

Two great new reference books from Oxford

The *Oxford Illustrated Dictionary of Australian History* and a *Literary Guide to Australia*. The tag that we learnt at school, 'History's chaps and Geography's maps', clearly doesn't always apply. The *Dictionary* is full of explorers making maps, and the *Guide* is packed with writers and their characters.

Both are full of interest and enormously time-wasting—nobody can dip into them for a specific piece of information and leave

without following up a byway or two, or three... Dr Jan Bassett, who compiled the *Dictionary*, is an academic historian in the very best sense and a prolific author. Her latest book runs the gamut from the Aboriginal flag to Zeehan (in Western Tasmania, a link with Abel Tasman's ship, the *Zeehaen*), and includes so much in between that the mind boggles: people, places, institutions, ideas, movements, events, artefacts... the list goes on. As indispensable on the bedside ta-

ble as on the reference shelf. Buy it for yourself—it's too good to leave it just to the readers in your library.

Peter Pierce was General Editor for the *Literary Guide*, but the list of contributors runs to several pages. Entries include towns, townships, suburbs, rivers, mountains and broader geographical areas. These are places where writers drew their inspiration, lived, worked, married, died and were buried. They are also the settings, real or imaginary, for diaries, poems or novels. An indispensable companion on a journey, and also a source of literary trivia and not-so-trivia that may provide answers to puzzles that stump other reference works.

The Oxford Illustrated Dictionary of Australian History by Jan Bassett, OUP 1993, ISBN 0 19 553243 0, rrp \$49.95 (hardback). *The Oxford Literary Guide to Australia* ed Peter Pierce, OUP 1993, ISBN 0 19 553447 6, rrp \$29.95 (paperback)

OUP has linked these books with quizzes, with three copies of the book to give away (but how can you answer a question like 'where is life's total sum 'sleep, diversified with rum?' without the books already in your hand?) These quizzes will follow in our next issue. ■

Free guides from Butterworths

Legal Research Guide and subject key make research easy

Butterworths has just printed over 15 000 copies of its free pocket-sized *Legal Research Guide* for law students and legal professionals throughout Australia.

The 18-page booklet, containing a series of checklists and research guidelines, is a valuable aid to legal research for students and practitioners working outside their area of expertise. It also includes background information on key legal resources and helpful details on citing a reference. All major research areas are covered, from finding Australian cases and legislation to researching a legal problem.

The guide has been prepared in a user-friendly, question-and-answer format for easy reference.

Butterworths is also giving away its 1993 *AXS*, a 64-page key to all Butterworths' publications. *AXS* cross-references these publications to all areas of law by subject, and by state and federal legislation.

Copies of the *Legal Research Guide* and *AXS* are available free of charge to law students, legal practitioners and libraries from Butterworths branches or via phone on (02) 335 4444. Multiple copies are also available for distribution to law firms and libraries. ■

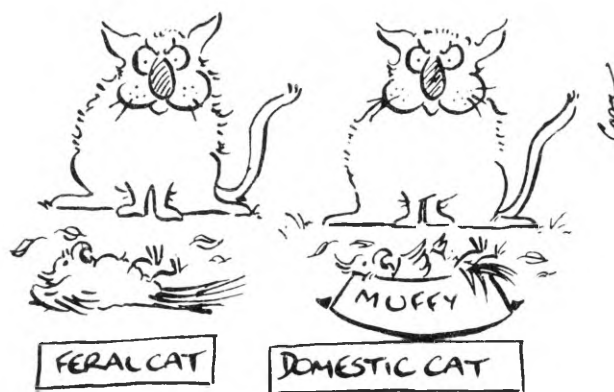
On the brink!

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS) has just brought out the second issue of the twice-yearly newsletter of its Endangered Species Program, called *On the Brink!*

The newsletter is charmingly illustrated with line drawings of animals and plants, and some hilarious cartoons by Patrick Cook. It includes articles on the use to be made of the Commonwealth's \$1.5 million funding for a feral pests program, and announces the availability of a *Feral Information Kit* (available by writing to the ANPWS Endangered Species Unit at GPO Box 636, Canberra ACT 2601) with brochures on feral animals, particularly foxes and cats.

There is also a threatened plants list, news of a national approach towards an agreed list of threatened Australian plants, and towards the conservation of endangered Australian species and ecological communities.

Recovery plans are described for the noisy scrub-bird, the northern hairy-nosed wombat and the bridled nail-tail wallaby. There are accounts of new projects, more recovery plans, the education and publicity activities and the National Threatened Species Network. As



well, there is information on new books and resources.

inCite has learnt that a few copies of this lively and informative publication are still available, with the possibility of getting your name onto the mailing list. Contact the ANPWS at the address above. ■