

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL STUDIES

5 August 1988

Mr John McLaren
Pigden Street
NORTH CARLTON

Dear John,

Thank you very much for calling on Sunday to tell us about Stephen Murray-Smith. I immediately called the various people you nominated and shared the information with them. It was, of course, a great shock. I was surprised, in fact, to know that he was only 65; and I had not heard about his previous heart attack.

Everyone in the school was quite sad to hear the news. It was particularly interesting to see the reaction of Sara Dowse, our new Writer in Residence, who had met him in quite a different context - an NBC meeting in Canberra before one of the Wordfests. She too immediately stressed how much he had contributed to Australian thought and letters.

Naturally, it occurred to both of us to wonder who might take over the editorship of Overland if it is to continue. Sara and I each immediately thought of you as being appropriate in so many ways. If there is a possibility of your doing it, I hope you will give it serious thought. Please know that I certainly would give you all the help that I could and I know that others would as well.

I shall be writing independently to Stephen's wife.

I must run now. My best to you and Shirley. I hope to see one or both of you soon, and certainly before this year is out.

Cheers,

Brian Dibble