

Nick Hudson Remembered

Nick was a man of many parts, a unique presence in Australian book publishing for over fifty years.

Educated at a posh English Public School, he went on to Oxford (Trinity), where he read Classics. In all the rough and tumble of Australian publishing, he never lost those rounded vowels. He also never lost his love of language as he became a personal reference point for editors and publishers, culminating in his authorship of *Modern Australian Usage* (1993), which rested on the sturdy foundations of Fowler's *Modern English Usage*. No self-respecting editor's desk was (is) complete without those two references, plus an Oxford dictionary of course.

I first came to know Nick for two things: his energetic presence at the Society of Editors meetings, and his high-profile involvement in the *Spycatcher* affair. His involvement in the publishing of a book banned in the UK, made him something of an expert in the covert doings of MI6, and he delighted in outwitting the UK government and publishing this banned book in Australia, and in taking it to the world via the Frankfurt Book Fair!

And then there was Nick Hudson the typesetter (and who better to get it right.) He was one of those people who seemed to be able to fit a lot in, as he was also busy being the MD of first Heinemann Education Australia, and later Heinemann Publishing.

In 1985, he retired from his corporate publishing role and moved from urban Richmond to the small country town of Newstead, near Castlemaine, where he set up his own publishing company. I visited him there, and I can say that he had become a very happy country dweller.

The last thing I want to say about Nick is that he was the embodiment of 'good cheer' and 'hail fellow, well met'. In that booming, educated voice, he would always make you feel welcome and listen carefully to what you had to say.

I miss him, as do legions of others.

Robert (Bob) Sessions AM, former Publishing Director Penguin Books Australia
Guest writer