

BOOK WORM

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (WA) INC.

February 2004

From the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of *Book Worm* for 2004. I hope you've all enjoyed a relaxing holiday break, and that getting the wheels turning for the start of the new year hasn't been too much of a struggle. Without doubt, SOEWA has much to look forward to in the months ahead, and we hope to see as many members as possible involved in the range of activities, meetings and initiatives planned.

Details of February's meeting are given below; it's an evening that certainly promises – knowing Janet Blagg – to be a lively, if controversial, one!

March means it's AGM time again, and more details of the special attraction for that meeting will be provided later. In the meantime (and I know that this call is becoming a monotonous drone) I urge you to consider becoming a committee member. Some members of the current committee are planning to step down. So whether you're a new or a long-time member who is interested in devoting a couple of hours a month to your society, please contact me in the next couple of weeks.

At the national level, CASE's diary for the year is also filling up. Accreditation, promotion of the profession and the establishment of a national organisation are among the key issues organising our focus for this year. I'll be taking part in a teleconference with delegates from other states in a couple of weeks to discuss the latest developments on these and other matters, and will report on that meeting in the next newsletter.

I also hope next month to be able to flag an important meeting with Rob Finlayson, the State Literature Officer, who will be coming to talk to us about opportunities for the State Literature Centre to assist in SOEWA's growth and development.

Finally, huge thanks – and enormous gratitude – to Tanya Marwood for stepping into the role of editor of *Book Worm*. Please help make Tanya's job an interesting and varied one by submitting articles and news items regularly.

Here's to a productive, happy and healthy year for all of you!

Anne Surma (President)

Editorial

Hello from your new *Book Worm* editor. I look forward to bringing you all the news that's most relevant to our fine (yet apparently undervalued!) profession. But first, a little about my background.

I'm originally from southern NSW and have lived in WA (mostly Perth) on and off since the mid-80s. Prior to deciding to work as a freelance writer and editor in early 2000, I worked as an engineer, a research scientist, a recruitment consultant, and finally as a research analyst in the mining industry. Concluding that I didn't really enjoy any of this very much, in late 1999 I enrolled in a short Diploma of Journalism course with the Australian College of Journalism in Sydney. The rest, as they say, is history.

I now have my own one-person business – Write On Writing Services – writing feature articles, brochures, flyers, proposals, reports, newsletters, press releases, marketing letters, etc. as well as rewriting, editing and proofreading various types of manuscripts, including fiction, autobiography and technical (engineering/scientific).

Until recently I was the contributing editor of the locally published *Transport and Machinery* magazine, but gave it up because every issue was fraught with immense pressure and it also clashed with my ethics. Nevertheless, I found it a great learning experience.

My other work has included researching and writing a 'Research Report' for Curtin University and annual reports and newsletters for state and local government, as well as various features for the Skywest in-flight magazine, the *West Australian* and a state government publication. For the Community Housing Coalition (WA) and Mofflyn (a Uniting Church care agency), I wrote new promotional material, as well as features for the newsletter of the former. One of my more interesting tasks in recent times has been to edit part of the manuscript of *God's Callgirl*, an autobiographical story of nuns, prostitutes and life's challenges, written by Carla van Raay and soon to be published by HarperCollins.

In the past few years I've found the SOEWA and its close cousin Women in Publishing (WA) to be most supportive and informative and I'm looking forward to 'putting something back'. I also look forward to reading your contributions to *Book Worm* over the coming year – may it be a happy and prosperous one for us all!

Tanya Marwood

Forthcoming Meetings

FEBRUARY MEETING:

“TAKING THE ‘DICK’ OUT OF DIC(K)TIONARY”

PRESENTED by JANET BLAGG

We kick off the SOEWA New Year with an interactive session on striking a strong and creative balance between exclusive (sexist, racist, whatever-ist) language and impersonal and inelegant ‘politically correct’ language. This session will:

- include some interesting facts about the history of gender-laden words
- look at the political agenda of the right, which has made ‘**peecce**’ a swear word, and address the nervousness of the well-intentioned who want to do the right thing but are afraid of offending anybody
- look at options available for people who want to discover how, for example, to get around using ‘he’ and ‘man’ where they are inappropriate, without sounding like something out of an ideologically sound annual report.

Please let us know if you will be attending (RSVP by Monday 2 February).

When: 7.30pm, Tuesday 3 February 2004

Where: Tresillian Community Centre, 21 Tyrell Street, Nedlands

Cost: \$2 cover charge

RSVP: Amanda Curtin (phone 9377 2091; curtin@highway1.com.au)

MARCH MEETING:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Further details to be advised, but please keep this night free. *Please note the change in venue (CWA House rather than Tresillian) and the date (the second instead of the first Tuesday of the month).*

When: 7.00pm, Tuesday 9 March 2004

Where: CWA House, Board Room (3rd Floor), 1174 Hay Street, West Perth

Cost: No charge

Deadline for March 2004 *Book Worm* issue: Tuesday 24 February 2004. All submissions gratefully accepted.

Further 2004 *Book Worm* deadlines

Issue	Deadline
April 2004	23 March 2004
May 2004	20 April 2004
June 2004	18 May 2004

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