

# AN EVENING WITH ROBIN KLEIN

It was a refreshing perspective on both her books and on the art of writing that Robin Klein presented to about one hundred people gathered in the gallery at the NSW State Library, on March 22.

Robin Klein is widely recognised as a writer for young people. Her works include the text of picture books such as *The Giraffe of Pepperello Street* and more recently *Brock and the dragon*, and range through to *People might hear you*, a novel for adolescents. Two of her books, *Hating Alison Ashley* and *Penny Polard's letters* are on the short list for the 1985 Children's Book Council Awards. Last year three of her books were short-listed for the awards. Her first detective science fiction, *Halfway across the galaxy and turn left* has just been published. She has recently been awarded a fellowship from the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

Robin Klein's writing captures the child's magic of seeing things for the first time. Writers watch and analyse. Part of that process for Robin is jotting down, in an ideas book, images and phrases — a conversation overheard in a train or in a restaurant, an unusual figure

seen in the street, a strange story in the newspaper — elements of which may reappear later in a character, a plot, or an incident in one of her stories.

Robin sees the art of writing as a life-long apprenticeship. Encouraging to would-be writers, young and old, are the drafts, the re-thinking, the writing and the re-writing, a process sometimes lasting over several years. Never entirely happy with what she has written, Robin is, still, sometimes surprised that children actually like her books.

The most delightful thing Robin finds about writing for children is the letters she receives from them. Their appreciation helps keep her in touch with children and their special way of looking at things. Not entirely without harsh critics, however, Robin, from time to time receives scolding letters from young readers who perhaps did not like an ending or a particularly obnoxious character.

The function was organised jointly by the School Libraries Section and the Children's Library Section (NSW Groups). The enormous response to the evening by teacher-librarians, children's librarians, parent and teachers is indicative of the ever-growing importance of, and interest in, books for young readers and Australian writers of that genre.

M. J. Stannus

## INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE SEARCHING SMALL GROUP SEMINARS

- Systems Overview
- Communication, Equipment
- Budgeting and Management
- Marketing the Service
- Question & Answer Session
- Subject orientation for Interest Groups

Presenters:  
**KATIE BLAKE**  
**TINA REEDMAN**

August 20 — 5.30-8.30 pm  
August 22 — 9.30-12.30 am

\$75

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## PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

## BOOKS AND COMPUTERS

### Getting Books to People

**26-28 August, 1985**

**University of Melbourne**

**Sponsored by the Australian Book Trade Committee**

### PLENARY SESSIONS

#### Books and Computers: State of the Art in Australia

Booksellers: Leonard Woodley, Managing Director, Standard Book.  
Publishers: Peter Dart, EDP Manager, Penguin Books Australia Limited.  
Libraries: Glenn Sanders, Sanders Information Services.

#### Data Bases for the Book Trade In Australia

Australian Bibliographic Network: Judith Baskin, Director, Networks Branch, National Library Of Australia.  
Booknet: Leigh Baker, ACI Computer Services.  
Idaps: Jan Gatenby, Library Systems Manager, Idaps Australia Ltd.  
D.W. Thorpe: Michael Webster, Managing Director, D.W. Thorpe Pty Ltd.

#### Computers, Libraries and the Book Trade: Trends in Europe

Sally Whitaker, Managing Director, J. Whitaker and Son Ltd.

#### Computers, Libraries and the Book Trade: Trends in North America

Sandra Paul, President, S.K.P. Associates

#### Books and Computers: Summing up and future directions in Australia

Publishers: David Cunningham, Regional Manager, Oxford University Press.  
Libraries: Denis Richardson, University Librarian, University of Melbourne.  
Booksellers: Jean Ferguson, Senior Vice-President, Australian Booksellers Association.

### WORKSHOP TOPICS

#### Topic

Teleordering

#### Leader

Sally Whitaker, Managing Director, J. Whitaker & Son Ltd.  
Sandra K. Paul, President, S.K.P. Associates.

ABN and the Book Trade

Kerry Webb, ADP Systems Branch, National Library of Australia.

Computers and Indexing

Sue Harvey, Australian Society of Indexers.

Turnkey Library Acquisitions Systems:

Adlib  
CLSI  
Datapoint  
Idaps  
Lothlorien  
URICA

Jane Kandiah, Technical Services Librarian, Deakin University.

Standards for the exchange of machine readable orders data.

Sandra K. Paul, President, S.K.P. Associates.

The Baker and Taylor data base and its relevance to electronic ordering systems.

Joe Mauch, Sales Representative, Australia/New Zealand, Baker and Taylor.

Idaps and databases for libraries and the book trade.

Jan Gatenby, Library Systems Manager, Idaps Australia Ltd.

Booknet

Leigh Baker, ACI Computer Services.

Automated handling of books and related information within Blackwells, and links with publishers and purchasers.

Richard Anderson, Director, Australia/New Zealand Library Services, Blackwells.

Bibliofile: the computer system for booksellers.

Phil Lancaster, Managing Director, Mentat Computer Systems.

Business applications of computers in publishing.

Peter Dart, EDP Manager, Penguin Books Australia Ltd.

Retail bookseller: the independent bookseller's solution.

Graham Greenhow, Computer Mart.

Editorial applications of computers in publishing.

David Miller, Night Owl Publishers.

Duet: Bookshop Management System.

Max Hungar, Thorn-EMI Technology.

Implementation, staff training and ongoing support for automated systems.

Jan Gatenby, Library systems Manager, Idaps Australia Ltd.

Do it yourself bookshop system using DBase II.

Phil Boas.

Books: total bookshop management system.

John Grant, General Manager, Data #3 Business Systems.

Problem solving with computers in publishing.

### EXHIBITORS AND SITE VISITS

Systems which will be exhibited at the computer trade display include ABN, Bibliofile, Duet, Retail Bookseller and Books.

Site visits to view operating systems are available to La Trobe University (Bookshop and Library), Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne, D.A. Book (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., Penguin Books Australia Ltd. and Action Books.

### REGISTRATION

For registration forms, contact Jennie Marriott, Sue Wood and Associates Pty. Ltd., 122 Neville Street, Middle Park. 3206. (03) 690 3911.

### PROGRAMME ENQUIRIES

For more information on the programme, contact Bill Cations, Institute Librarian, Phillip Institute of Technology, Alva Grove, Coburg. 3058. (03) 350 4222 Ext: 334.