

THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kate Potter

I was delighted to take on the role of president at our Annual General Meeting. I echo the comments I made at that meeting and thank Johann Idriss for his leadership as the Society's President. Johann took on the role at a tumultuous time, and we greatly appreciate his calm manner, determination and commitment to the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE).

I welcome all new members, and our new Committee members—a wonderful and hard-working group. If you are interested in joining the Committee or have ideas for potential CSE events you would like to attend, please let us know.

This year has been particularly busy, and my thanks go to all CSE members for their contribution and attendance at our events. We are focused on providing our members with a range of opportunities for networking and professional development—whether through informal lunches, our monthly evening meetings or training courses.

Our wonderful Christmas dinner on 29 November was our last event for the year; it was extremely well attended. Former member for Eden-Monaro, Jim Snow, entertained the crowd as our guest speaker. I encourage everyone to attend our next meeting on 31 January at the National Library.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas. I look forward to catching up with you all next year.

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Weber AE ELS Membership Secretary and Public Officer

A warm welcome goes to the following new members:

FULL MEMBER Nigel Brew (formerly an associate member), Desiree Caira, Ross Hope, Cass Proudfoot, Edith Young

ASSOCIATE MEMBER Emily Beergah

Your Committee is looking at a new membership database, which will better suit the new membership arrangement being for a calendar year from the joining date. Meanwhile, notifying newer members of their renewal dates may be delayed but, rest assured, you will receive a notice in due course.

The TryBooking membership-renewal form is now a permanent form. The heading on the form shows July 2016 because that is when it was introduced; this has confused some members. We are working on improving the form. The TryBooking receipt will show also the payment date, and CSE receipts will specify the renewal year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cathy Nicoll AE Professional Development Coordinator and Website Manager

Planning for 2018 training and development is well underway, and we have a busy schedule ahead. We'll start with a copyediting workshop in February and a grammar workshop in March. We have planned a dedicated preparative workshop in late March or early April for the IPEd accreditation exam. If you aren't confident about your editing skills, attending the copyediting and grammar workshops in the lead-up to the exam is worth your investment.

For later in the year, we have planned a business workshop for those who would like to establish their freelance business. We're also working on organising training on fiction editing, structural editing, and developing web-accessibility skills.

Our 2018 training program sounds like a lot, but we can easily make room for more. Get in touch with 'Workshops and Courses' through the 'Contact us' page on the website and let us know if you do want additional courses or programs. You can find 'Workshops and Courses' in the drop-down menu on that page.

IPEd NATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE emmurphy.words@gmail.com with Ted Briggs AE tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au and Geoff Dawson AE (deputy) geoffdawsoneditor@gmail.com Joint National Coordinators

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

The IPEd National Mentoring Program is celebrating its fifth birthday all round Australia. The program began in a small way with the CSE setting up a pilot program for Canberra editors at the end of 2012. Ted Briggs, helped by Elizabeth Manning Murphy, set up the program to see how it would run on a small scale. About a dozen people were involved in the pilot. We tried all types of scenarios from mentoring in copyediting and business practices, to mentoring interstate and overseas editors, to even the idea of one mentor working with two mentees at the same time. All these worked, so when asked to present a paper at the 2013 IPEd conference in Fremantle, we had no hesitation in following the conference theme of **editing across borders**. We talked about **mentoring across borders** and we so excited a full plenary session with our pilot experience that first Western Australia and then South Australia said 'We want to be part of that!'

The next few years were spent getting our program arranged so that it could truly be ‘across borders’, and one after the other the remaining states joined in. By the middle of 2015 all states and territories were in the program and we were truly national. So IPEd stepped in and said it would like to call it the **IPEd National Mentoring Program**, and that’s what it’s been ever since. It is still run nationally from Canberra by the same team, with coordinators in every state.



On Wednesday 29 November 2017, CSE held its annual end-of-year dinner, and we included a birthday celebration with scrumptious chocolate cake for everyone present (see photos of Ted speaking and Elizabeth blowing out the five candles). All IPEd branches are celebrating this milestone with cake, bubbles or something appropriate at their next meeting or dinner, and we in Canberra are proud of the fact that once again the CSE has been the initiator of a national institution that is alive and well at the five-year mark, with many active mentorships in Canberra and around the country. We need more

mentors in all parts of Australia, and we need editors to know that you don’t have to be old and wizened to be a mentor—young and knowledgeable about some aspect of editing or a related topic is just fine. Mentoring is great fun, a great way to give something back to our profession, and rewarding to both mentors and mentees. For more information, please contact your local mentoring coordinator or one of the National Coordinators. Or look at our guidance notes on the [IPEd website](#).

In other news, the Mentors’ Workshop, originally designed for new and prospective mentors, has been renamed the Mentoring Workshop and is open to anyone interested in the program. These workshops are run whenever we have about four or five people on a waiting list. We usually run them by Skype from Canberra at no charge, but the National Coordinators are happy to visit your state and run a face-to-face workshop for up to about 15 people.

I LEFT THE 8TH IPED CONFERENCE BUZZING

Michelle Hey AE

... such diversity of topics, speakers, EDITORS—all at the one venue.

As a freelance editor, I had been looking forward to the focus on academic editing and was very impressed with the offerings in this regard. On the day before the conference commenced, I participated in two excellent workshops: Lisa Lines’s practical and thought-provoking academic editing workshop and Hilary Cadman’s hands-on and instructive training on EndNote.

On the first day of the conference, I attended Charlotte Cottier’s presentation, which highlighted the lack of literature about thesis editing. Her research sought to address this: she surveyed students to assess whether the thesis-editing guidelines were realistic, practical and suited to purpose and reflected current practice. Charlotte suggested changes to the guidelines; in particular, the requirement that edited documents must be returned to students as a PDF or hard copy.

Directly following this was Lisa Lines’s talk about her research on the topic ‘Substantive editing as a form of plagiarism among postgraduate students’. Lisa highlighted that despite the wide-ranging body of research on plagiarism, there has been—until now—no examination of substantive editing as a form of collusion. Lisa proposed that the definition of ‘substantive editing’ needs further clarification—perhaps into subcategories of ‘content editing’ and ‘heavy editing’—and also called for revision of the guidelines. Interesting to those who may work outside academic editing is the context: the push for substantive editing is due to the increasingly pressured academic environment, with students, academics and universities pushed by deadline, money, career and institutional requirements—including cutbacks in academic skills’ departments, which have conventionally provided writing assistance to postgraduates.

Friday's Thesis Editing Panel, moderated by Renée Otmar, with panellists Charlotte Cottier, Rhonda Daniels and Juliet Richters, provided further diverse and stimulating views on the topic of academic editing. Charlotte reprised her research findings, suggesting that sections of the guidelines need to be updated. Rhonda expanded upon this, proposing that the guidelines needed to be reviewed for the benefit of editors given that the expertise of the academic editor contributes to the learning process. She felt that it was the university's place to follow up on any integrity issues and it wasn't the editor's place to act as the gatekeeper. Juliet diverged further, asking if we should be editing theses at all. Her solution is to offer a 'thesis package' earlier in the thesis-writing process, with more emphasis on specific learning/teaching for the student and constructing a style sheet.

Apart from the formal debate ignited from these differing points of view, the question sessions at the end were sometimes heated, and informal discussions in the breaks certainly sparked from these. With this, the aims of any great conference were fulfilled—to keep people talking once the presentations were over. To make the working editor stop and think, and question their practice ... to make them want to become involved in the evolution of their profession. And to make them realise that nothing stands still—to stay relevant, you must continue learning.

Of course, it was not ALL academic editing. I also appreciated the humour, experience and insights offered by Roly Sussex, Sophie Cunningham and Sandra Phillips; and enjoyed browsing (and sampling) the sponsors' displays (and morning teas!). The Welcome Function was a friendly, fun affair. I valued the visual perspectives of graphic designer Hannah Angus and cartoonist Sean Leahy, as well as the navigation perspectives of the ANZSI Panel—how an index is in essence a mini-essay about a book, and how it needs to cater to both the general and expert reader. The Building Alliances Panel also reinforced the importance of small professions working together on common issues.

Overall, a very inspiring conference—congratulations to the organisers! I'm definitely looking forward to the next conference.

Thank you very much to CSE for sponsoring me to attend this event.

WORD FROM THE WESTERN FRONT

John Linnegar

September and October have been busy months for language practitioners in Western Europe. Following hard on the heels of the annual conference of the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) in Bedfordshire at the beginning of September, from 16 to 18 September was the Professional Development Day (effectively a one-day mini-conference) of the Society of English-language professionals in the Netherlands (SENSE) and then, a month later, the Mediterranean Editors & Translators Meeting 2017 (METM17) annual meeting, held this year in the charming northern Italian city of Brescia.

In this report, the news coverage will be primarily of the SENSE and MET events.

SENSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Continuing professional development is an important thrust of SENSE's strategy. What was initially billed as 'Starters' Day' was repurposed in 2016 as SENSE's Professional Development Day (PDD). This change was made to cater for the training, sharing and networking needs of all the society's members, not only newbies to editing, translation and copywriting. This year's event was staged in the town of Amersfoort in the west of the Netherlands.

To reflect the society's member profile as closely as possible, the program included sessions on computer-assisted translation tools; how to distinguish between light, medium and heavy levels of editing; how to write appropriate client emails; using social media to best advantage; and the basics of bookkeeping for freelancers. Typically, at the PDD, SENSE draws on its own members to share their knowledge and expertise, and this year was no exception—not least in the plenary presentations. First, the 50 participants were treated to a range of creative suggestions—by a member who'd 'been there, done it'—on how to make the most of a variety of opportunities to promote our services. Then the day ended with an entertaining keynote address on how to implement Plain Language principles in the writing, editing and translating that we do.

Since SENSE has decided to alternate the PDD and a full-blown conference each year, the next PDD will take place sometime in 2019.

Meanwhile, the society's special-interest groups (SIGs) continue to meet the needs of members: the UniSIG held a meeting on the kinds of comments editors write to authors of academic papers (a fascinating variety emerged!) and the EduSIG is about to deal with the thorny question of standards for evaluating students' written work and exam scripts. The November meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands, of a relatively new Social Media SIG attracted a wide following given the interest in electronic media as a means of promoting one's services. The first part of the meeting was devoted to tweaking one's profile to make one more visible on LinkedIn. After that, members set personal goals they want to achieve, from starting a blog, posting regularly on Facebook, tweaking a LinkedIn profile to getting started on Twitter. And on 26 November, the society hosted its members and guests to the annual dinner—so there's nary a dull moment here on the Western Front, come snow or shine!



METM17

The Centro Pastorale Paolo VI in Brescia (named after the pontiff who was born in the *commune*) proved to be an ideal venue for a conference on matters editing and translating: a large and comfortable venue, or *aula*, for plenary sessions and umpteen smaller spaces for the pre-conference workshops and the breakaway sessions. At MET's 13th annual meeting—themed 'Understanding our clients: the writing process from concept to completion'—there were the usual dozen pre-



conference workshops from which participants could choose to attend one as part of the conference fee. But talk about spoilt for choice! Topics included post-machine translation editing, statistics, translating legal contracts, Excel for wordies, translating for the art world, understanding our clients, beating the agencies at their own game, editing theses and dissertations written by L2 speakers of English, and EMA templates and EU terminology.



The writing process itself was the topic of the event's first keynote speaker, Rowena Murray, from the University of the West of Scotland: 'Looking for insights into the writing process: lessons gleaned from writing retreats.' 'The translator as writer' was the theme of the final keynote speaker, Tim Parks, who considered the lengths to which translators often have to go in order to make their translations sound 'natural', while remaining faithful to the source text—not always a straightforward matter by any means, and one that can sometimes entail much writing either to correct or fill in gaps!



Sandwiched between them was a feast of no fewer than 26 presentations on a variety of topics related to editing, translation and practice. METMs are also famous (notorious?) for their off-METM activities, and this year's didn't disappoint: from early-morning jogging or yoga sessions to themed lunches and dinners at eateries around the city (such a hardship wining and dining Italian style and talking about anything from 'Digital nomading', 'Feast-or-famine sufferers' or 'Illustrious ancestors' to 'What makes you unique' and 'Working while moving'. And if none of the others appealed, there was always the wine-tasting meal for 'cork dorks' to sign up for!). In addition, there was a visit to the Santa Giulia museum of antiquities and either a walking tour or an underground tour of this fascinating Italian city with its layers of rich history so graphically visible at every turn.

The presence and participation of representatives of NEaT (Norwegian Editors and Translators) this year were warmly welcomed. It is to be hoped that they continue to forge close links not only with MET but also with societies such as SENSE, in line with our drive to strengthen intersociety liaison for the benefit of our respective members.



All in all, this was yet another remarkable sharing, learning and networking experience for those practitioners who were fortunate enough to secure a place at the sellout MET conference, and we look forward to another stimulating and enriching opportunity at Girona in October 2018.

DATES TO DIARISE

SENSE Conference 2018—Den Bosch, the Netherlands, 9–10 June 2018 (workshops on 8–9 June)

METM18—Girona, Spain, 4–6 October 2018 (workshops on 4–5 October)

Photo credits: MET/Maria Luisa Barbano.

COMICAL COLLECTIONS

I called a friend last week and asked what he was up to. The friend, a chemical engineer, explained that he had been working on the 'aquathermal treatment of ceramics in a constrained environment'. Sounded impressive until I was told that he had been washing dishes in hot water in the kitchen sink, under the supervision of his partner!

CLEVER WORDS FOR CLEVER PEOPLE

Arbitrator — A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

Avoidable — What a bullfighter tries to do.

Bernadette — The act of torching a mortgage.

Burglarise — What a crook sees through.

Counterfeiter — Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

Heroes — What a man in a boat does.

Left bank — What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.

Paradox — Two physicians.

Parasites — What you see from the Eiffel Tower.

Pharmacist — A helper on a farm.

Relief — What deciduous trees do in the spring.

Rubberneck — What you do to relax your wife.

Selfish — What the owner of a seafood store does.

Sudafed — Brought litigation against a government official.

YOUR COMMITTEE 2017-2018

President	Kate Potter
Vice-President	Eris Harrison
Secretary (and Immediate Past President)	Johann Idriss
Treasurer	Geoff Dawson
Membership Secretary and Public Officer	Linda Weber
Professional Development Coordinator	Cathy Nicoll assisted by Melissa Crowther
General Meetings Coordinator	Anna Boots
Newsletter Editor	Farid Rahimi
Website Manager	Cathy Nicoll
ACT Mentoring Coordinator	Geoff Dawson

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Richa Carneiro Alphonso
Alan Cummine
Gil Garcon
Elizabeth Manning Murphy

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Newsletter Designer/Typesetter	Gabrielle Lhuede
Catering Coordinator	Mary Webb
Email Broadcaster	VACANT

Submit your enquiries by using the online form on the 'Contact us' page of the [CSE website](#).

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SCHEDULE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next edition of *The Canberra editor* will appear in March 2018. The copy deadline for that issue is 30 February.

Send your contributions by email to newsletter@editorscanberra.org. All articles must be in <.doc> format.

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Canberra editor* is distributed by email to over 160 members of the Canberra Society of Editors, and to state and territory editors societies, affiliated societies and interested organisations.

The newsletter is available also from www.editorscanberra.org. Regular features include IPEd news, professional development, mentoring news interesting and relevant articles and much more.

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