THE AUSTRALIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA—A BRIEF HISTORY:
(Contributed)

The Australian Encyclopaedia was first projected in 1912, as a historical and biographical record of Australia, under the editorship of Charles H. Bertie, then Municipal Librarian of Sydney. Its compilation was halted during World War I, and when work resumed it was decided to include articles on scientific topics as well. In 1920 A. W. Jose, the historian and author, became General Editor, and the first edition was published during 1925-6.

In the 1940s Alec Chisholm, the noted historian and naturalist, began work on the second edition of the encyclopaedia. This edition was very much more comprehensive than its predecessor and was first published in 1958. It greatly enhanced the encyclopaedia's already considerable reputation and firmly established it as Australia's definitive reference work.

The current edition was edited by Bruce W. Pratt, an Australian encyclopaedist who acquired his considerable skills as General Editor of the edition of which Alec Chisholm was Editor-in-Chief. Over the period 1972-7 every entry in the previous edition was examined with a view to its revision. Many were rewritten. Most were revised. Numerous new entries written by eminent authorities were added.