



... the word

Newsletter of the Society of Editors (SA)

November–December 2008

ISSN 1833-3796

Next meeting

Joint meeting with the Professional Historians Association (SA) Inc.

Tuesday 18 November 6 pm

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

Please note that the format of our meeting will be different for this night only.

The next meeting of the society will be held jointly with the Professional Historians Association (SA) Inc. The association promotes the research, recording, writing and presentation of history by qualified historians: most members have at least one tertiary qualification in history and are accredited under national standards determined by the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations. (For further information please see the association's website: <www.historians.org.au/phasa/index.html>.)

Members are invited to meet at the SA Writers' Centre at 6 pm for a short talk by Barbara Wiesner, Director of the SA Writers' Centre, about the activities of the centre.

Supper will be served at 6.30 pm, followed by a joint meeting at 7.30 pm featuring a panel of association members and a panel of Society of Editors members discussing the nexus between editing and history.

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President's report for 2007–8

Presented at the AGM, 25 September 2008

Susan Rintoul

We have had two major preoccupations as a society in the past year: the process of national accreditation, and the 4th IPEd National Editors conference to be held in Adelaide in October next year. I am pleased to report that both are shaping up to be very successful ventures. Our twin preoccupations, accreditation and the hosting of our national conference, will both have a lasting impact on our society here in South Australia.

It's a good time for members to get involved with the professional and networking opportunities that will come with the conference, and it's really exciting being part of such an event as this with more than 200 colleagues visiting us here.

In the longer term I feel that accreditation will start to make huge changes in our profession, and this will be a task for our new committee to consider.

General meetings

We began with Christmas dinner and the unveiling of our new logo at the Oxford Hotel. Our guest speaker, Philip Jones, a historian and curator

at the SA Museum, talked about his books *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts and Encounters on Australian Frontiers*, and *Australia's Muslim Cameleers: Pioneers of the Inland 1860s–1930s* (co-author Anna Kenny), published by Wakefield Press.

In January, Jacqui Cookes, bookseller and founder of Mostly Books, gave an interesting account of what it takes to run a successful and enduring bookselling business. In April, Deborah McCulloch, well known as women's advisor to the state government when these positions were an innovation, and for her later work against domestic violence, and in health, mental health and ageing, spoke on 'Life as Fiction'.

In May, we devoted our meeting to discussion of the national accreditation exam, led by South Australian assessors Karen Disney, Kathie Stove, Celia Jellett and myself.

In July, Mike Ladd entertained and informed us about his national radio program *PoeticA*, describing how he selects the poetry that is showcased on the program. An established poet himself, Mike also demonstrated how he edits his own work.

As part of the AGM, Karen Disney was inaugurated as an honorary life member.

Training

I think we probably have not held four workshops in a year before, but this was the case in 2007–8. Two workshops were dedicated to Accreditation: one in October 2007 and the second in September 2008, to help members prepare for the first Accreditation exam. These were both very well attended, with 30 or more at each, and participants said they found them very useful.

In July, Katharine England and Rosemary Luke conducted a workshop

RSVP by Monday

17 November, advising if you will be there for the talk and supper, or for the meeting only, to <eds@editors-sa.org.au>.

called 'Punctuation, grammar and all that jazz'. This was so popular that the number of participants had to be capped at 35, just to fit in the room.

For the workshop 'Annual reports and the meaning of life' in August, Virginia Wilton and Laurie Kirk were enlisted from Canberra. Again, those attending found it informative and useful to be instructed by those who deal professionally with annual reports.

For next year's program we plan to have a second workshop on grammar and punctuation, and another to prepare candidates for next year's Accreditation exam.

Website developments

We put up the new logo created by Greg Helbers of Loco Creative on our website late last year. In the past few months we have created a new website. Melchior Mazzone of Dreamlabs has worked with us on this, and Greg Helbers is currently working on the home page. It's all still under construction, but please do have a look at it as it nears completion and tell us what you think. Thank you to Rosemary Luke, Loene Doube and Miranda Roccisano for their work on it.

Committee

Thanks are due to all the committee members for their work during the year:

Loene Doube, vice president and treasurer.

Rosemary Luke, past president and membership secretary; IPEd representative.

Karen Disney, Accreditation Board representative and national Chair of the Board.

Carolyn Cockburn, minutes secretary. Carolyn resigned at the beginning of this year with poor health, but is still an email member of our conference committee.

Bethany Clark, web coordinator. Bethany has just resigned from this position, as her new job involves extensive travel.

Eugenia Koussidis, minutes secretary, for her work on the program and latterly on sending emails to members.

Pam Kelly for catering, proofreading and many other jobs.

Leticia Supple, past newsletter editor, who has resigned owing to work commitments.

Celia Jellett, meetings reporter, who has taken over the newsletter.

Pamela Ball, for helping to organise the AGM presentation, and various other jobs.



Eugenia Koussidis

Conference committee

Another huge thank you to the members of the conference committee, which has accomplished a great deal. This committee has been running for three years next January, and has now put much of the ground work in place for the 2009 conference. Members are Bethany Clark, Carolyn Cockburn, Loene Doube, Steve Evans, Kate Deller-Evans, Michelle Goryniuk, Marianne Hammatt, Rosemary Luke, Jo Mason, Val Mobley and Kathie Stove.

A special thank you to the members who serve on both committees, which is a very large time commitment.

Karen Disney: Honorary Life Member

Presented at the AGM, 25 September 2008

Pamela Ball

As an honorary life member I have great pleasure in welcoming Karen Disney to the ranks, and offer you a lightning sketch of her life and career.

You may have gathered from Karen's charming accent that she is not Australian-born, but you may be surprised to learn that she is English by birth and moved to Canada at the age of seven. She was educated at the University of Toronto, where she did an Arts degree that included science subjects, so she has that broad sort of knowledge that's so useful for editors.



Karen became a primary school teacher, but the seeds of an alternative profession had already been planted. As a university student she worked for the local newspaper as a proofreader on the 4 pm to midnight shift. That was excellent training in mark-up

and how to stay awake. Her father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all newspaper men.

In 1972 Karen arrived in Adelaide with her Australian husband and two small sons. There she met two of our original members, Penny Matthews and Jenny Walker, who both worked as editors for Rigby, the education and general publishing house based in Adelaide. Karen was offered the job of proofreading Australian non-fiction, which provided her with an education about Australian culture, anthropology, nature, history, politics, and arts. She was soon offered freelance editing work.



Karen Disney

In 1982 Rigby folded, but in 1984 Jenny joined Wakefield Press, under the auspices of the Government Printing Office, and she encouraged Karen to become a freelance editor for Wakefield. In 1986 Loma Snooks, another of our founding members, invited Karen to join the expanding editorial staff of Kinhill Engineers. Now the company is called KBR and is a global enterprise, but Karen is still there, as principal editor, 22 years on.

In terms of Karen's career path, it is clear that mentors were vital. Karen sees two people as major influences. One was her father, who demonstrated that clear expression could be the basis of professional endeavour. The other is Loma Snooks, who instilled in her the value of methodical process, accuracy, and commercial efficiency.

Now, back to the matter at hand – why are we bestowing honorary life membership on Karen? The answer lies in one word – commitment. Karen has been involved with the Society of Editors (SA) since 1989. This was the year a small group formed a steering committee to assess the potential for setting up a South Australian branch and to devise a plan of action. Our plan worked, the society was set up, and in 1990 I became president and Karen became secretary. In 1993 Karen took on the president's job, and almost without a break since then has worked on the committee in leading roles.

Given that this speech is testimonial in form, I can bear witness to Karen's charm, diplomacy, energy, intelligence and wisdom in all the tasks she has undertaken.

In the last 10 years she has worked towards Accreditation, and I reckon she must be very proud to see what she and her colleagues across Australia have achieved through commitment, diplomacy, tenacity, and sheer hard work. It is very fitting that, in the year she is made a life member of our society, Karen fills the role of Chair of the Accreditation Board. Those of you who attended the Accreditation workshop earlier this month will know what a depth of knowledge she has and how willing she is to pass it on to all our members.

When Karen makes her acceptance speech, I'm sure she'll say that her commitment to the society comes from her genuine desire to see the profession of editing maintained and expanded and recognised. She has done a huge job in this regard, and those of you who are less experienced and hopeful of greater professional and monetary rewards need to thank Karen for her efforts.

She says she plans to semi-retire, work hard on building her house on Kangaroo Island and wander the country in her campervan. No doubt she will bring her energy, intelligence, charm and wisdom to all she undertakes in the future.

**Deadline for copy, letters
and contributions for the
next issue of ... *the word* is
16 January 2009**

Christmas meeting

British Hotel

58 Finnis St

North Adelaide SA 5000

Thursday 4 December

6.30 pm drinks, dinner 7 pm

RSVP to <SA President@editors-sa.org.au> by

Monday 1 December

We hope you can join us for our annual Christmas meeting this year, when our first South Australian Accredited Editors will be invited as guests, to be congratulated by the Chair of the national Accreditation Board, Karen Disney.

We also have a great guest speaker. **Don Henderson** is a writer of funny stories set in suburbs that seem suspiciously like Port Adelaide and are peopled with colourful characters that seem quite at home there. Don was born and raised on Yorke Peninsula, where life cycled through two seasons, the football and the fishing. After leaving school, Don worked in a variety of jobs, but having taught English for many years, he eventually tried his hand at writing. A novel involving school kids and footy seemed a natural place to start. *Half the Battle* was the result.

Don has a novel based on *Macbeth* in production with Penguin Books, and a young adult novel, *Keepinitreal*, due to be published by Omnibus Books in early 2009.

The cost of the dinner is expected to be \$37.50 per person, with two choices of entree and main course, and bread, salad, tea or coffee included. There will also be the usual word-related competitions and prizes.

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

www.iped-editors.org

October 2008

By the time readers of the society newsletters see these notes, IPEd's first accreditation examination, held on Saturday 18 October, will be almost done and dusted—an outcome of enormous significance for the future of our profession. I write 'almost' because the exam markers, before they finalise their task, will be participating in a moderation workshop in Sydney during the first weekend in November to ensure a consistent approach to assessment across jurisdictions. More on the exam next month.

New on the IPEd website is a report by Pamela Hewitt¹ of her fourth national survey of editors, conducted in conjunction with the 2007 national conference in Hobart. There were 132 responses to the survey, just under half of the respondents describing themselves as freelance. The full report is recommended reading for all editors, but to whet your appetite I'll list here a few of the main findings.

- The profession had not been taken over by men since the previous survey in 2005: 87% of the respondents were female.
- We're a highly educated lot: fewer than 10% of respondents did not have at least a first degree, and more than 60% had qualifications higher than an undergraduate degree.
- The proportion of editors reporting that they participated in professional development programs remained high at 97%.
- The proportion of full-time editors fell to 54%, compared with 60% in the previous survey, with 28% working part time and 14% working at other jobs as well as editing. About half the respondents worked as employees.
- There was little change since 2005 in the rates that editors reported charging, the average hourly rate remaining at just above \$60. There were significant interstate variations in the average. As before, the standard deviation about the mean was large, with reported hourly rates ranging from \$34 to \$160 ².
- Among the main challenges identified by respondents were extending skills and keeping abreast of technology.
- High priorities for respondents included that the professional associations take on a greater public promotion role, that professional development activities increase, and that more effort be put into mentoring and career advice and development.

Here's a little gem from the comments field of a survey form:

I am sick of hearing about women supplementing their income when they are stuck at home with kids by doing 'a bit of editing'. I wouldn't dream of doing 'a little doctoring' or 'a little engineering'. Editors need to be acknowledged as professionals, and important ones at that.

Ed Highley

Secretary

¹ Pamela is a member of the Professional Editors' Association (NSW). Her previous surveys were conducted while she was a member of the Society of Editors (NSW).

² 'Rates revisited', a paper presented by Pamela Hewitt at a recent public meeting of the Professional Editors' Association, is another recent addition to the website.

Institute of Professional Editors Limited

Company Secretary

The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) Limited was incorporated in January 2008. IPEd's mission is to advance the profession of editing. It is owned by member associations of editors in the six states and the ACT. For more information about IPEd, go to <www.iped-editors.org.au>.

IPEd invites applications for the position of Company Secretary. The Secretary services the IPEd Council in its work, with outsourced accounting and legal support.

The successful applicant will be employed as a freelance contractor, working from their own premises. The estimated requirement is for an average of 15 to 20 hours per month, at \$60 per hour including GST. Applicants will need to have an ABN or ACN. Applications close on 30 November 2008.

Selection criteria and a duty statement for the position can be obtained by emailing the Chair of the Council, Virginia Wilton. Her email address is <virginia@whh.com.au>. Please use the following message line: IPEd Company Secretary position_yoursurname_yourfirstinitial.

Lord Mayor of Adelaide to host civic reception

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>

Website: <www.editors-sa.org.au/?q=node/66>

Adelaide's Lord Mayor Michael Harbison will host a civic reception in the Queen Adelaide Room of the Adelaide Town Hall on the evening of 9 October 2009 to welcome delegates to the conference. We were very pleased to accept the Lord Mayor's offer and thank him for his generosity.

The Adelaide Town Hall is a prominent landmark in the city, the venue for many civic, artistic and social events.

Adelaide established the first local government in Australia, in October of 1840. The Adelaide Town Hall was built during the years 1863 to 1866.

The town hall is important for its association with a number of significant individuals including Edmund Wright, one of South Australia's most prominent nineteenth-century architects, who designed it. The interior is ornate and features a grand staircase that leads to an elaborately decorated first-floor hall. The Queen Adelaide Room, where the reception will be held, contains a collection of objects and paintings associated with Queen Adelaide.

Additional details about the conference will be published in newsletters and via the website as they become available, so please stay tuned.

To register your interest in attending the conference and receiving updates, or presenting a paper, go to: <www.sapro.com.au/editors/roi.htm>.

Mary Lou Tucker

Book reviews

The Go-to Girl of Grammar

Mignon Fogarty is the new *it* girl of grammar. Since 2006, she has been communicating to the masses (thirteen million and counting) via weekly podcasts, dispensing advice about common usage mistakes. Her latest endeavour, *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*, is a practical guide for everyday writers, and the best part is it's easy to use. A response to popular demand, the book answers Fogarty's listeners' most-asked questions.

Fogarty provides clear explanations without making you feel the complete ninny. She tackles everyday grammar pitfalls in a manner similar to your mum teaching you how to tie your shoelaces – with unwavering patience and understanding.

Though Fogarty is American, this isn't just a guide for those living in the United States. She's clear about where British and American usage differs so the reader won't run into any trouble.

It's an extensive book full of suggestions for improving your writing. The quick and dirty tips cover not just correct word choice and grammar gaffes, but style, business writing, and safe and efficient emailing. If you're after a rules refresher with easy-to-remember tricks, this is a convenient and highly accessible resource.

Maddy Holmes

(Go to the Grammar Girl site <<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>> and follow the link to Amazon to order the book, ISBN 978 0 8050 8831 1, Holt Paperbacks, RRP US \$14.)

The Little Green Grammar Book

Mark Tredinnick's companion piece to his *Little Red Writing Book* is a practical guide to grammar for those who work with words every day. Refreshingly, the author writes that he is 'neither a grammarian nor linguist ... just a writer who's thought a fair bit about grammar'. This claim is rather modest given the breadth of content that follows and the elegance with which it is written. He discusses modern approaches to the subject by Australian grammarians and makes his own position clear.

The book is presented in four parts, the first describing the 'natural history of the sentence' (structure), the second tackling the main players (verbs, nouns and pronouns), the third punctuation, and the fourth common errors in expression. As I find myself at times on a one-person campaign against certain popular uses of the comma, my personal favourite among the gaffes in Part 4 is 'Committed sentences – comma splices, fused sentences and sentence fragments'.

Highly recommended.

Celia Jellett

(Go to <www.unswpress.com.au> to order online, ISBN 978 0 86840 919 1, UNSW Press, RRP AUD \$29.95.)

News and displacement activities

Columnist acknowledges role of editors

Buried deep within a full page article entitled 'Dead-wood festivals' by Tim Blair in the *Daily Telegraph* on Saturday 30 August are a few lines that will bring comfort to many an editor. The article is a humorous commentary on the prevalence of writers' festivals in this country ... Blair writes, 'I believe we are in danger of being swamped by writers. They have their own culture and religion, form ghettos and do not assimilate. For evidence of this, simply visit an Australian writers' festival.'

His observations about writers include: 'Also, if you ever get a chance to read their untouched copy, many of them can't actually write. At least one editors' festival should be held every year to thank the mostly unknown souls who wrestle Australian writers' work into something publishable.

'It wouldn't be a very colourful event; no talks, no Welcomes to Country, just a lot of shattered people drinking heavily and complaining about shifts of tense within paragraphs and abuse of the active voice.

'It'd be like an SBS documentary, except in English. *Red Pens in the Sunset*, they could call it.'

Winners

The 2008 winner of the **Whitley Medal** is a book edited by society member Kathie Stove, *A Fragile Balance: The Extraordinary Story of Australian Marsupials*, written by Professor Christopher Dickman and illustrated by Rosemary Woodford Ganf. The Whitley Awards of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales are annual



Kathie Stove

awards presented for outstanding publications (in printed or electronic form) that contain a significant amount of information on the fauna of the Australasian region. The Whitley Medal is the most sought-after prize in Australian zoological publishing. Congratulations, Kathie.

The non-fiction winner of the first **Prime Minister's Literary Awards** is Philip Jones, for his book *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts and Encounters on Australian Frontiers* published by Wakefield Press. It was chosen from a short-list of seven books – selected for their originality, rich detail and clarity of writing – from 103 entries in the category.

Ochre and Rust was also short-listed for the 2007 Queensland Premier's and the NSW Premier's Awards and was joint winner of the FAW Melbourne University

Publishing Award 2008. Many years in its development, this prize-winning book was edited in its early stages by past president Gina Inverarity.

Green publication?

Gunta Groves, editor of Park Lands News, sends the following food for thought.

According to the Finsbury Greensheet (Winter 2008, p 1), a newsletter put out by print company Finsbury Green, the environmental footprint of a publication is significantly less if it is issued as a hard-copy book compared with an electronic version – either online or on CD or DVD. The following figures were compiled by Dr Tony Wilkins, Group Manager, Environment and Climate Change for News Ltd, based on a 700-page report.

Issuing mode	Grams of CO ₂
Hard copy	85 g (max)
Online	226 g (per hour of reading online, much more when printed out)
CD	300 g (per disk, and before it is viewed)
DVD	350 g (per disk, and before it is viewed)

Finsbury Green is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. You can read more of the article by going to www.finsbury.com.au. Does this have implications for the *Park Lands News*? Because this newsletter does not have a print run warranting offset printing (which is the basis for the comparison above), I doubt whether there is any reason to stop promotion of receiving the newsletter by email—a method which saves the association print and postage costs, and saves the environmental cost of Australia Post delivering the printed version. However, there is an opportunity here for someone to do the sums.

Craft projects for editors

Follow this link to see some ‘typographical’ fabrics just right for editorial soft furnishings:

www.auntcookie.com/blog/2008/09/_these_little_babies_are.html

Proposed editing course

The coordinators of the Professional Writing Unit at AC Arts, Light Square, have contacted the society to gauge interest in a specialised course in editing through TAFE. For background and preliminary discussion of the proposed course, see the issues paper at <http://www.editors-sa.org.au/?q=node/74> on the society’s website. Contact Celia Jellett eds@editors-sa.org.au to register an expression of interest.

Society of Editors (SA)

Contact details

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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.



Treasurer's report

AGM 25 September 2008

In 2007–8 there were 91 full members of the society and 13 associate members. Thirty-seven of the total of 104 were new members. We had 5 fewer full members than 2006–7 and the same number of associate members. Twenty-eight 2006–7 members did not renew in 2007–8. The freelance register had 34 entries, three more than the previous year.

In August 2007 we opened another account, for the 2009 conference. The auditors have advised that we should treat the two accounts together in our income and expenditure reporting. Our combined income for 2007–8 was \$17,511, and expenditure was \$12,182, leaving a balance of \$5329.

Income from subscriptions and the freelance register was lower in 2007–8 than in 2006–7, but since numbers are similar, this reflects the different times members paid their subscriptions rather than an overall difference in income.

Our most notable income during the year was a conference sponsorship of \$10,000 from John Wiley & Sons. We have also had two interest-free loans for the conference—\$5000 from the Victorian society and \$2000 from IPED, which will need to be paid back after the conference. The society has deposited \$5000 from the general account into the conference account, which will also be paid back, but the auditor advised that this cannot be considered a loan because we can't lend money to ourselves.

Notable expenses were \$1584 for design of a new logo for the society and design concepts for the conference logo, and a legal fee of \$1716 for development of our new constitution.

A surplus of \$5329 and the \$7000 of loans place us in a good position to develop a successful national conference in 2009.

The accounts for the year have been audited by Inglis and Rowe.

Please email the treasurer if you would like a copy of the auditor's report, the income and expenditure statement or the treasurer's report.

Loene Doube

Treasurer

Society of Editors (SA)