

New award recognises talented self-publishers

Pat Woolley believes that 'vanity publishing' need not be in vain

WILD & WOOLLEY/
Fast Books and Xerox
Australia have recently
announced the
inaugural \$10 000 Xerox Fast
Books Awards for self-publishers.

There is a \$5000 prize,
with second and third runners up
receiving \$2500 each, open to all

self-published writers whose books
are printed in Australia within the
1992 calendar year. Authors from
across Australia are invited to
submit one copy of their own,
self-published or privately-
financed book produced during
1992, in any subject area
whatsoever, to Wild and Woolley/
Fast Books, 16 Darghan St, Glebe
NSW 2037 before 31 January,
1993. Books will be judged by an
independent panel and the
winners will be announced on
22 February, 1993.

The Xerox Fast Books Awards
will celebrate good writing and
reward Australian authors for
their initiative and their talent.
For too many years, book
publishers have criticised writers
for their 'vanity publishing',
when really they were worried
about the competition. Publishers
take months to read and reject
worthwhile manuscripts but
resent it when a bestselling book
gets away from them.

Australia has many famous
examples of privately-financed
books including *Man-Shy* by
Frank Dalby Davison, Margaret
Preston: *Recent Paintings*, *The
Birds of Australia* by John Gould,
Short Stories in Prose and Verse by
Henry Lawson, and *Power
Without Glory* by Frank Hardy.

Further information from Pat
Woolley on (02) 692 0166. ■

Christmas reading...

Can you cook a galah?

Or can you make a Johnny Cake?

LOOKING FOR A Christmas present? Seventy-six of the 'best' poems
about Sydney, from 1840 to 1991, have been beautifully presented in
two colours, set in Baskerville and Gill Sans fonts on a specially-made
120 gsm permanent all-cotton paper in a delicate shade of cream

Sydney's Poems has been edited by Robert Gray and Vivian Smith as a
celebration of Sydney's 150th Anniversary (There are also acknowledgments
to the publisher, the in-house editor, the designer, the typesetter, the inks,
the paper maker and the printer—it's that kind of book.) It is available from
the publisher, Primavera Press at PO Box 575, Leichhardt Sydney 2040 for a
paltry \$9.95. How do they do it at the price, when we often have to pay so
much more for sometimes rubbishy productions?

A great Christmas read would be *When Mabel Laid the Table: the
Folklore of Eating and Drinking in Australia* by Warren Fahey. Can you
make Johnny Cake? Cook a galah? Mix a Catherine Hayes or a Madame
Bishop? This book will tell you how, and much more beside. It is a
social history of Australia's unique tradition of wining and dining, from
early colonial days through the lean times of the 1890s and 1930s, from
the swaggies to cafe society. Get it from the Merchandising Officer,
State Library of NSW Press, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, for
\$24.95 paperback, \$34.95 hardbound. ■

Need an indexer?

INDEXERS Available
1992-93. This new
directory is published
by the Australian

Society of Indexers, GPO Box
1251L, Melbourne 3001. It is
an alphabetical listing of about
eighty members of the society,
with brief statements of their
subject specialities, special
skills, computer skills and
publications indexed. The
specialities and skills are
separately indexed at the back
of this 40-page book.
Available from the Society,
price \$10. ■

Catalogue of PNG theses

THIS CATALOGUE of
theses in the Michael
Somare Library of the
University of PNG, the

Library's Occasional Publication
No 15, has been compiled by the
Librarian Joe W Naguwean. It
includes 260 theses accepted for
higher degrees between 1970 and
1990, together with a number of
Honours Degree theses. The
bibliographical details are listed in
alphabetical order and there is a
comprehensive subject index (from
Agarabi people to Zygora fractures).
The Catalogue is available from the
Library, but there is a warning that
theses can only be borrowed on ILL
with the consent of the author. ■

Self-portraits of the artists

THE NLA HAS JUST
published a totally
fascinating
compilation of

twenty-six Australian artists
talking about themselves and
their work, taken from the
Library's Oral History
collection. Most of the
interviews in *Artists' Portraits*,
selected and introduced by
Geoffrey Dutton, were
conducted by Hazel de Berg, a
tiny part of her celebrated series
that spanned over 27 years. The
earliest interview was in 1961;
others bring us into the eighties.
None of the artists, writes
Dutton, 'are living except in
their work', but in these pages
they speak to us so directly that
it is difficult to accept their
passing. Their work covers the
first three quarters of this
century, and Dutton's liminary
essay is a fine brief survey of
that period in the development
of Australian art. From the
NLA, price \$23.95. ■