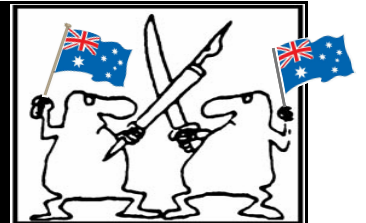


The Mighty Pen

Vol 7 February 2008



Social Calendar

The bookshop will soon have its very own **book club!** If you're interested then let Kathy Munro know via email at ancombo@tpg.com.au.



Celebrate the Year of the Rat!

Chinese New Year celebrations run from Wednesday February 6th to Tuesday 12th in **Chinatown Mall**, Fortitude Valley. Or, head to the **Southbank Parklands** on February 9th, from 8am for the Dragon Boat Regatta.

Mu'ooz Eritrean Restaurant

Shop 21, 197-201 Beaudesert Road Moorooka is a new restaurant run by local African women. The food's delicious and the staff are wonderfully friendly.

Quote of the Month

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.

- Jorge Luis Borges



Who are the Committee?

President—Naomi Frampton
Secretary—Cath Rafferty
Treasurer—Anna

Vincent
Members—Paul Hodges,
Kathy Munro, Nancy Joe.

Welcome to 2008

The last ham has been scraped off the bone, the fruitcake's all gone (thankfully!) and every last shred of tinsel has been vacuumed off the floor... The Christmas holiday is well and truly over, even if the delightful weather is continuing! Welcome back to all our returning volunteers and a special hello to all the new faces at the Bookshop.

New volunteers

To those who took our advice and badgered, pestered or otherwise bullied their loved ones into becoming volunteers, your Bookshop thanks you. We've had an incredible response and there are a number of new volunteers who have started during January and even more to start during February. (To those who didn't harass their family members, well, there's no thanks from us. On the upside, you'll probably be invited back to this year's family Christmas dinner.)

Your Bookshop's future

The Bookshop has settled into its beautiful new premises and we've seen a slow but steady increase in customers over the last year; book donations are excellent and our volunteer family is large and, like most families, at least occasionally functional. Now is a great time for us to consider what comes next.

The committee has been mulling over this question for a couple of months, and the first outcome was the update to our constitution late last year. This year we've initiated a new project where we will supply books to prison libraries. But as special as committee members like to think they are, the Bookshop really belongs to you, its volunteers.

The committee want to know what you think the Bookshop should do over the next one to five years. Should we concentrate on our volunteers, offering job-training opportunities? Focus more on supplying books to the underprivileged, here and/or overseas? Organise the second Great Train Robbery and retire en masse to the Bahamas? Talk to fellow volunteers, chat to Paul or a committee member and let us know what you'd like to see happen with your Bookshop.

Volunteer Vignettes: Eileen Cooke (thanks!)

CRAZY CATEGORIES

Can you match the traumatized person to the shelving error?

This month 3 people were seen running screaming from the bookshop. They were:

1. A retired English teacher
2. A middle-aged, male movie fan
3. A compulsive-obsessive volunteer

What upset them?

- a. Catherine Cookson in Classics
- b. *The Prostate* in Movies
- c. *My Gorgeous Life* by Edna Everage in Biographies

WHO'S AN AUSTRALIAN NOVELIST?

Peter Corris	Neville Shute
Jon Cleary	Thomas Hardy
Bryce Courtney	Patrick White
Ion Idriess	Kevin Rudd
Tom Keneally	Ruth Park
Tom Clancy	Rodney Hall
Edna Everage	Christopher Koch
Colin Thiele	

Stay tuned for answers in the March edition!

Newsletter contributions & feedback

We love volunteer contributions! Talk to us or email (ancombo@tpg.com.au) your feedback, suggestions or article submissions. Vol 7 articles written and compiled by: Anna Vincent, Nancy Joe. Edited by: Paul Hodges. Layout by: Jeanette Shepherd. And yes, for those of you with sharp eyes, the flags are a belated reference to Australia Day. Ozzie ozzie ozzie!

How to price a book in 8 easy steps.

1. Wet, mouldy or smelly books can go straight in the bin. If the book has a spider pressed to death between the pages, laugh vengefully and then throw it out.

2. Books in **very poor, but still saleable condition**, can be marked at **50c** and retired to the 50c basket at the front of the shop.

3. **Cheap paperbacks** that are either romance novels or adventure fiction (secret agents, cowboys and Indians, etc) are **\$2** and live in the two large, mobile shelving units marked Romance and Adventure Fiction.

5. Standard **paperbacks** in good condition and older hardcovers get a red dot (**\$5**).

6. **Hardcovers** and **B-formats** (those big paperbacks) get a blue sticker (**\$8**).

7. For **\$12** and up, use your imagination! If it's brand new or in **excellent condition**, or by a famous author, mark it at \$12 or \$16. You can price coffee table and art books at \$20 or even \$24.

8. Scruffy, stained, old musty books printed before 1970 are either worth nothing or thousands of dollars. If it's old, antique or unusual, check its worth on **ABE-Books** or place it in the 'Books to be checked on ABE' basket behind the counter.

Committee Capers

Tuesday 22nd January

The first committee meeting for 2008 boasted a shiny new President: Naomi. Also in attendance were the new Treasurer Anna, Paul, Nancy, Kathy and Damian Perrin. We keenly felt the absence of new Secretary Cath, who, rumour has it, turned us down for an event that had air-conditioning. We soldiered on through the very warm night however, to bring you this month's batch of fresh new ideas...

Purchase of remaindered stock: The Bookshop is considering buying small volumes of new books for sale at Christmas time. It would be great if you could keep your eyes and ears open for book sellers who sell small quantities of new stock..

New volunteers: Coming in the door, via the window and (we think) through the roof, there have been lots of new volunteers starting or expressing interest since we re-opened in January. The committee welcomes you all.

Saturday trading: We've drawn up a roster for the next three months for our Saturday volunteers. If you haven't received your copy of the roster yet, email Naomi at ancombo@tpg.com.au.

Student partnerships: The Bookshop will be working with students from Yeronga TAFE again this year. Everyone involved had a great time last year, and we're looking forward to another fun collaboration (and possibly more chocolates!).

Corrective services (aka the prison library project): On a recent tour of Brisbane's prisons (she tells us it was for work), avid reader and ex-President Kathy was distressed by how bare the prison library shelves were. A polite letter to Corrective Services, a positive reply and the prison library project was born. Details have yet to be finalised, but we've already started taking appropriate books from our (bulging) shelves, and with luck the first delivery will very soon!

Book club: Kathy's making the most of her new-found spare time, and she's decided to start a monthly book club in the shop. If you're interested, send Kathy an email via ancombo@tpg.com.au.

University discount cards: We love to share the love at the Bookshop. That's why we've approached Queensland Uni and QUT about joining their student discount programs. There'll be more details in the next newsletter (due out Feb 22nd, but will mostly likely materialise in March) but basically students will receive a discount on books if they present their University Discount Card.

Orange is so eighties: The death knell has rung for the orange sticker. From now on, any book that is worth \$2 or less will have the price written in pencil inside the front cover. These books do not get entered into Readerware. All our other stock (starting with the \$5 books) will get a sticker and a Readerware entry. Keep your eyes peeled for updated price guides in the shop.

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.

I want my Bookshop to be ...

We're looking to the future. What would you like to see happen at the Bookshop? Different volunteering opportunities? More involvement with disadvantaged community members? An espresso machine? A move to a more commercial attitude, in order to make larger profits to reinvest in the community? Talk to us, email us or drop a note (anonymous if you'd like) into the suggestion box at the front counter.

✂ 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 it in the envelope on the staff noticeboard. Name: Birthday (Month/Day):
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