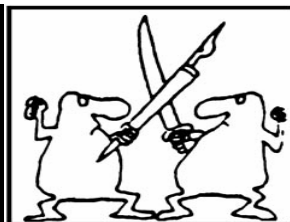


The Mighty Pen

Issue 1 May 2007



Upcoming Events

Movie Night The horror movie and pizza night held on Friday 13th of April was a great success and a big thank you to Adrian who supplied a swag of movies. Plans are now afoot for our second screening (South London Gangster Flickfest) so keep an eye on the staff noticeboard for updates.

ABE Booksellers will hold a meeting in the shop from 7 pm on Tuesday 12 June. If anyone would like to attend contact Paul for more details.

May Birthdays

A very happy belated birthday greeting to Steve who celebrated his 21st on 19 May. We hope it was a great one Steve!



Quote of the Month

Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature is dumb, science is crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.

- Barbara W. Tuchman



Who are the Committee?

President—Kathy Munro

Treasurer—Shuling Li

Secretary—Naomi Frampton

Members—Paul Hodges, Catherine Rafferty, Anna Vincent, Nancy Joe.

Welcome

Hi everyone and welcome to the very first issue of the volunteers' monthly newsletter!

After going through some major upheavals and changes this year, we thought it might be useful to have a fun, informal source of information to keep everyone updated about happenings in the bookshop. Our bookshop 'family' has grown to more than 30 members, so it's also a good way of keeping connected with each other.

Want to contribute? Speak to Paul, Anna or Nancy or email us at ancombo@tpg.com.au We welcome feedback, suggestions and article submissions!

Committee? What committee?

The Annerley Community Bookshop committee is currently made up of seven members (see Who are the Committee?). The committee is responsible for bookshop administration: negotiating leases, employing staff and keeping our financial records straight. But the committee also spends a lot of time thinking of ways to improve the bookshop and we really appreciate volunteer input. Got a great idea for increasing sales, making the shop more attractive to customers or making volunteering more enjoyable? Tell us! You can chat to any of the committee members (Nancy, Anna and Paul are the easiest to find during the week), otherwise you can email us at ancombo@tpg.com.au or write a note in the communications book.

Tales of a committee

Once a month, in the dead of night, seven cloaked figures converge at a secret location...Well actually, it's usually 6.30 on a Tuesday evening at the bookshop, but committee meetings have been known to continue until the dead of night. Luckily for you, we're only going to include the exciting news from the meeting here!

Sales Ways to improve our sales was a much discussed topic in the May committee meeting. The committee approved the following ideas:

Weekly 'spot sales' – each week one category in the bookshop is selected and all stock in that category is offered at reduced prices. For example, we discounted all items in the multimedia section (DVDs, videos, LPs etc.) for the week of May 14–20. Look out each week for the flyers which will be posted up around the store advertising the specials. If you have any suggestions about which sections should be next in the sales queue, let Paul or Denis know.

Introduction of story-telling sessions for children – this idea is still in development so if any of you have any thoughts, or would be interested in volunteering to be a story-teller (or you know someone who is) give us a shout.

Community involvement The committee also discussed new ways to achieve one of our primary objectives: to re-invest profits into the development of the local community. It was decided that we would donate a percentage of our profits towards local charities/not-for-profits on a monthly rotational basis. The organisation should preferably be a local one so let us know who you feel should be considered.

Readerware Another important item on the committee agenda was how to improve and simplify the current bookshop sales procedures. This discussion is still in progress and we'll keep you updated in future newsletters.

Name our Newsletter Competition – Enter for the chance to win a \$10 Groove Café voucher!

We need a catchy new name for our newsletter, so put your thinking caps on and submit your ideas! The winner will receive a \$10 voucher courtesy of Michelle and Carolina of Groove Café (thank you!). To be in the running, fill in the entry form and pop it into the envelope on the staff noticeboard. Entries close on Saturday 9 June and the winner will be announced in the June issue of the newsletter. Good luck!

New Staff Noticeboard

A new staff noticeboard has been installed in the office area and we want to encourage everyone to check it regularly. It's not meant to replace the communications book but we'll be using it to supplement the newsletter so that we can keep everyone informed when we're in between issues.



Tip of the Month

If we don't have a particular book in stock, remember that we can offer to order it in for the customer. If you are not sure how to complete the ABE order process, leave a note in the communications book and include the customer's contact details so someone else can check and get back to them with a total price.

Readerware Update

Thank you to everyone for your patience and perseverance with the Readerware database. At last count we have a total of 11 323 books entered in the system and we are only a couple of bays away from being fully digitised!



Bookshop News

Discount Offers

The bookshop is now offering discount vouchers to selected groups/businesses in the local area. We hope these will encourage more people to come and shop in the store. The first recipients to receive vouchers are:

- Yeronga TAFE students – **25%** off all books
- Groove Café customers – **10%** off all books
- Anglicare Migrant and Refugee Services clients – **10%** off all books.

In order to claim discounts customers will need to produce a valid voucher (expiry date is December 31, 2007).

Of course, volunteers still receive **50%** off all stock so don't forget to spend up big!

Eileen vs the Kitchen Table

For those who didn't know, a few weeks ago there was a brief but furious battle between Eileen and the glass-topped table in the office (the table came off worse). We're happy to report that although she received some war wounds Eileen had a very speedy recovery and was back at work within days (and the table now has a new wooden top).

Now is probably a good time to remind everyone that we all need to be aware of our Workplace Health and Safety obligations. If you spot a hazard, please report it immediately. If you have any questions about a health and safety issue please contact Paul.

New Resources for Staff

The bookshop has recently added two new resources to help staff suggest authors or books for customers.

Who Else Writes Like?

You look up the author you like and the book lists authors who write in similar genres with similar styles.

Bloomsbury Good Writing Guide

A more detailed book with a short blurb and a 'what to read next' guide for many well known authors.

These books are on display at the front counter and while they're definitely not for sale, customers are welcome to browse through them.



Name Our Newsletter Competition Entry Form

What do you think our newsletter should be called?

Your details

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Competition closes Saturday, 9 June. Please place all entries into the envelope on the staff noticeboard.



Would you like to receive your newsletters by email?

If so, fill in your details and pop this coupon into the envelope on the staff noticeboard.

Name:

Email:



Let us know when your birthday is!

Fill in your details and pop this coupon into the envelope on the staff noticeboard.

Name:

Birthday (Month/Day):