

# THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

Volume 28 • Number 3

August | December 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

### NEWS

From the new President  
IPEd National Mentoring Program  
Mentoring in the ACT

### FEATURE

Meet your 2019–2020 committee

## FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT: ERIS HARRISON

Greetings, CSE members and other interested readers.

I took over as President at the AGM in November, with Gil Garcon as my very reliable Vice-president. I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who volunteered to assist the committee for the next year in delivering benefits and support to members. Details below. Special thanks must go to the departing President, Kate Potter, whose commitment to the Society is boundless. Kate has volunteered to serve as Treasurer this year; our terrific outgoing Treasurer Geoff Dawson, who has served his two years, moves to the role of Assistant Treasurer. Ngaire Kinnear takes over as Secretary from Alan Cummine, and we thank them both. You will have heard from Ngaire through Society emails recently: always entertaining and to the point.

Our Constitution prescribes that the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer can only be held by

any individual for two years. This can appear harsh, when we have great people in those positions; but the rule was drawn up with a view to renewal, and we continue to renew ourselves very satisfactorily. This year, we have quite a significant number of new people contributing to the committee's work. On the whole, I think that it's healthy.

The AGM was enjoyable and productive. We managed a quorum and beautiful weather, so we were able to relax and enjoy drinks and snacks on the terrace of the Drawing Room at University House, admiring the garden. The meeting was followed by a well-attended and enjoyable dinner. So many people I didn't get to talk to!

Most other roles have been filled:

- Gina Dow will continue as Public Officer.
- Kate Potter has also generously taken on the additional role of General Meetings Coordinator.

- Howard Silcock is new to the committee and will take over the website.
- Kellie Nissen is the new Membership Secretary.
- Another new appointment: Nigel Brew is the Professional Development Coordinator.
- The General Committee has a mix of old and new appointments—Elizabeth Murphy, Alan Cummine, Richa Carneiro Alphonso, Louise Maher and Deb Fleming.

Off committee roles include ACT Mentoring Coordinator (Kate Horgan), Catering and Drinks Coordinators—general meetings (Mary Webb and Dallas Stow), Newsletter Assistants (Gil Garcon and Adam Fenech).

We thank retiring office bearers Cathy Nicoll (Web Manager and PD Coordinator), Linda Weber (Membership Secretary), Alan Cummine (Secretary) and Richa Carneiro Alphonso (Newsletter Editor). The Newsletter is up in the air; we have offers

of assistance, but the fate of the Newsletter will be considered by the committee in the near future. Some ideas have been put forward, and we're happy to hear yours.

My priorities for the next year are: to keep communication flowing, to and from members; to maintain our membership; to offer interesting and affordable workshops and meetings to members; to strengthen our ties with IPEd, supporting the fine work they are doing nationally; and to review the Constitution, considering whether any provisions need updating.

Thanks to all members for your continuing support of CSE. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have some ideas or some time to contribute. We know that you can't all get to monthly general meetings, so we're planning to revive our networking lunches and to keep communication flowing.



Left to right: Kate Potter, Gil Garcon, Eris Harrison and Ngaire Kinnear



Lucky Door Prize Winner, Sonja Chandler

Photographs by Leanne Pattison



Alan Cummine calling for volunteers during the AGM.



Farewell to another successful year for CSE!

# IPEd NATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM

**Ted Briggs AE** tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

**Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE** emmurphy.words@gmail.com

Joint National Coordinators

---

## MENTORING FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

We tend to refer to mentors as being people with long-held and practised skills and with the knowledge and wisdom of long experience. This is a very broad-brush view of mentors and there are plenty of areas in which a person can have specific knowledge and skills without necessarily being wise in an 'all round' way. Such people are often very hard to find because they often believe that they don't fit the description of 'mentor'. This is a huge pity because we are missing out, in all fields of endeavour, on allowing people with very specific skills to take on this rewarding task.

What does this mean in editing circles? The IPEd Mentoring Program offers mentoring in a huge variety of skill areas, including areas where general understanding rather than specific skill is required. Look at the knowledge areas outlined in the Australian Standards for Editing Practice (ASEP), and the list of topics on the back page of the *Guidance notes* for this program on the IPEd website. The variety is immense, and it's a tall order to ask any one mentor to be 100% skilled and well read in all those areas.

It therefore stands to reason that mentors need to come in all shapes and sizes, as it were. Some newly accredited editors (AEs) may well feel close enough to having done the exam and gone through a study process beforehand to be able to pass on some of that experience to the next wave of exam candidates.

We have big campaigns running everywhere at the moment, aiming to persuade potential examinees to join study groups and to take advantage of everything that their local editors' society or branch of IPEd can offer them by way of preparation for the next Accreditation Exam in August 2020. Many of these people haven't sat an

exam of any kind for many years, so are understandably nervous. Or they have specialised in particular kinds of editing for years (e.g. academic). Or they have worked manually on documents and haven't had a lot of experience of using Track Changes or other current technology. Or they want help in boning up on some of the topics listed in the Standards that are no longer up-to-date in the *Style manual*.

They need a little specialist help from someone who has made a specialty of some aspects of editing such as: preparing a personal study timetable and being helped to stick to it; getting more practice in reviewing aspects of English grammar than can be achieved in a class workshop; preparing a style sheet for every editing job between now and the exam, and so on.

We desperately need AEs and others to help with this and other 'special topic' mentoring. You need to be a good listener and you need to be patient as you explain facts or technology as required. Mentoring is not teaching—a mentor guides the mentee and the mentee sets the pace. You talk through particular editing situations but the mentor remains 'hands-off' as far as doing the work is concerned. And a mentorship is often the start of a friendship. If you can be encouraging and if you passed the Accreditation Exam, or if you have specialist knowledge to pass on, whether you are an AE or not, you might well be just who we're looking for.

### GET IN TOUCH

**Please talk to your local mentoring coordinator or either Ted Briggs or Elizabeth Manning Murphy to find out more, and come along to a mentoring workshop (free and by Zoom on your home computer) as soon as you like. You will get a warm welcome.**

## MENTORING IN THE ACT

**Kate Horgan** kate.horgan@alumni.anu.edu.au  
ACT Coordinator

CSE members, accredited editors and specialists: we want you! Please consider making an application to be a mentor. This is a great way to 'give back' professionally, and to keep you in touch with a new, up and coming generation of editors. I'm looking forward to bringing more people on board and forging rewarding mentorships in 2020.

With the upcoming accreditation exam, it is vital that we have your support to draw upon. As your local ACT mentoring coordinator, I am always happy to answer any questions you might have. Send me an email and I will forward you a mentor application form. Thank you to all of our mentors and mentees who have participated in the program in 2019.



## MEET YOUR 2019–2020 COMMITTEE



**ERIS JANE HARRISON AE,**  
PRESIDENT

Eris Jane Harrison is an accredited editor (2008; reaccredited 2013 and 2018). She enjoys freelancing because she can work while travelling and, when home, doesn't have to get up in the morning. The work is very varied and usually interesting. Eris spent many years in the APS and a few years with NFPs. She is the author of an information booklet, *Forgotten Australians: Supporting survivors of childhood institutional care in Australia*, and has written several plays, some of which have been produced. Eris has been Secretary and Vice-president of CSE in the past and takes over as President with some trepidation but plenty of good intentions.



**GIL GARÇON,**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

Gil was editing a national administration periodical for Commonwealth public servants when he was invited to join the proposed CSE, and went to its first meeting in May 1991. Keen to attend, he sure joined. He's been a member ever since, with many years on the committee and as newsletter editor. Gil, a 1975 post-graduate in agricultural communication, is still editing, still not embarrassed about embarrassing.



**KATE POTTER,**  
TREASURER AND  
GENERAL MEETINGS  
COORDINATOR

Kate works in corporate communications in a government role. She is a keen reader of fiction and specialises in editing fantasy fiction.



**GEOFF DAWSON AE,**  
ASSISTANT TREASURER

Geoff had an 18-year career as a researcher, writer and editor of reports for parliamentary committees. In 2014, he retrained to focus on editing and now splits his time between freelancing and editing the Hansard proceedings of the parliament. His special interests are plain English writing and teaching grammar.





**NGAIRE KINNEAR,**  
SECRETARY AND  
ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

Ngaire came late in life to the peerless satisfactions of editing, but hasn't looked back. Before editing, Ngaire's background was in administration in the private sector, and in volunteer management in the community mental health sector. She has been a member of CSE since early 2018, and joined the committee in October of that year in the role handling Online Communications. She has spent 2019 studying editing at the University of Canberra, enjoying getting to know CSE better, continuing as a mentee in the IPEd Mentoring Program, and gaining confidence in the craft with a variety of jobs. The coming year will be dedicated to establishing her business, reviewing CSE's administrative processes, and preparing for the accreditation exam.



**KELLIE NISSEN,**  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kellie is a born-and-bred Canberran. She was a primary school teacher for 25 years, and just this year began the transition out of school and into the world of freelance editing and writing. Her business, Just Right Words, was newly registered in April this year. In her spare time, Kellie writes young adult novels, picture books and blog posts about her journey along the autism spectrum with her son. Kellie was recently awarded the Anne Edgeworth Fellowship to develop her blog into a book, with a view to creating a safe space for people on the spectrum to pursue their creative skills. Over the years, she's climbed Mt Fuji, dragon-boated down the Arno River in Florence, Italy, and wrangled every grade from Kindergarten to Year 6. Kellie is looking forward to knowing more about the Canberra editing community through this role.



**GINA DOW,**  
PUBLIC OFFICER

Gina has been a communications professional in the Australian Public Service for 20 years, largely as an editor in the arts, culture and heritage sector. She is a former editor of the Australian Government's *Arts and Culture* and *Living Heritage* magazines. She currently works as a historical researcher at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has an MA in Strategic Communications from UC and recently completed the Graduate Certificate in Professional Editing at Queens University, Canada. Gina is also a published poet.

**NIGEL BREW AE,**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR

Nigel has been editing in some capacity for over 15 years in his full-time job as a section director (and previously a senior researcher) in the Research Branch of the Australian Parliamentary Library. In addition to his primary role, Nigel currently leads and coordinates the Library's group of nearly 30 editors. He runs a guest lecture series on editing, writing and language issues; coordinates the Library's style guide; produces an internal editing newsletter; and maintains editing resources on the Library's intranet. Nigel also edits Library publications in a variety of disciplines, writes his own research papers for the Library and clears for online publication the work of his staff. He has also been on the working group for the new (7th) edition of the *Style manual* since the beginning of the project, and has been editing privately on a casual freelance basis since 2014, focusing mainly on academic editing. In addition to a master's degrees in Criminology and Psychology, he most recently completed a Postgraduate Certificate of Editing and Electronic Publishing in 2015 (Macquarie University), for which he was awarded the Editing and Electronic Publishing Prize for achieving a high distinction in all three units. Nigel became an Accredited Editor in 2016.



**HOWARD SILCOCK,**  
WEBSITE MANAGER

Howard is a contract technical writer. He creates and edits technical documentation for IT systems, mostly in government departments. He's also a member of the Australian Society for Technical Communication, and has served on their committee and the editorial panel of their journal. Originally a research mathematician working for CSIRO and the ANU, Howard switched careers many years ago and now mainly works with words, though he occasionally helps with Excel and gets called on for expertise with Word templates and macros.

---



**LOUISE MAHER AE,**  
GENERAL COMMITTEE

Louise retired from the ABC at the end of 2018 after 38 years as a radio journalist, producer and presenter. Turning words into stories is her passion. She's currently working on the development of a new audio app for the National Portrait Gallery, and produces and presents a monthly podcast for the Australian War Memorial called 'Collected'. After passing the IPEd exam last year, Louise is now an Accredited Editor. Her current editing work is sporadic and unpaid but she looks forward to doing more in the future.

---



**ELIZABETH MANNING  
MURPHY DE,**  
GENERAL COMMITTEE

Elizabeth is a trained linguist, a Distinguished Editor (IPEd, 2008), an Honorary Life Member (CSE, 2013), a former President of the CSE and Principal of Elizabeth M Murphy & Associates (emma). She has contributed to the editing profession through her local, national and international 'Grammar in a nutshell' workshops, her books—including a revision of *Working words* and *Effective writing*—and through her joint national coordination of the IPEd Mentoring Program. Elizabeth has been an editor for more than 40 years, now specialising in editing research theses for students with English as a second language. Website: [www.emwords.info](http://www.emwords.info).

---



**ALAN CUMMINE,**  
GENERAL COMMITTEE

After patchy dilettante membership between 1994 and 2006, Alan rejoined CSE with serious intent in March 2012. Long experience in governance and senior management made him a target for the Committee, and within months he found himself on the IPEd Council and as CSE vice-president. He was president from 2013 to 2015, and has remained on the Committee since then. Alan gained his writing and editing experience through four decades of policy work in government, private and not-for-profit bodies. Now, through GoodWords Consulting, Alan offers the usual range of editing services.

---



**DEB FLEMING,**  
GENERAL COMMITTEE

Deb has 20 years' experience in government in a range of roles, including communications, strategic policy development and contract management. She has written and edited annual reports, business plans, evaluation reports and academic research, as well as website content, speeches and media releases. Her areas of expertise are education policy and theory, science and technology.



**RICHA CARNEIRO  
ALPHONSO AE,**  
GENERAL COMMITTEE

Richa has over twelve years of writing, editing and publishing experience. After serving as senior editor with some of the biggest media houses overseas, she moved to Australia in 2016. Now based in Canberra, she works as a full-time publishing editor. She has been a member of CSE since 2017.



## YOUR COMMITTEE 2020

President	<b>Eris Harrison</b>
Vice-President	<b>Gil Garçon</b>
Secretary / Online Communications	<b>Ngairé Kinnear</b>
Treasurer / General Meetings Coordinator	<b>Kate Potter</b>
Assistant Treasurer	<b>Geoff Dawson</b>
Membership Secretary	<b>Kellie Nissen</b>
Public Officer	<b>Gina Dow</b>
Professional Development Coordinator	<b>Nigel Brew</b>
Newsletter Editor	<b>TBA</b>
Website Manager	<b>Howard Silcock</b>
Immediate Past President	<b>Kate Potter</b>

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

**Elizabeth Manning Murphy**  
**Alan Cummine**  
**Richa Carneiro Alphonso**  
**Louise Maher**  
**Deb Fleming**

## NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

ACT Mentoring Coordinator	<b>Kate Horgan</b>
Newsletter Assistant	<b>Adam Fenech</b>
Catering Coordinator	<b>Mary Webb</b>

Submit your enquiries by using the online form on the 'Contact us' page of the CSE website.

---

## THE CANBERRA EDITOR

---

### THE CANBERRA SOCIETY OF EDITORS' NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28 No. 3 August–December © Canberra Society of Editors 2019  
ISSN 2200-6344 (online)  
PO Box 3222, Manuka ACT 2603

### ADVERTISING RATES

*The Canberra editor* is available from [www.editorscanberra.org](http://www.editorscanberra.org). Regular features include reports on the general meetings, professional development, mentoring news, interesting and relevant articles, and much more.

Costs (subject to review) and specifications

\$40	1 col.	w 54 x h 273 mm
\$60	1/2 page	w 180 x h 140 mm
\$120	1 page	w 178 x h 273 mm

Artwork may be supplied as <.jpg>, <.png> or <.tiff>. The artwork should be RGB, 72 ppi.