *Bookshops of Sydney*, need cringe no more. Editor Pat Miller has now produced a worthy guide to the bookshops of Australia Felix, displaying the marvellous choice which faces browsers from Airport West to Yallambie and Bairnsdale to Wodonga.

In *Bookshops of Victoria* entries are arranged alphabetically by the name of the shop, and include comments provided by the retailers themselves—'We are overcrowded, with books from ceiling to floor'—and anonymous readers—'... not to be mistaken for the "adult bookshop" in the same block'.

Specialist booksellers are identified, hours of opening are provided, special services are listed, and wheelchair access is noted. Readers hoping to savour uncomplimentary comments about their least favourite book vendors will be disappointed: judgemental comments are not included. Pat Miller notes that 'lively discussions between different contributors who had visited the same shop put the lie to this approach—book buyers are as individual in their taste for bookshops as they are in their taste for books'. There are good subject and location indexes, and a series of brief but informative essays on general, antiquarian, children's and non-English language bookshops.

*Bookshops of Victoria: a reader's guide* was edited by Pat Miller for the National Book Council (Victoria) and was published in 1988 by Primavera Press. It costs \$12.95. (ISBN 0 9589494 5 X)

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## Technicians, by and about

'The development of the role of library technicians has been one of the most important developments in Australian libraries in the last twenty years' reads, quite accurately, the blurb for a useful annotated bibliography which was published in 1988 by SACAE Library.

Compiled and edited by Ellen Ennever, a library technician at SACAE, this 203-item bibliography in arranged chronologically, kicking off with Ted Flowers' article canvassing the need for a paraprofessional level of library workers in the March 1963 *Australian Library Journal*. 1970 saw the establishment of the first library technician course in Australia, duly recorded in the literature and hence in this very useful bibliography, together with other landmark documents.

Appendixes list the titles of Australian serials published by or dealing with technicians, items recorded in databases but not actually located, and categories of material deliberately excluded.

Copies of Ellen Ennever's *Library technicians in Australia: an annotated bibliography* are available from Library Publications, South Australian College of Advanced Education, Holbrooks Road, Underdale, SA 5032, at \$26.00 including postage. (ISBN 0 86803 020 1)

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## Caring, sharing

There are many sources of health information and support in Australia, and as the authors of *Cancer help* rightly comment, 'we rarely have to think about them - until we need them'. When that needs arises, because of the illness of a friend, relative or of oneself, the resources and services

available—including support groups, monographs and journal articles, films and videos, societies and foundations, spiritual helpers, dietary advice—can be hard to identify and harder to assess.

The experience of Christine Henderson in caring for her mother, and of Angela Raymond in community development and social welfare, has combined to produce this remarkable 'source book for patients, helpers, families and friends'. Published by Simon and Schuster Australia in 1988, this 112-page paperback includes details of activities of support groups throughout Australia, which range from small self-help groups to larger hospital-based services.

There are detailed descriptions of each group, together with contact names and addresses. There are chapters containing annotated references to published information, accessible to the layperson, on aspects of cancer, diet and nutrition. And a very vital chapter on your rights as a patient.

*Cancer help* by Christine Henderson and Angela Raymond, was published in 1988 by Simon and Schuster Australia. It costs \$12.95. (ISBN 0 7318 0057 5).

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## Women write - and wronged

Finding information about well-known writers is not difficult, as Debra Adelaide points out in her magnum opus. It's the minor figures, condemned to fugitive footnotes and one-line entries in bibliographies who really take some finding. Fortunately, the spotlight of redress has swung towards a major group of such writers with the growth in interest in women's studies. Debra Adelaide's *Australian women writers: a bibliographic guide* brings to light novelists, short story writers, poets, playwrights, autobiographers, biographers and non-fiction writers from the earliest days of white settlement to the present.

Each of the 450 or so entries in the work contains biographical information, a list of works by the writer, details of the locations of manuscript collections

Continued on facing page.

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and references to works about. Entries for well-known authors have been kept brief—in these cases the bibliographies are generally correspondingly longer. Living writers are included: most of them were contacted by Debra Adelaide for the compilation of this work. Coverage seems to be excellent—although my review copy must have been an advance one—it jumps from page 114 to page 135 and takes a couple of gatherings to sort itself out. But that can happen in the best-ordered printing house. Debra Adelaide's *Australian women writers: a bibliographic guide* was published in 1988 and is in the excellent 'Australian Literary Heritage' series published by Pandora Press, an imprint of Unwin Hyman Limited, whose local affiliate is Allen and Unwin Australia. It costs \$39.95 for the hardback and \$17.95 for the paperback. (ISBN 0 86358 148 X hardback; ISBN 0 86358 149 8 paperback)

Casting light on neglected figures is also part of the achievement of Heather Radi's *200 Australian women: a redress anthology*, which was also published in 1988. Radi and 126 other contributors have produced 200 biographies of women who 'deserve to be remembered'. Some are already widely known; others 'by our manner of recording the past and by the way in which our history is taught are less well-known'. So Mary Reibey rubs

shoulders with Kitty Gallagher, ex-convict drover. Georgiana Molloy, amateur botanist and seed collector, fetches up next to Jemmy the Rover, a resourceful and determined convict.

Feminists, reformers, pioneering doctors, authors, journalists, film stars, athletes, actresses, bushrangers: the whole range of human endeavour is represented, with biographies ranging in length from a one to two pages. Not only are we introduced to many women who have not already appeared in biographical dictionaries and encyclopaedias, but there are often fascinating sidelights into even the more familiar figures. Entries are arranged chronologically by date of birth, and there is a very good name, title and occupation index. Persons alive at the end of 1987 are not included. *200 Australian women*, edited by Heather Radi, was published in 1988 by Women's Redress Press Inc, PO Box 655, Broadway, NSW 2007. It costs \$17.95. (ISBN 0 9589603 7 2)

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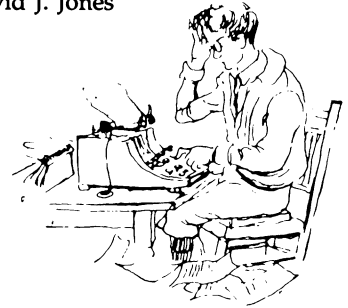
### Russian gutters and Spanish guillotines

Or shrinking in six languages? Or perhaps you are interested in cockling around the world? Conservators will have already guessed that I am dipping

into a glossary of their terms, compiled by the Committee on Conservation and Restoration of the International Council on Archives. *Glossary of basic archival and library conservation terms*, edited by Carmen Crespo Noguera, is no 4 in the useful ICA handbooks series. 405 terms are listed, alphabetically in English, with an English definition, and equivalent words in Spanish, German, Italian, French and Russian, and there are indexes in these languages also.

This work will be useful for not-quite polyglot preservation people and should, in the words of its editor, 'assist in the exchange of accurate information on conservation subjects between colleagues of differing nationalities'. The Glossary was published by Saur in 1988 and is available locally from Butterworths for \$50.00. (ISBN 3 598 20276 8)

David J. Jones



# "THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A BOOK ON IT."

No matter how bright they are, most students have trouble writing letters and most books on the subject are woefully out of date. There is one, however, that gives practical, easy-to-follow advice on how to write all kinds of letters, from letters to the editor to love letters.

It's called "The complete guide to letter-writing." It's not on your shelves just yet, but it is available now at main post offices for just \$5.95.

So next time you're asked for a book on letter writing, you'll know what to recommend. "The complete guide to letter-writing," from main post offices.

