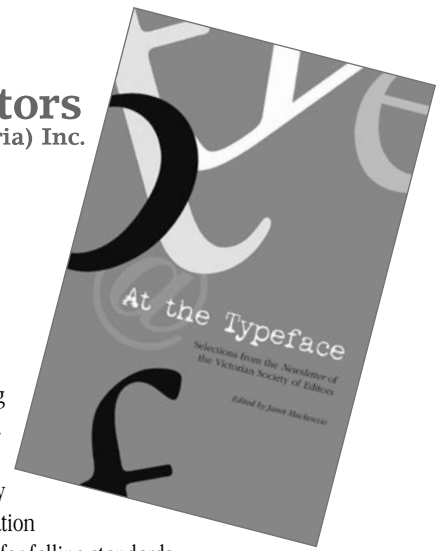


# At the Typeface

## Selections from the *Newsletter* of the Victorian Society of Editors

Edited by Janet Mackenzie



The Victorian Society of Editors has long been a meeting point for Melbourne's intellectual and cultural life, and its monthly *Newsletter* has provided a forum for discussing books and ideas, the publishing industry, and the role and status of editors in Australia. *At the Typeface* is a selection from thirty-five years of the *Newsletter* with contributions from a wide range of authors, editors and publishers.

This book opens a window on the world of publishing. Watch as editors encounter computers for the first time at a training workshop in 1979. Hear colleagues reminisce about famous bookmen such as Andrew Fabinyi, Frank Eyre and Stephen Murray-Smith. Get the inside story on publishing events such as *Evil Angels* and *Spycatcher*. Tom Shapcott explains the ways of the Literature Board, Judith Brett resigns on a matter of principle, Louise Adler defends multinational publishers, Dinny O'Hearn is given a sitting ovation, Judith Rodriguez fails to meet famous writers and Richard Walsh questions the myth of the good old

days. Here is Beatrice Davis receiving her honorary doctorate and Barbara Ramsden being persuaded to accept an MBE. Editors pursue the mummy longlegs and freelancers do the vacation creep. A typesetter blames feminism for falling standards; a printer pleads for timely information; a production manager confesses to a life of lies.

*At the Typeface* reveals editors' professional life, described with the wit and intelligence of people whose business is words. The anthology is not only an entertaining read but also an important addition to the historical records of Australian publishing.

Janet Mackenzie helped to found the Society of Editors in 1970 and is an honorary life member. She is the author of *The Editor's Companion* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

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