

From Manuscript to Book

*Finalising a small NZ specialist
history for publication 'Watersiders
Working for Themselves'*

WATERSIDERS

WORKING FOR THEMSELVES



The New Zealand experience of union cooperatives,
government promotion of worker control, union
shareholding and partnerships in stevedoring
1896 - 1989

Brian Wood

Copyright illustrations

- Copyright extends 50 years past the death of the author
- It can be very difficult to find who to contact.
- The National Library can be helpful if the name of the author is known. Cartoon archivist referred me to London family who referred me back to Waikanae. NZ Apple & Pear Board rights inherited by ENZA

Editing

- I did not use professionals, but had plenty of input from 4 academically well qualified family members and consider result satisfactory.
- Did not obtain quote for editing, but for proof reading was quoted \$375
- Using MS Track & Change with 4 readers did require some juggling.

Indexing

- The MS Index facility worked quite well until changes were made to the body of work, especially any involving Track and Change.
- In future I would be sure to leave preparing an index until I was certain the body of work was finished as I eventually re did the index on a stand alone basis. i.e my page numbers in the index have been entered manually and are not tied back by software to the original text.

ISBN

- The National Library web site gives full details on how to apply and this can be done prior to publication
- They will give a separate ISBN for publishing a web version.
- The service is free, in some countries it is privatised and charged for

Cataloguing

- The National Library provides for cataloguing in publication and circulates details monthly. This could elicit enquiries which would indicate if there was likely to be a high level of interest.
- Although suggested headings for cataloguing the book can be submitted by the author ultimately there are only very specific phrases that can be used. These are prescribed by the U.S. Library of Congress.
- I have avoided printing the official cataloguing description and used the permitted alternative and said catalogue information is available from the National Library.

Typesetting

- Professionals quoted \$288 and \$460 for cover design, \$630 for inside layout design and set-out
- My niece Louise Thomas, who is an experienced science writer, offered to prepare a cover using InDesign software.
- She offered to prepare the manuscript as an InDesign document. This process she referred to as 'typesetting'
- It is time consuming. It also means that to make corrections or changes the author is reliant on the typesetter. The printer might agree to make very minor corrections in house.
- I had to get the back cover rearranged to allow space for the barcode – 4cm x 2.5cm

Publishers

- I contacted about 7 publishers and had replies from 3.
- Of those that had not specified just a synopsis, only one offered to return my manuscript, in spite of my having included stamped addressed envelopes.

Alternative Funding

- In the final stages of my first draft I gained invaluable encouragement from Assoc. Prof Jim McAloon of the Labour History Project and was later able to successfully apply for a small grant from them to assist with publication.
- I based my application on the cost of printing a small run.
- In my experience not for profit organisations are receptive to modest requests in line with their objectives so that they can spread their limited funds as widely as possible.

Printing quotes

- There are a number of digital printing companies, NZ and overseas, that look for work from self publishers and provide web or print guides to the process.
- Based on print ready pdf copy . Minimum 25 copies :
- Interior 117 pages b&w 100 gsm, full colour cover 300 gsm laminated, perfect bound to A5 trimmed \$6.75 + gst each
- With 80 gsm paper inside which is more usual, the cost would have reduced to \$5.00+ each.
- As designed there would have been a title on each page in light blue and the inside cover would have been in red. On the digital printing basis this would have counted as full colour and the cost increased to \$25.49+ each.
- Also charged (add gst) are - initial set up \$50, barcode \$40, proof copy \$6.75, delivery at cost, possibly \$20 for file storage for repeats
- My **unit cost worked out at \$10.71incl.** and job took 3 weeks from confirming proof. I had some previous work related experience proof reading and did it myself with one other.

Fixing recommended retail price & discounts

- Booksellers commonly receive a discount of 40% i.e there is a markup of 66.667%.
- If postage is included in the price a single copy will incur at least \$2.85 incl.
- Some allowance might be given to covering free copies for review etc

Library and bookseller orders

- To facilitate with booksellers I recommend listing in the Nielsen Bookdata catalogue
- www.nielsenbookdata.co.nz
- Some booksellers that service libraries etc such as Wheelers put out their own catalogues and will request your synopsis etc. Libraries appear to use the specialist booksellers and do not buy direct.

Why it is not published on the web yet

- Not being able to manipulate InDesign myself I have been unable to translate the text to Kindle's requirements. I was quoted for conversion in NZ, if I did some routine adaptation myself, \$3.00 per page with \$5.00 per page for the more complicated work including illustrations. A U.S company offers conversion for the 3 main types of ebook as a package starting from US\$475.
- If listed with Kindle it could be sold for say US\$3.00 with a 30 percent commission for them.
- I am now considering posting the original Word version as a PDF to be available for downloading free, but not soon

Finally

- *Many thanks to John Nimmo for the oh so useful talks at the Writers and Publishing Group which encouraged me in this venture !*