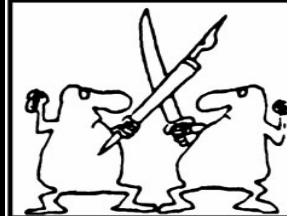


The Mighty Pen

Issue 5 September 2007



Social Calendar Brisbane Multicultural Festival

Brisbane's Multicultural Festival is on from **9am-7pm Sunday 14 October** in Roma Street Parklands. Entry is free and it's an excellent day out, with more food, music and entertainment than you could poke that proverbial Australian stick at. There's also a free concert in the Parklands on Saturday night. For all the details, visit the festival website at:

www.multiculturalfestival.qld.gov.au

Sep Birthdays

Did we miss yours? Fill out the form over the page and drop it into the envelope on the Staff Noticeboard.



Quote of the Month

"We are here on Earth to fart around. Don't let anybody tell you any different"

Kurt Vonnegut
11/11/1922—11/4/2007

Who are the Committee?

President—Kathy Munro
Acting treasurer—Anna Vincent
Secretary—Naomi Frampton

Members—Paul Hodges, Catherine Rafferty, Nancy Joe.



We survived to make it to: Edition Five

Hemingway's tank may have got a little green, and the back office a little untidy, but all-in-all we made it through Paul and Adrian's holidays. Many thanks to everyone (Adrian included) who put in extra time during September.

Long suffering Saturday volunteers!

Saturday trading depends on our Saturday volunteers, so we'd like to know if you have any thoughts on extended trading and/or how we can make Saturday shifts easier for you. You'll receive an email from Paul soon with more details about the new extended hours. Please respond with your thoughts... majority rules!

Weekend Trading—yet another update!

In total, the bookshop ran seven trial weekends of full extended trading (Saturday afternoon trading is still on, but Sunday trading is well and truly over). The aim of the trading was to increase our sales, and in total the extended hours brought in around \$1200. This was split evenly between Saturday afternoon (2.30—5.00) and Sunday.

The committee discussed the extended trading at the last meeting and concluded three points: the extra income is really helpful; we don't have quite enough volunteers to support both Saturday and Sunday trading; and that it seems silly to open all Sunday (5 hours) when the extra Saturday time (2.5 hours) earns us an equal amount of money. So, Saturday trading will continue for another month, as a slightly-more-permanent-than-before-but-still-something-of-a-trial. (You'll know it's permanent when we get around to changing the hours on the Open/Close door sign!)

Committee Capers

For the inside goss on what really goes on in committee meetings (it's mainly eating) you can chat to Damian, who attended our September 25th meeting. Volunteers are always welcome along if you've got something to discuss, are curious about the committee or just want to spend time with the coolest people in town.

Stocktake Have you noticed there are some entries in Readerware with 'A?' instead of 'A' or 'S' in the status column? They're the result of Anna's stocktake. She started at A in general fiction and has so far made it to... J. Books with a question mark are ones that are marked Available in Readerware, but aren't on the shelf. Everyone's welcome to help, Anna will leave some instructions on what she's done so far with Paul.

Christmas Party (and AGM) We know we promised a date last newsletter, but it still isn't quite finalised. We've narrowed the date down to the second week of December, and we will confirm it by the next meeting.

GMBF Grant Application Earlier this year we applied for a GMBF grant to upgrade the premises by installing air conditioning (it gets quite warm in the shop in summer, had you noticed?). This is still in a very early stage so even if successful, it may take another summer to install. Thanks to Cath Rafferty for all her work in compiling the application.

Internet filter: Our current internet filter is a bit overzealous in blocking content, so this month we're going to try to find another, less enthusiastic, filter to replace it. We're really only trying to block spyware, viruses and porn from our computers, so if you know of any great net filters let Paul know. Thanks to Damian for raising this issue.

Thanks: The committee wants to thank everyone for their extra efforts during Adrian and Paul's holidays.

Next committee meeting: Wednesday October 24th.

Love these ideas? Hate them? Have better ones? Talk to Paul, Nancy or Anna if there's anything you'd like to discuss at committee meetings.

Newsletter contributions & feedback

Articles written and compiled by: Anna "Sake-it-to-me" Vincent, Nancy "Real-job" Joe. Edited by: Paul "The Bush Tucker Man" Hodges. Layout by: Jeanette Shepherd, via Africa. If you would like to contribute, please speak to one of us, or email us at ancombo@tpg.com.au. We welcome all feedback and suggestions and article submissions!



Tip of the Month

When you're entering books manually into Readerware, make sure you enter the author's name as *Surname, First name* in the author field. This puts the books in Readerware in the same order they are on the shelf—alphabetical by surname (and it sure makes stock-taking a lot easier!)

Help Wanted:

Customer mailing list

Do you have half an hour to spare each week? Of course you do! We'd like to set up a weekly customer mailing list, that sends a short email out to customers with that week's half-price section, and any other hot happenings around the bookshop. Chat to Paul or Anna if this tickles your fancy.

Reminders

- Green and organic, read us at www.annerleybookshop.com.au/volunteers.htm.

- **Jeanette's** African excitement (and extraordinary photography) are at <http://www.getjealous.com/tangerinejelly>, and **Kathy's** travel musings are at <http://sibylsscribbles.blogspot.com/>

- Look out for the bright yellow signs at the front counter. They're there to remind everyone what's on sale each week.

Bookshop News

Volunteer vacations

They're back: **Paul** has returned from his extremely enjoyable two weeks in south Western Australia. He's discovered a previously unknown love of the great outdoors—Paul didn't realize you could *smoke* in the outback! **Adrian** has finished his cinematic survey of Hong Kong and returned with quite a special find. Special kudos to Adrian for landing in Brisbane on Wednesday and being back in the bookshop, hard at work, on Thursday (we told you he was dedicated).

They're off: Paul and Adrian may have returned to the fold, but **Kathy** and **Jeanette** are still at large and your intrepid co-editor is about to join them—**Anna** will be sushi- and sake-ing with the best of them in Tokyo from Oct 11 till Nov 4. She promises to bring back a bottle or two of Pocari Sweat, Japan's best selling sports soft drink, for the person who finishes the stock-take in her absence. (Any takers? Anyone?)

Volunteer Survey—Last Call!

Do you do it for the money? The fame? The half price books?! The Yeronga TAFE students would like to know what makes you feel appreciated as a bookshop volunteer. You can find a copy of their "Volunteer Recognition Survey" at the front counter. Once you've filled it out, pop it in the box on Paul's desk. The survey box will be collected shortly so get in soon!

"In the news" table

This is an idea that we have shamelessly plagiarised from multiple booksellers all over town (hey, it obviously works!). We thought it'd be great to have a display or displays of "In the news" books. They could be novels or authors currently being reviewed, novels that have recently been made into movies, titles that have been mentioned in newspapers, radio, TV etc. We want it to interest customers and elicit the "oh, Peter Carey, I read about him last week" response.

Man-Booker Prize display

We've kicked off our "In the news" table with a Man-Booker Prize display. The Man-Booker is a big British literary award for fiction. It's open to all writers from British Commonwealth countries and Australian authors are usually well represented; Petey Carey has won twice. The display will be up for a week or two. Feel free to add to it if you find other Man-Booker winners, winning authors or short-listed titles hiding on the shelves. We might even try to get a better display stand sometime soon... so stay tuned.

All August, all books, Buy-3-Get-1-Free!

Our sale has been Ekkstended! If a customer buys four books they receive the cheapest book for free.

We need your help! Have you got any ideas about how we can increase our bookshop sales? How to attract more customers? What we can do to promote ourselves better? If you have an answer let us know! Here's how:

- Fill out a piece of paper with your suggestions and place it in the red Suggestions Mailbox at the front counter
- Speak to Paul, Nancy, Anna or another committee member about your idea
- Send an email to ancombo@tpg.com.au or leave a note in the Communications Book

✂

Sign up here to help us reduce paper waste!
 Fill in your details and pop this coupon into the envelope on the staff noticeboard to get your newsletter emailed to you.

Name: _____

Email: _____

✂

Happy birthday to you! Don't be shy, fill in this coupon and place in the envelope on the staff noticeboard.

Name: _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____