



... *the word*

**Newsletter of the Society of Editors (SA)
September–October 2008**

ISSN 1833-3796

Next meeting

**Thursday 25 September
7.30 pm**

**SA Writers' Centre, 2nd floor
187 Rundle Street East**

**Annual General Meeting
Inauguration of Karen Disney
as Honorary Life Member**

With our annual general meeting approaching, I would like to put in a special call to all members to consider joining our new committee. Nominations will be open at the meeting. There are currently two subcommittees: one that plans our regular meetings, workshops, and the business of the society; and a second that is planning next year's conference. We have a million jobs, large and small, that need doing. We urgently need more members to join us, as this coming year will be our busiest ever, and also our most exciting. We need you! New members will benefit from networking with other members of their profession. We need also to call on all our past committee members to ask if they will rejoin us at this momentous time in our history, to help see us through for this coming year. We also need younger editors. We have all sorts of interesting jobs available that will give you new skills, new friends and look great on your resume. Please contact me on <SAPresident@editors-sa.org.au> any time if you would like further information or to nominate for the committee.

Please join us — we need you all!

We plan as part of our next meeting to inaugurate current committee member Karen Disney as our new Honorary Life Member after her many years of service to the Society. She was one of our founding members

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and a past president, and has been a member of CASE. Currently she serves as Chair of the IPED Accreditation Board and a member of the IPED Assessors Forum. Kathie Stove, a past president, will be speaking of Karen's many achievements in furthering the cause of editors and editing in both a state and national context.

We will also have a short presentation of the highlights of the 4th IPED National Editors Conference to be held by our society in Adelaide in October 2009, to give members a sense of what is in store.

Members are invited to join the committee and the speaker for dinner at Café Michael, 204 Rundle Street East, at 6 pm.

Please RSVP for dinner by Monday 22 September to <eds@editors-sa.org.au>.

The presidential word

Susan Rintoul

This is a busy time for the society, with much happening at state as well as national level.

We held one very popular workshop on 26 July, 'Grammar,

punctuation and all that jazz', which was presented by Rosemary Luke and Katharine England. We had so many people wanting to attend, it was oversubscribed. We had about 35 there on the day, who said how useful they had found the workshop. Rosemary reported that the use of 'that' and 'which', and of semicolons, were the issues most requested for guidance and discussion. A workshop such as this obviously fills a niche for beginner editors and those wanting a refresher, so we plan to run another similar one next year. Our second workshop was 'Annual reports and the meaning of life' on 23 August. This is the question that Virginia Wilton, principal of Wilton Hanford Hanover, and Lawrie Kirk, of Tanner James Management Consultants, who have successfully collaborated on three annual reports to date, set out to answer in this workshop. There will be a report on this in the next issue.

Our third workshop this year was held on Saturday 6 September. Its aim was to help candidates prepare for the first national Accreditation exam. Karen Disney chaired this workshop, assisted by Susan Rintoul.

Registrations for the exam close on 18 September. You can register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>. All members are urged to consider sitting. As a successful candidate, you will have the honour of joining the first cohort of Accredited Editors to be formally acknowledged at the 2009 IPED National Editors Conference in Adelaide. The postnominal 'AE' will be recognition by your peers of your editing competence, and will be a valuable asset in the marketplace.

As well as the usual general business of our AGM, we plan to make Karen Disney our second Honorary Life

Member, which will give us an opportunity as a society to thank her formally for all her dedicated years of service.

On 18 November, we look forward to a joint meeting with the Professional Historians, to be held at the SA Writers' Centre.

We are looking for members who might be interested in running workshops later in the year or next year on websites and editing. We're looking for those with expertise and experience in this area. Please talk to me if you are interested.

July meeting

Celia Jellett

The meeting on 23 July was addressed by Mike Ladd, much published poet and the local producer of the ABC Radio National program *PoeticA*. Mike has published six books of poetry, and his work has been published internationally and translated into other languages. The recipient of a Churchill fellowship in 2000 and the Barbara Hanrahan scholarship in 2006, he brings 30 years' experience of reading and experiencing poetry to his work on the program.

Although most of *PoeticA*'s audience are over 40, Mike said that people from all walks of life are listeners, including builders, labourers and farmers; people in remote areas and city-dwellers are all within reach through the ABC's radio network. The program supports Australian actors, employing them to read for the program. (Poets themselves are not always the best readers of their work, although with notable exceptions.) In defining the kind of poetry that is ideal for radio, Mike said that he looked for work that had emotional power, engaged the senses, provided good opportunities for audio settings, had social and political clout, used language well, avoided the overfamiliar, seemed true, and delivered most of its meaning in one go.

In describing how he edited poetry, Mike touched on the difficulties of translating sounds and language that belong to one culture and not another. He described how he looked at his own work and his 'search and destroy mission' for the cliché, which he defined as 'a terrific phrase that has become a victim of its own success'. He also applies 'the wine maturation principle', which involves leaving ideas to develop over time.

Mention of the series of articles Mike wrote about walking the River Torrens would have sent many readers to the *Adelaide Review*. But in particular, his fascinating talk would have awakened (or re-awakened) an appreciation of poetry in his audience. Many of us will be tuning in to Radio National (729 on the AM band) on Saturdays at 3.05 pm (repeated at the same time on Thursdays) or visiting the program's website (<www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/poetica/>).

4th IPED National Editors Conference

Getting the message across

Where: Adelaide, South Australia

When: 8–10 October 2009

Venue: Adelaide Festival Centre

Further information: <SAPresident@editors-sa.org.au>
<www.editors-sa.org.au/conference09.html>

Planning continues for the conference. We are currently looking at a proposed program of speakers and will call for registrations of interest in presenting a paper at the conference soon.

Registration for the first Accreditation exam

Registrations for the first Accreditation exam, to be held on 18 October 2008, are now open.

You can apply by logging on to the website of the Exam Secretariat at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>. Additional information – guidelines for candidates and Q&A – is available on the IPED website at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>. These documents will give you all the information you need to apply for the exam.

The revised sample exam is also available on the IPED website. If you are unsure whether you're ready to take the real thing, try 'sitting' the sample exam. If you don't yet have two to three years' full-time experience or equivalent, the exam will still be available when you are ready to take it.

This exam is the result of many years of hard work by dedicated and highly skilled editors from all societies, all committed to serving the best interests of the editing profession. We believe that serious professional editors will regard the achievement of Accredited Editor status as an essential step in their careers. The AE will become a valuable asset in marketing your services and gaining greater remuneration.

You will find details regarding payment and deadlines on the Sapro website. Note that the exam fee is tax-deductible. You can pay by EFT or AnyPay, money order or cheque; unfortunately, we cannot process credit card payments because IPED is not in a position to cover the 3% fee.

Your society will help you prepare for this exam: all societies will be organising pre-exam activities for candidates.

If you need further information, contact your Accreditation Board delegates:

Karen Disney (<karen.disney@kbr.com>)

Celia Jellett (<celia_jellett@scholastic.com.au>)

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

'You can't set up shop as an accountant just because you like numbers, so why should you be able to set up as an editor just because you like reading? Accreditation is important because it sets a minimum standard of what it means when someone says "I'm an accredited editor"; it shows that we take our profession seriously, which is the first step in convincing others to do the same.'

Emma Pearmain, President, Society of Editors WA, editor for 8 years

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

<www.iped-editors.org>

August 2008

The organisation and running of the first accreditation examination on 18 October 2008 is currently the primary focus of all IPEd groups. The Accreditation Board is meeting fortnightly by teleconference to complete the large amount of work that remains to be done over the next month or so to ensure that the exam, which will be held simultaneously in every state capital city and Canberra, runs smoothly for all.

All you need to know about the examination can be found at <www.iped-editors.org>. Also there, you will find details of how to register, something that must be done by Thursday 18 September. The list of registrants is growing daily, populated by editors who realise the value that the postnominal 'AE' (Accredited Editor) will have in their working life.

To further help candidates for the examination each of the state and territory societies will be holding an examination preparation workshop for its members. Check the IPEd website or your society's website for details of these events. Attendance is recommended for all who have registered, or intend to do so.

The annual general meeting of the Institute of Professional Editors Limited (IPEd) will be held by teleconference on Sunday 24 August. The agenda can be found on the IPEd website. When the budget for 2008–09 – an item on the agenda – has been adopted by the Council it will be put up on the website, as will be the audited accounts for 2007–08. The AGM will be followed by a meeting of the Council.

The 'Upcoming events' field on the IPEd website is open to all societies and other bodies interests in editing, publishing and associated endeavours. To get an event listed there contact <webadmin@iped-editors.org>.

Many editors might be surprised to discover that they can join a union, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA), which is for people working in book publishing, website production, public relations and advertising, as well as journalists, photographers, musicians, actors and others in TV, radio, theatre and film. Membership rates vary depending on income. The Alliance is currently offering a membership discount to members of all Australian societies of editors. Details can be accessed via an item on the IPEd website home page.

September 2008

IPEd held its AGM on 24 August. It was followed by a meeting of the Council.

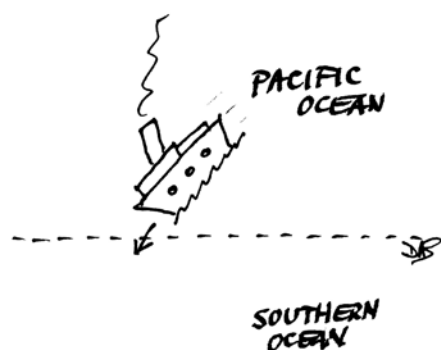
At the AGM, Members received reports from the Chair and Honorary Treasurer, and approved the audited financial statements for 2007–08 and the budget for 2008–09. The Chair's report and the financial statements have been placed on the IPEd website. Members confirmed the nominations of existing councillors, most of them until the 2009 AGM, at which time, under the terms of the constitution, half the members of the Council must retire.

At the Council meeting, the forthcoming accreditation examination was a major agenda item, as was the proposed budget for the year. Statistics on website visitation were a highlight of the report on communication activities: there are now over 1300 visitors per month to <www.iped-editors.org>, and they stay, on average, for six minutes. A significant proportion of recent visits was to the sample accreditation exam by editors with their eyes, no doubt, on the 'AE' postnominal. The real exam will be on Saturday 18 October at venues in every state and Canberra.

The IPEd website is a mine of information on Institute activities. Recent additions include the minutes of the two-day Council meeting and planning session held in

Adelaide at the end of May, and a link to <www.comjobs.com.au>, a website listing 'Opportunities and information for professional communicators' that is well worth a visit, particularly if you are in an upwardly mobile mood.

MISSED METAPHORS



A sea change

Another recent addition to the website is information on the Barbara Ramsden Award, a national award for excellence in editing created in 1971 by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW). IPEd and the Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc. are now joint sponsors of the award with FAW.

Ed Highley, Secretary

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

'This move towards accreditation fits very well with my personal belief that editors need to be able offer clients objective proof that they can do the work required of them. I am registering for the October exam and hope very much to be able to add AE to my Grad Dip and other qualifications when I tender for editing work.'

Rosemary Luke, Past President, Society of Editors, South Australia and experienced editor

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>

New members

Lesley Morsman is new to editing. 'When the digital revolution hit the photographic world, the workload at the specialist laboratory I manage diminished considerably, I enrolled in a correspondence course in editing. After a lifetime of reading (and picking up on errors) and a quarter of a lifetime as a photographic retouch artist (picking up on errors) it seemed the obvious choice. I've had some great work experience with a local author and publisher, and editing a book for a photographic client.'

The editing business Lingo Dingo was born in 2007, out of **Sharon Vis'** love for language and education. Sharon has an honours degree in linguistics; familiarity with European and Asian languages; a graduate diploma in education (ESL & LOTE); and a certificate in editing and proofreading. She has worked as a teacher, adult trainer/ assessor and program coordinator. Lingo Dingo specialises in the fields of learning, community and horticulture.

Sarah Agnew started freelancing as an editor in 2002 after completing Honours in English/Creative Writing at Flinders. 'I've worked predominantly with Michael Deves at Lythrum Press. I have worked on books, theses, professional reports and journals. Freelancing – having to drop everything to take a job because you don't know when the next one is coming – is at times quite difficult, as I'm sure other members will know! I have stuck with it though since returning to study in 2006.'

Josie Stevens has almost completed the Copy Editing and Proofreading Course by correspondence through Australian College QED. 'I look forward to meeting editors and writers so as to make friends and gain experience in this fascinating area. I proofread a quarterly newsletter for CS&RC (Carers' Support & Respite Centre) and hope this will be a stepping stone to future employment.'

Pauline Pettifor is a new associate member of the Society. 'General carelessness in the written media – spelling errors, typos, grammatical inaccuracies – drives me nuts! So, with the attitude I'm sure I can do better than that, I completed a course in Professional Editing and Proofreading and am now keen to learn about the industry. Maybe I'll do some freelancing one day, who knows? I'm open to opportunities.'

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

'I intend to sit the exam because I believe that only an accreditation system set up by and for professional editors will deliver the recognition and rewards that we deserve.'

Virginia Wilton, Canberra, Chair, IPEd Council; Director, WHH Publishing and very experienced editor

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>

Vicki Ali is Marketing Communications Coordinator at Health Partners. One of her responsibilities is producing Health Partners' member magazine, Your Health. This includes everything from researching and writing articles and promotions right through to managing design, printing and distribution. Although she does not work as an editor, Vicki is interested in developing her skills in this area.

Sheryl Klingner worked mainly for health-related and not-for-profit organisations including the Cancer Council SA before starting her business, klingner communications. 'A defining project was co-editing a history of the Burnside War Memorial Hospital, The Living Memorial. Recent work has focused on writing about medicine using plain language to help people play an informed and active role in their health.'

Yvonne Heitz completed a Professional Editing and Proofreading course with the Writing School. 'I work at the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and proofread the bi-monthly newsletter and other documents. I have started an external Tertiary Enabling Program with Charles Darwin University and intend to continue my studies. I attended the Society's recent grammar workshop and am looking forward to attending the next one.'

Leeston McNab's work as a speech pathologist involved writing procedure manuals, reports and newsletter articles, and editing academic theses for friends. 'I hope to finish my Bachelor of Arts (Writing and Creative Communication) next year, and work towards becoming an Accredited Editor.'

News and displacement activities

The Literary Consultancy is running a writing adventure holiday in Thailand in September and again in April 2009. It offers a limited number of two for the price of one places for the first to book from our region. For details contact <rebecca@literaryconsultancy.co.uk>. This luxury holiday includes creative writing workshops run by (among others) Kate Mosse, bestselling author of *Labyrinth*. The April workshops will feature Blake Morrison, and future events will include Hari Kunzru, Kamila Shamsie and Lou Wener. Go to <www.literaryadventures.co.uk> for details. The Literary Consultancy (<www.literaryconsultancy.co.uk>) is a manuscript assessment organisation. Founded in 1996, it helps writers achieve their greatest potential and, where possible, find agents and publishers for their work.

One thousand words

Australian resident writers are invited to enter the Steve J. Spears One Thousand Words competition. Write exactly one thousand words on an Adelaide experience. Entry is free, and the prize for the best entry is \$1000 and publication in the *Adelaide Review*. For more information go to <www.citysouth.org.au>. Closing date is 19 September.

Just spell it like it is

Those of us who feel that standards of written expression are slipping will find much to exercise them in the item at <www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=403092>.

Style manual and Australian Style

Australian Style, produced since 1992 by the Style Council Centre, Macquarie University, with support from the Australian Government, will no longer be produced in hard copy. Subscribers have been informed that Macquarie University is considering ways to continue publishing *Australian Style* on line.

The Australian Government, which publishes *Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers*, is investigating the next edition, and whether or not it might be enhanced by an online offering. If you would like to participate in one of the focus groups, express your interest to <govstyle@finance.gov.au>.

Heard at a book launch

Author Andrew Faulkner, in speaking of his book recently published by Wakefield Press, *Arthur Blackburn, VC: An Australian hero, his men, and their two world wars*, had much to say about his editor Bethany Clark's 'fastidious and forensic' editing. He resisted saying 'fanatical', as he said she would have criticised the over-alliteration!

On-screen editing research

Eleanor Shorne Holden is a University of Adelaide student undertaking a research topic in on-screen editing, and would like to hear from Society members on questions such as: Is it easier/quicker to use on-screen editing, or do you prefer to edit on hard copy?; Are Microsoft Word functions such as track changes, comments, and macros an efficient aid to editing on screen?; Does on-screen editing mean that you spend less time on copy editing and more time on stylistic editing?; Has the ease of on-screen editing meant that you take on responsibilities in other areas?

Members who are willing to help with this project should reply to:
<eleanor.shorneholden@student.adelaide.edu.au>.

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

'I'm doing the exam because passing it will give me confidence in my abilities and credibility with potential clients. I think putting it off is not going to make me better prepared; we use the time we have and it's not going to get any easier. If I am realistic about my skills then I will pass. At my age I am keen to build up my editing credibility and this is the best way.'

Jamie Miller, Tasmania, editor since 2006

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

'I hate exams but I'm sitting for this one on principle. Unless we do this there will be no way to differentiate competent editors and those who aren't. It is the only way for the profession get the recognition it deserves.'

Carla Morris, Western Australia, editor since 2004

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at <www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program>

Indexing courses

Website Indexing course

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) will be conducting a full-day website

indexing course in Adelaide on Friday 10 October 2008. The renowned website indexer Glenda Browne will be conducting the course at Immanuel College, Morphett Road, Novar Gardens.

The course will cover:

Ways to provide access to website information
Website indexing policies for A to Z indexes
Website index styles for A to Z indexes
Website indexing software
Website indexing practical using HTML Indexer
Website indexing trends
Alternative A to Z access methods.

Course flyers and application forms are available on the ANZSI website: <www.anzsi.org> or for further enquiries please contact Max McMaster, ANZSI Training Officer, on phone: (03) 9500 8715; fax: (03) 9923 6094 or email: <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>.

Basic Book Indexing workshops

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) will be conducting full-day basic level indexing workshops in Adelaide. Basic Indexing Part I, covering indexing principles and techniques, will be held on Wednesday 8 October 2008. Basic Indexing Part II, where participants index a 60-page non-fiction publication using dedicated indexing software, will be held on Thursday 9 October 2008. The courses will be held at Immanuel College, Morphett Road, Novar Gardens. Attendance at Basic Indexing Part I is required before moving on to Part II.

These courses assume no knowledge of indexing and are ideal for anyone wanting to learn a little about how an index is compiled, how to assess an index, and for Part II participants, to actually compile an index.

Course flyers and application forms are available on the ANZSI website: <www.anzsi.org> or for further enquiries please contact Max McMaster, ANZSI Training Officer, on phone: (03) 9500 8715; fax: (03) 9923 6094 or email: <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>.

Max McMaster

I'm doing the exam. Are you?

I am planning to do the exam because I am curious to see how I will go. I don't need the accreditation for my work but I am self-taught and a specialist literary editor. So I want to see how I fit with the whole range of editing and test myself in areas that I never attempt in my work. I like a challenge and I view this as a learning experience. For young people I think this exam and accreditation are essential.

Edith Speers, Tasmania, with 12 years of professional editing experience

Register at <www.sapro.com.au/iped/register.htm>

Guidelines and Q&A at www.iped-editors.org/content/accreditation-program

Society of Editors (SA)

Contact details

PO Box 2328 Kent Town SA 5071

<www.editors-sa.org.au>, <eds@editors-sa.org.au>

Address news, reviews or comments for ... *the word* to the Editor: <eds@editors-sa.org.au>

For further information about the society, contact: Secretary: <eds@editors-sa.org.au>

President, Susan Rintoul:
<SAPresident@editors-sa.org.au>

Treasurer, Loene Doube:
<SATreasurer@editors-sa.org.au>

Membership

To join the society, send a completed application form (<www.editors-sa.org.au/pdfs/Membership08-09.pdf>) to the address above, or by email to <eds@editors-sa.org.au>.

Membership of the society is open to anyone who is engaged professionally in any aspect of editing for publication, on a full-time or part-time basis, or who has had such experience in the past.

Associate membership is open to any interested person.

Subscriptions and freelance register fees are due on 1 July each year, and cover the 12 months until 30 June in the year following.

You need to be a full member to be included in the freelance register.

\$80 full membership

\$50 associate membership

\$60 freelance register

If you have an inquiry about your membership status, please send an email to: <eds@editors-sa.org.au>.

Freelance register

The Freelance Register is available at: <www.editors-sa.org.au/FreelanceRegister.php>. Please contact the society if you would like your details to be included.

Full membership is required for inclusion.

Society meetings

General meetings are open to all members and prospective members and are held (unless otherwise indicated) in the Seminar Room of the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street East, with drinks from 7.15 pm.