

THE SOURCE

Careful, he might hear you

Every country needs its linguistic vigilantes. Australia has Alex Buzo. It is to Buzo that we are indebted for exposing many Australian tautologists, many manufacturers of the mixed metaphor and other linguistic marauders: apostrophe misplacers, participle danglers, malapropists and jargon junkies. All of these figure in one way or another in *Glancing Blows*, which was published earlier this year by Penguin.

Buzo includes many outstanding contributions to our colourful language by Rex Mossop, sporting commentator and tautologist extraordinaire:

'And he's got the *status quo* back where it was.'

'Someone has bodily manhandled Les Boyd.'

'Difficult situation for a French referee to be in in this game because he's not an Englishman in terms of language; he talks his own home country language and can't converse with the players.'

'If Newtown get the bone between their teeth, then Parramatta will be bridesmaids again.'

Of course everyone has said or written something ridiculous at one time or another, but not all of us have been fortunate enough to be immortalised by Buzo. George Negus was, when he uttered: 'The authorities are bending over backwards to keep a low profile.' Malcolm Fraser was, when he said: 'It's very hard to talk about the average Australian because most people are either above

the average or below it.' Norman May was, when he confessed: 'It looks light enough to me, but I'm looking through my dark sunglasses.' Doug Walters was too, when he opined: 'Dennis Lillee will be missed by whatever team he's not playing in.'

But this collection of bite-size chunks of Buzo is not just about the mauling of our tongue. He has a witty and pithy, apposite if not always polite observation to make about subjects as diverse as cricket and politics, growing up in Cremorne ('Peninsula of Gentility'), whinging, comp tennis, Adelaide, Townsville (with its fete's, rodeo's and show's), and his home town, Sydney.

I wouldn't go so far as to describe this new Buzo as 'a gallimaufrey of unalloyed delight'. Even without my sunglasses, the print was a mite too black, the book is probably worth more than the cheap paper it is printed on, and it really should be indexed. But it is very funny — readers will smile, chuckle, snigger, giggle and guffaw their way through this potpourri of rambunctious writing and robust reporting. I'd say it'll be a 'crowd-pleaser to a lot of people', and that's not an 'old hackneyed chestnut' — 'it stands out like a black crow in a bucket of milk.'

Alexander Buzo's *Glancing blows: life and language in Australia* is published by Penguin Books Australia and costs \$7.95 (ISBN 0 14 009725 2).

New gems from the *Guardian*

In the sixties the *Guardian* was celebrated for its often hilarious typos. The *Guradian* (sic) contained reports on the Kinks Own Border Regiment, wrote of planes straging rebels with rickets, and was exposed mercilessly and rather inconsequentially in *Private eye*.

The *Guardian* survived and flourishes yet, and has recently applied some of its inventiveness to a book of 'new words' which popped up in various Anglophone publications in the 1986 lexicographical year ('a year artificially contrived to permit a lexicographical work to feature in the Christmas market'). Editor Simon Mort has selected about a thousand newly-coined or rediscovered buzz words, providing a deadpan definition, a complete context and a less formal (and sometimes witty) commentary.

Scanning this book, the future student of historical curiosities will scratch his, her or its antennae in some perplexity, and wonder just what kind of society existed in 1986. Life must have been laced with razor wire, riddled with Ramboism, potatograms, necklacing, logic bombs and their near relation, the computer virus, superthugs and superyobs, custody suites (ie police cells), yuppiegate, autocrime (car stealing), ethnic weapons, zombie food and muesli belt malnutrition.

But all was not gloomy in AL 1986. For British foodies, the year brought Sharon fruit (a large tomato-like persimmon), Lanark Blue (a new Scottish cheese), the Tientsin pear (a pear from, surprise surprise, Tientsin) and the carambola (a greenish-yellowish tropical fruit). For Second Empire clock fanciers it brought the J-curve, power breakfasts (an early business lunch), the co-responsibility levy (a tax on cereal farmers) and spendaholics. And to Royal Persons it brought whakapohane ('exhibiting one's naked buttocks as a Maori insult or gesture of protest', or, in the words of *Private eye*, a 'bum scare').

But I'll let you rub shoulders with the sloperati, and examine the Eurofeebleness and Eurowimpery for yourself. *Longman Guardian new words* is eminently browsable, and good clean and relatively cheap fun. To prove there's life in the Old Dart yet, I'll leave you with an example of redbrick (putatively Newcastle, England) university ingenuity and promise:

'*desmond* noun, British slang a lower second-class university or polytechnic degree. This is a pun on the name of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (2:2)'

And I thought it was something shonky from Minder. Really! *Longman Guardian new words*, edited by Simon Mort, was published in 1986 by Longman. It costs £4.95 (ISBN 0 582 89327 5)

Close encounters of the bibliographic kind

Ghost lights, the hollow earth theory, ancient aircraft, long-haired men from Venus tramping round the Californian desert — Erich von Daniken is in good, and numerous, company. Over 15,000 references to unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrial contacts are identified and introduced in a mammoth work by George M. Eberhart.

The 1300-page, two volume bibliography which materialised in my in-tray is surely the last word on the subject. It delves into the most obscure monographs and the most recherche of periodicals, is easy to find one's way around, and is thoroughly indexed. It is international in coverage, from the Wessex Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomena (WATSUP) to ANZAAS. Even if you don't take the subject seriously, this bibliography is not to be trifled with.

George M. Eberhart's *UFOs and the extraterrestrial contact movement: a bibliography* was published in two volumes in 1986 by Scarecrow. You'll need some gold from the gods to buy it — it costs around US\$100 (ISBN 0 8108 1919 8)

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Say it again, Sam

For people who are positively discriminating or just mere pompous ratbags, the LAA:50 Conference issue of *ALJ* will include Carmen Hanneker's paper. Most other papers will be reproduced. Available in December. For non-subscribers \$15. Send cheques to LAA, Jones Street, Ultimo 2007.

Never mind the colour feel the breadth

A little glossary of library terms which is not only suitable to put on a student reading list but also cheap enough for the impecunious is a not half bad idea. That was what Jennifer Ann Browne had in mind when in 1983 she published the first edition of her *A handbook for librarians*. I used it quite a bit, partly for inspiration and partly as an aide-memoire when I was working on my *Glossary*. Jennifer in turn has probably found the Glossary useful in the compilation of the second edition of her Handbook. Goodness knows how long this symbiosis will continue.

The 1987 second edition of *A handbook for librarians* is a sixth larger than the first, and has been extensively but not always fully revised. The entry for CSIRO, for example, has Australian science index alive and well, whereas it is pronounced dead in its own entry. And there is the occasional vital term which doesn't appear, like Minerva, or a 'see' reference for the Horton Report under its official title, or 'endpaper' ('flyleaf' is there, after all — a student of mine once referred to this as a 'flypaper', presumably when stuck for an answer).

In general, however, this useful 70-page work is thorough and reliable, with a broad range of library 'terms, titles and names' from Australia and abroad. The first edition was printed in a tasteful blue. This one is in red, so help me. The last book I saw printed in red was a work of Michel Butor lying on a table in a remainder shop.

Jennifer Ann Browne's little red handbook for librarians, second edition, 1987, is available from the author at 4 Kirkby Street, North Beach, WA 6020 at \$8.50 plus \$1.30 postage (ISBN 1 86252 706 7).

To buy or not to buy

Choosing reference works sight unseen is a tricky business, but there are of course many tools which can help you separate the chaff from the bran. Over the past 17 years *American reference books annual* has provided substantial reviews by distinguished librarians of all kinds of ref books. ARBA has now drawn from this substantial database to produce a guide to subject encyclopedias and dictionaries.

The *ARBA guide to subject encyclopedias and dictionaries*, edited by the redoubtable Bohdan S. Wynar, contains reviews of a 'representative selection' of works useful in libraries of all types. ARBA entries have been updated and amended as necessary, and some new reviews were written especially for this edition. The entries are arranged in 43 chapters, from agricultural sciences to zoology, with full author/title and subject indexes, as we have come to expect from Libraries Unlimited. General encyclopaedias and dictionaries are excluded, as are a number of other categories of material (clearly stated in the introduction).

The reviews are of a very high standard, and you certainly get the measure of the work being discussed. Picking upon a subject close to home, I did wonder why the passing reference to the third edition of the *Australian encyclopaedia* hadn't been updated to embrace the fourth edition, published here in 1983. I pondered the absence of dictionaries of quotations, and of any mention of the *Australian dictionary of biography*, until I remembered that there is a companion ARBA work on biographical dictionaries. Perhaps others are on the way.

In the meantime *ARBA guide to subject*

encyclopedias and dictionaries, published in 1986 by Libraries Unlimited, is well-produced and is a useful enough tool for the generously-endowed library. Others can get by with individual issues of *ARBA* (if they already subscribe), standard guides to reference books, subject bibliographies or indexes to book reviews, and spend their US\$75 on something else (ISBN 0 87287 493 1).

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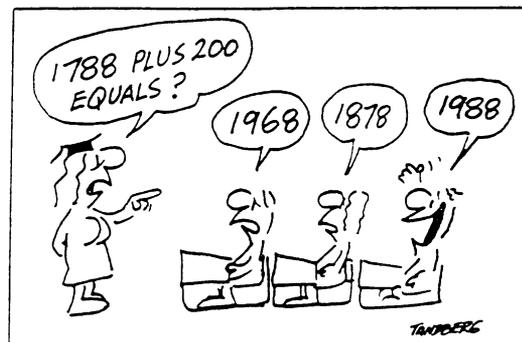
Carry on nursing

For what I think is the first time, aspiring nurses can find out basic information about courses available to them in all states in one volume. Julie Flood and Vivien Hobson's *Nursing Australia* describes college and hospital-based courses in all of nursing's specialties, outlines entrance requirements, student facilities and contact name, addresses and phone numbers.

The compilers also throw light on terminology such as 'post-basic' and 'post-registration' which, as you might expect, varies from state to state. Nursing organisations, ranging from trade unions to lobby groups, are also listed, as well as scholarships, prizes and other forms of financial assistance. For nurses with itchy feet there is an informative section on nursing abroad.

Nursing Australia: a guide for the student, the registered nurse, the nurse from abroad: 1987-1988 was published earlier this year by Information Australia, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, Vic 3000. It costs \$45.50 post-free (ISSN 0819-4955).

Bracing up for the Bicentenary cont'd



Tundberg cartoon courtesy of ABA

So much for the Bicentenary for now. As this is *InCite's* last issue for 1987 I would like to say how pleased I have been to receive so much positive feedback throughout the year. Members are fortunate to receive a publication this size fortnightly. Producing a 16 or 20-page *InCite* in the same time it took to produce an eight-page issue is no mean feat, so some praise goes a long way to make up for the stress and long hours involved.

Special issues this year have covered Heritage Week, Children's Book Week and the

Signing on at school

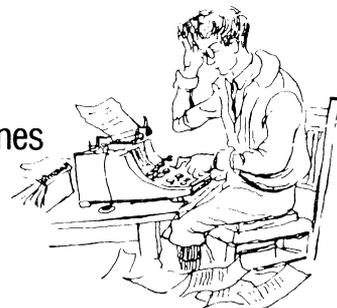
The OLISS sub-committee came into being in 1985, and its stimulating report has now been published by the Western Australian CAE. OLISS stands for Online Information Services for Schools, and was a sub-committee of the School Libraries Section (WA Group) of the LAA. The Group investigated online services including housekeeping-type systems, recreational and general information sources and other services providing information relevant to the curriculum.

The report is a lucid exposition of the basics of online information services and how they can be exploited in the school environment. It includes brief notes on selected vendors, describes the role of the teacher-librarian in relation to information technology and suggests a number of practical ways in which online sources can be applied. A useful bibliography is also provided.

Online information services for schools: implications for school libraries is published by the School Libraries Section (WA Group) of the LAA and is available from PO Box 259, Claremont, WA 6010 for \$7 (ISBN 0 7298 0050 4).

• Jane Boyd and Don Etherington tell you how to preserve your words for future generations in a useful little work from the American Library Association. *Preparation of archival copies of theses and dissertations* tells you how to present your thesis, what paper to use, how to bind it and how to deal with tricky things like oversized charts or computer printouts. The booklet, itself printed on 'Warren's 1854' — which is a pH-neutral stock, not a vintage port — was published by ALA in 1986 and is priced at US\$3.95. My review copy was supplied by Bennetts Library Services. (ISBN 0 8389 0449 1)

by David J. Jones



LAA:50 Conference. The SOLV campaign early in the year, and continuing throughout, stirred interest and controversy. Regular features from David Jones, Karl Schmude and LAA Conservator, Helen Price, added to *InCite's* interest. Thanks go to all members who contributed reports and letters. Special thanks go to Tanya Vojsk who provides enthusiastic back-up, as well as co-ordinating advertising and Happenings, to Gordon Bain our all-hours layout person and cartoonist, and to John Dessanti from Craft Printing, a true 'crafts' man who takes pride in his work and for whom nothing is too difficult!

So if business was brisk this year, wait for 1988. The Biennial and IFLA are gathering momentum. I look forward to working closely with committees and members to bring you the news 'as it comes to hand' in this important year. *InCite* will be off and running from 19 January, but if you can't wait till then all correspondence should go c/ Hotel Everest, Kathmandu. Best wishes for the holiday season.

Kathy Husselbee