

THE SOURCE

More than pass muster

1987 was a productive year for the Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record, as 'non-profit, independent research unit established to co-ordinate and compile biographical and genealogical details about Australians'. Volume 2 of *Australian biographical and genealogical record*, Series 2, appeared, containing detailed biographies of many hundreds of Australians who flourished between 1842 and 1899.

The entries, edited by ABGR as necessary, have been submitted and sponsored by individuals, and many include a photograph of the biography. A wide cross-section of characters is represented: joiners, clergymen, postal clerks, seamstresses, gardeners, shearers, bootmakers and so on. This is an excellent way of recording information from

scattered and not readily accessible sources.

Australian biographical and genealogical record, Series 2, 1842- 1899, volume 2, edited by Kenneth J. Cable and Jane C. Marchant, was published by ABGR in association with the Society of Australian Genealogists in 1987. It costs \$29.50 hardback (ISBN 0 949032 02 6) and \$19.50 limp.

Another strand of ABGR is the publication of source materials, and two major sources published in 1987 were *General Muster of New South Wales, 1814* and *General Musters of New South Wales, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land, 1811*.

The 1811 Muster is extremely valuable for genealogists because it contains conviction and transportation details, providing a link with the happy hunting ground of British records. Each volume has an excellent introduction, describing the historical background and discussing the significance of the records included. The thousands of hours of painstaking transcription and checking have produced a rich reward for the historian and genealogist. The appendixes are especially useful, listing such minutiae as variations between different versions of records and analyses of the frequency of given names (John and Mary were the commonest in 1811) and occupations (landholders represented 28 per cent of the recorded population in 1814).

General Muster of New South Wales, 1814 (ISBN 0 949032 03 4) and *General Musters of New South Wales, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land, 1811* (ISBN 0 949032 05 0), both edited by Carol J. Baxter, were published in 1987 by ABGR, PO Box 1788, North Sydney, NSW 2060. They cost \$33.00 each.

Off the beaten track

The never-never line by J. Y. Harvey is a thorough history of one of Australia's many interesting railway lines. Harvey traces the narrow gauge Darwin to Birdum line, known as the North Australia Railway, from the beginning of its construction (by Chinese coolies), through its 'Leaping Lena' days (its rail cars gave a very rough ride), its war-time role and its decline. The line closed in 1975 as an indirect casualty of Cyclone Tracy. Train buffs will appreciate the detailed appendixes, which list and describe rolling stock, loops and sidings and outline working practices.

The never-never line by J. Y. Harvey was published in 1987 by Hyland House and costs \$45.00. (ISBN 0 947062 20 3)

Gone, but not forgotten

Thousands of pioneers of Burra, South Australia, are recorded in a monster index just published by the Burra Community Library.

Covering obituaries published in the *Burra record* from 1876 to 1977 and the death records indexes held by the local council for the years 1848-1875, *Let's not forget* is a splendid example of a local genealogical aid. In the 1850s Burra was a major source of copper, and attracted labour from many other centres of mining (some of it from Cornwall, my home county). So this compilation, six years of voluntary work in the making, will be useful for those digging up mining ancestors as well as those known to have been in the area before and since the mining boom.

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Copies of *Let's not forget* are available for \$25.00 from Burra Community Library, 7 Bridge Terrace, Burra, SA 5417. (No ISBN on photocopy sighted)

In brief

Swimming and lifesaving: the manual is a splendidly-produced guide to all facets of water safety, as taught in the programs for which the Royal Life Saving Society — Australia is deservedly famous. Clear diagrams and photographs delve into strokes, rescue techniques, aquatic emergency care and explain the awards scheme, which in my household has a great following.

Swimming and lifesaving: the manual, second edition, was published by the Royal Life Saving Society in 1987. (ISBN 0 909689 04 0). A separate booklet, *Resuscitation and emergency care*, forms part of the *Manual* — it actually slides onto the back cover. (ISBN 0 909689 05 9). Copies of the *Manual* are available from State branches of the Royal Life Saving Society. Prices will vary slightly from State to State.

Grants for libraries by Emmett Corry, now in its second edition, outlines the range of funding sources, public and private, available for libraries of all kinds in the United States.

Much of the information is of course not hugely relevant here, but chapters such as 'Lobbying for library excellence' have a universal significance. Managers of institutions looking towards non-traditional sources of funding and other support could do worse than read the chapter headed 'The library development campaign' for some of the dos and don'ts.

Emmett Corry's *Grants for libraries* was published by Libraries Unlimited in 1986 and costs US\$35.00. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 87287 534 2)

- *Lonely Planet update* is a quarterly companion to the well-known series of travel guides from Lonely Planet publications, which are revised every two years. News and travel tips on all of the parts of the world covered by Lonely Planet and their loyal correspondents are crammed into *Lonely Planet update*. A year's subscription costs \$15. Individual issues are \$3.95. (ISBN 0 86442 027 7 for the first issue, numbered 24, published in November 1987).

International bibliography of art librarianship by Paula A. Baxter is an attempt to gather references to 'the most important writings about art librarianship up to 1985'. The many hundreds of briefly annotated entries are arranged under 34 subject categories, with an author index. Non English-language material is included.

International bibliography of art librarianship by Paula A. Baxter was published as FLA Publications no 37 by Saur in 1987. It costs DM40.00 (DM32.00 to IFLA members). ISBN 3 598 21767 6)

by David J. Jones



Read, write, and leave the arithmetic to us

'I never read books,' declares Mr Punch. 'I write them.'

Actually the LAA is looking for people who can do both. Librarianship and information science being what they are, you would be unwise to do the latter without having at least attempted the former.

Over the next few years the Association's lively publications program can only be sustained if you come up with the right manuscripts at the right time and offer them to Australia's premier library and information science publisher (that's us).

What are the 'right' manuscripts? Well, don't just look at the range of titles on our backlist for inspiration. We are interested in good manuscripts on any aspect of our profession, from textbooks for Australian students of librarianship to definitive directories and bibliographies, from research guides to handbooks of practice. Look for the gaps in the literature. Think how you could fill them.

If you have an idea for a book, try it out on friends and colleagues. Look at other books on the same subject. Would your book add significantly to the literature? Is it timely, or timeless? How would you define its scope? What is its intended audience? Do you have the determination to carry it through? Do you have the time? If you couldn't write it all yourself, is there someone who could write it with you? You'll think of many more tough questions to ask yourself, and now is the right time to do so — not the month before you are due to deliver your manuscript.

Having leapt your personal hurdles, you will then need to face, not the high jump, but the Publications Board proposal form. This far-from-forbidding document enables you to give the Board an outline of your book's purpose and content, and your ideas about its audience. We also ask you to tell us about yourself and any writing you have done, and a number of other questions to help us assess your proposal. If you have a sample of your manuscript, send it with your completed proposal form. Once a proposal is accepted, you will enter into a written contract with the Association, usually with a standard royalty clause. As a writer, you may gain fame, but alas not a great fortune. But there are other satisfactions and rewards.

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I'm glad you're still reading. Now start writing!

David J. Jones
Chairman, Publications Board

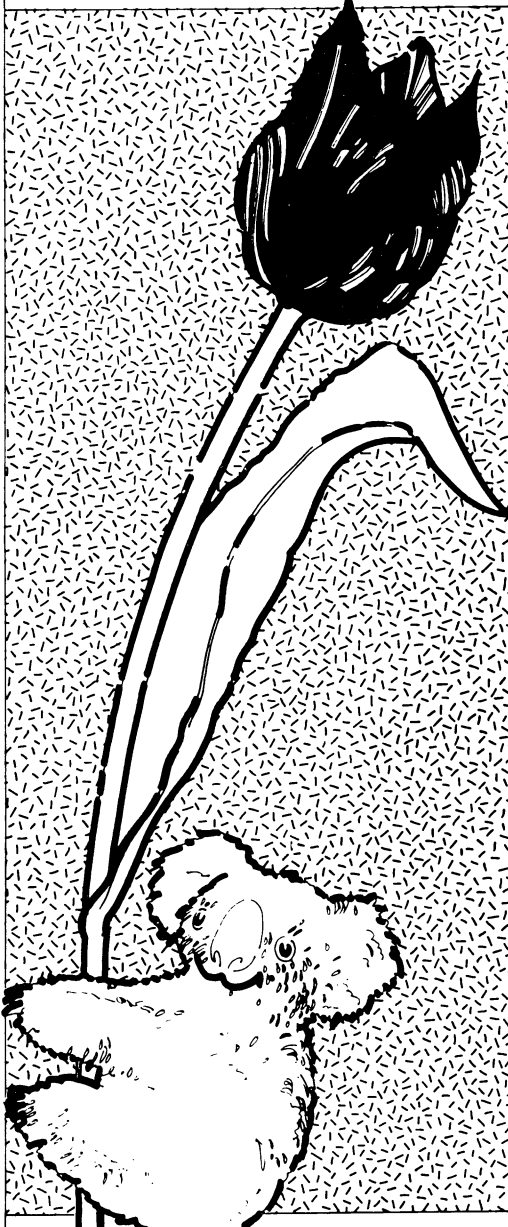
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Pick Of The Bunch



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