

# THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

Volume 22 • Number 2

April–June 2013

## Next general meeting

Wednesday 26 June  
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm

Federation Room,  
Havelock House,  
85 Northbourne Ave, Turner

**Mentoring: Ted Briggs  
and Elizabeth Manning  
Murphy**

[www.editorscanberra.org](http://www.editorscanberra.org)

## Mentoring – no barriers

*First published in Offpress, June 2013, Society of Editors (Qld)*

As this newsletter goes to press, in Canberra we are celebrating the launch of a mentoring program for editors that has grown out of a long-held wish on the part of its initiator, Ted Briggs, and me. We have long wanted to set up a program for all members of the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE) that provides guidance for new or less skilled or returning editors. We now have a program that, as a result of a successful pilot program, is designed to be of practical use to editors anywhere, no matter what grade of membership they hold in their Society, and with a range of options for variations on the mentoring theme.

### History and research

To go back a bit, the word ‘mentor’ has been around for thousands of years, Mentor originally being the name of a trusted counsellor of Odysseus, according to The Odyssey. Today, a mentor helps another person, a mentee, to develop personally, provides advice, shares experiences and wisdom and guides the mentee to make their own decisions, but never does the work for the mentee.

In 2009, the CSE conducted a workshop to discuss a possible mentoring program for editors, but other pressures meant that it didn’t really get going, apart from a few ad hoc mentoring partnerships that grew up informally when either Ted or I had time to devote to them.

## 2015 — the countdown begins ...

**Write, Edit, Index:** A national conference for editors, indexers, and publishing professionals ... is the theme of the 2015 conference to be held in Canberra, 6–9 May 2015, and jointly hosted by the Canberra Society of Editors and ACT Region Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) on behalf of the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) and ANZSI. An organising committee, comprising a mix of editors and indexers, has been set up. If you’d like to volunteer for any tasks, at any time, or have ideas or suggestions for the conference program, please let the conference convenor know: [tracyharwood@grapevine.net.au](mailto:tracyharwood@grapevine.net.au).



Write, Edit, Index

A national conference for editors, indexers, and publishing professionals

**Canberra, Australia, 6–9 May 2015**

Hosted jointly by IPEd and ANZSI

 **IPEd.**  
To advance the profession of editing

*Save the date!*

More recently, we were encouraged, by an influx of new members asking about any form of guidance they could get, to think again. In 2012 we started looking seriously at programs operating around the world, and, as I was to be in both the UK and South Africa that year, I was given the go-ahead from the CSE committee to set up appointments with the people responsible for mentoring programs in the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) in the UK and in the Professional Editors' Group (PEG) in South Africa. I supplemented this with online research into what's happening in the Editors' Association of Canada and around Australia.

We were looking to design a program that would be thoroughly Australian, with no strictures such as mentorship being a mandatory prerequisite to certain grades of membership, and with a wide range of options for mentoring. We wanted to encompass any requests from mentees, including oversight and guidance on text editing tasks, discussing career directions, suggestions for rewording a personal CV to attract work, help with updating skills for work in a new area of editing ... anything. We wanted to let mentees choose how they needed to be mentored. And we wanted to open the program to new members, members returning to editing after a long break, members with a short-term particular problem, and so on. The program we set up as a pilot included all those options and introduced mentoring at a distance. Thanks to email and Skype, the world has shrunk to the size of a pea, and we have taken advantage of these recently developed technologies to help replace one-on-one personal contact, though we do like at least one personal contact session in a mentorship if possible.

### **How did we do it?**

We invited members of the CSE to put their hands up as both mentors and mentees, and we were overwhelmed. We ended up with six mentors for the pilot program and were able to accommodate eight mentees, with a number still waiting to be paired with a mentor in the full program now being launched.

We prepared application forms, guidelines, some explanatory material, and outlines to help Ted and me to develop requests for feedback from mentors during the program and from mentees at the end of the program. All this material has now been 'translated' for use in the full program.

We held a meeting of mentors to make sure they all understood the meaning of mentoring, and tried to anticipate possible technical hitches so that they wouldn't slow down the process.

We asked mentees to be very specific about their needs and goals for the mentorship, and tried to match them with mentors whose skills were appropriate. We also considered everybody's preferred means of communication, personality, and distance from each other. By chance, we were able to include mentees who were living outside Australia, so had an opportunity to prove that distance made no difference to mentorship, given a little goodwill.

### **Requirements**

Our program is now open to any member of any Australian society of editors, at any level of membership. We have trialled distance mentoring, and while it is probably preferable to pair mentor and mentee within their own state or territory, we see no barrier to a mentee being mentored by someone in another state or territory if necessary. For instance, a mentee in Perth may want to undertake thesis editing as a new venture. If nobody is available to mentor in this area in Perth, a shared database may identify someone in Canberra or Brisbane willing to take the role on.

## **Re-accreditation is coming ...**

**If you've been an Accredited Editor (AE) for 5 years, it's time to hone your skills!**

See IPEd website for details: [http://iped-editors.org/Accreditation/Renewal\\_of\\_accreditation.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/Accreditation/Renewal_of_accreditation.aspx)

Our only requirements are:

- All participants must be a member, at any level, of a society of editors (Australian for the moment, but we do not discount membership of an affiliated organisation outside Australia in due course).
- Mentees should have done at least a one-day training program in copyediting or proofreading.
- Mentees should have done at least some editing – mentoring is not for teaching the basics of editing.
- Mentors should be experienced and willing to mentor in specified areas of expertise – they do not need to be senior editors: many young editors have skills that older editors do not have, and vice versa.
- Both mentors and mentees agree, along with the program coordinators, to strict confidentiality within individual mentorships – thus ensuring that mentees can speak freely and can confide in mentors with a sense of privacy.

## **Documentation**

We are able to provide general guidelines and application forms for prospective mentors and mentees. Please contact either Ted or me. Other documents, including a brochure, will undoubtedly be developed as required.

## **Costs**

From the beginning, Ted and I, and the CSE committee, wanted our program to be self-sufficient. We would have liked to make the program free to mentees, but we realised that the payment of a reasonable sum would help with a sense of commitment on the part of the mentee. For this full program, we have agreed, with the CSE committee's support, on an up-front fee of \$200 per mentorship, for now. This is approximately the cost of a one-day training program run by the CSE for members. It is intended to cover an honorarium for the mentor of \$150, with the remaining \$50 going into the kitty to be used for expenses as required.

We realise this sum does not equate to payment, as such, for the recommended eight contact sessions over a period of up to four months. Those of us who were mentors on the pilot program regarded the task as a way of giving something back to the profession, not as a way of earning. Ted and I are recommending that this fee be trialled for the first year of operation at any rate, and that all arrangements, including costs and fees, be reviewed on an annual basis. We would, for now, keep the administration of the overall program in Canberra, with two joint coordinators, but with perhaps one local coordinator in any states that wish to join the program. We don't want to be over-prescriptive, believing that the program will develop as we build relationships.

## **Conclusion**

Ted and I were very gratified by the reception we received to our presentation at the IPEd conference in Perth recently, and delighted that some delegates at the conference immediately indicated their wish to be involved in an interstate program. We thank sincerely the CSE committee, all other Australian editing societies, and members of SfEP (UK), including Gerard Hill, and of PEG (South Africa), including John Linnegar, Irene Stotko and Inga Norenus, for help with our research. We also thank all the mentors and mentees on the pilot program, who helped bring us to this point of launching a mentoring program that we hope will cross all barriers of distance, culture and skills-matching in time.

*Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE ([emmurphy@ozemail.com.au](mailto:emmurphy@ozemail.com.au)) with thanks and acknowledgment to my co-coordinator, Ted Briggs AE ([tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au](mailto:tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au)).*

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## Committee news

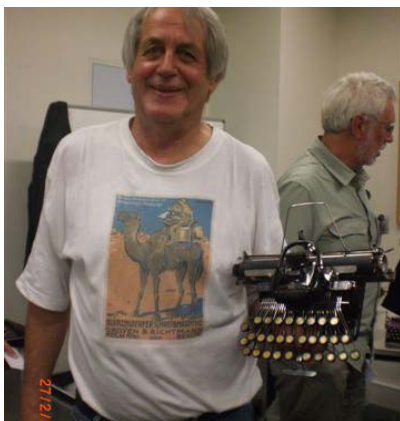
### Change of President, and other matters

In May, Connie Stamos resigned as president of the Canberra Society of Editors to take up a full-time position in Sydney. Our Vice-President, Alan Cummine, has been Acting-President since Connie's departure and will remain so until our annual general meeting and elections in August.

We had previously published Connie's resignation email in this space, but she asked us to remove it from the website, and we have done so. Connie also asked us to remove a photo of her with a guest speaker, Andrew Arch, publication of which she had not authorised, and we have done so.

CSE offers its apology for whatever offence or inconvenience may have resulted from the publication and subsequent removal of this information.

### CSE meetings past



*Robert Messenger and his favourite typewriter.*



*David Whitbread and his one page style guide.*

### Editing Across Borders

*Editing Across Borders* (the National Editors' Conference 2013 in Fremantle) was an outstanding success by all accounts. Congratulations to our colleagues in WA and conference organisers. Alan Cummine (CSE Vice President) will report on the positive outcomes. We at CSE are already excited about the next joint national (editors' and indexers') conference: *Write, Edit, Index*, in Canberra, 2015. We certainly have a lot to live up to after WA's great effort.

### Reflect and celebrate on our 21st anniversary

As for editors' activities back home in Canberra, one of the CSE's focus this year will be reflecting on and celebrating our achievements since the CSE's inception in 1992. A stop and reflect exercise can help us to form a clearer vision of what we want to achieve in the future. Changes to our website under the current CSE website review will support this 'exercise'.

The Member's Only section is already on the internet—that's where you'll find our newsletter, *The Canberra editor*, and the new CSE members' forum (members will be assigned log-on details automatically). This new (automatic notification-enabled and) user-friendly forum will be a great place for us to exchange news and views on the future of the editing profession and of IPEd.

#### New members

A warm, collegial welcome to:

- Virginia Cooke (rejoining on her return to Canberra)
- Elaine Eccleston
- Bernadette O'Leary AE
- Samantha Phillips
- Penny Wheeler AE



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## Committee news

In addition, I have asked Alan Cummine, currently Acting-President and retired NLA historian, to update the History section of our website. Alan has kindly agreed to do this brief update for us before this year's AGM. Thank you Alan!

## Acknowledging contributions to the CSE—nominate the next HLM

We want to acknowledge all those who have contributed to this society (or at least to begin to acknowledge them, I should say, for the list is long.)

The CSE currently has two Honorary Life Members (HLM): Looma Snooks and Peter Judge.

Our committee feels that it's time to elect one more HLM as part of our 21st anniversary celebrations (see: Clause III. 3.6 of our Constitution). We'd like to involve you all in the nomination process and ask for your views. Please take some time to write to us about who you'd like to nominate. You will receive an email about how to nominate your next HLM in 2013 very shortly.

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## Professional development

### Efficient Business Writing

Only five registrants attended the Efficient Business Writing workshop in March but feedback was that it was an informative course with a most engaging presenter. To continue to organise professional development delivered by professional trainers we may have to consider holding relevant workshops and courses during the working week—we're most likely to get non-members registering if their employers pay for the event.

### Networking lunch — July

Look out for details on the CSE website for a forthcoming networking lunch being organised for late July.

### Copy-editing workshop — August

Cathy Nicoll has agreed to run a half-day copy-editing workshop in August. You'll find details on the CSE website soon.

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## IPEd notes News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

### Your vote for IPEd's future

A reminder that IPEd Council's review of the role of IPEd and its relationship with the societies has reached an important stage: your vote.

All members will have received a survey to complete and voting closes on Thursday 27 June. All members will have received a survey to complete and voting closes on Thursday 27 June.

Before using Survey Monkey to vote, please read this short, three-page document (PDF 112 kb) <http://goo.gl/9JJ1j> that summarises the features, advantages and disadvantages of the options. Then use this link to vote via SurveyMonkey <http://goo.gl/2yFpj>

With our thanks for your help.

*Owen Kavanagh, Chair, IPEd Council, and A/g Chair, Working Party 3*

\* Access members area at <http://iped-editors.org>

Login using this format:

Username: FirstnameLastname

Password: FirstnameLastname

You can change the password once you're logged in. Contact Margaret Millard ([margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au](mailto:margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au)), SE Membership Secretary, for more information.

# A response to the report of the IPEd Review Phase Two Working Party

*This is an edited version of Janet McKenzie's 'A fruitful discussion' speech made at the IPEd Conference in Fremantle, 12 April 2013.*

First, thanks to the IPEd Council and the two working parties for all the time and thought they have put into this review. The report presents two models for the structure of the federation.

We have before us an apple and an orange.

The apple, Model 1, proposes a reduced scope of activity and the existing structure, funded by an annual per capita contribution of \$25–50.

The orange, Model 2, proposes the existing scope of activity but a totally new structure, funded by a per capita contribution of \$100–150.

Get that? Less activity, same structure, \$50, or same activity, new structure, \$150.

Let me offer you a peach: IPEd continues with its existing structure and activities, funded by a per capita contribution of \$150–200.

To put that sum in proportion, I remind you that many of us paid \$90 to attend the conference dinner last night.

This report identifies the burnout of volunteers as one of the main problems facing IPEd. Curiously, it then makes nine recommendations, every one of which requires substantial volunteer input. All this 'seeking feedback' and 'engaging societies and their members in discussion' — can you imagine the email traffic this is going to generate?

Now suppose we find the volunteers to do the work needed to implement these nine recommendations. Suppose the vote is eventually put, and Model 2 is chosen. We will then embark on a whole lot more research, position papers, seeking and analysing feedback etc.

Not only is it an awful lot of work, but it repeats work done just a few years ago by the National Organisation Working Group and CASE. I was involved in a small way in creating the present constitution and obtaining approval for it. Do you realise what's involved? Do we really have the energy to devise and find acceptance for and set up a totally new organisation? And to what benefit? I fear the result will be a bright shiny reinvented wheel, and another 20 or 30 burnt-out volunteers — and no advance in the profession of editing.

Moreover, if we push ahead with the recommendations, we run some serious risks.

- IPEd could be paralysed with all this research and consultation and busywork which could absorb its capacity for years.
- One or more of the societies could split or withdraw from IPEd as a result of the decision to pursue Model 2, so we could end up worse off than we are now.

We all want the same thing: IPEd functioning and representing editors effectively. We need an achievable plan. We need manageable, incremental change. Here it is:

The IPEd Council should establish a business case and a process for raising the per capita contribution to a realistic level (including indexation) and obtain consensus for it.

The business case must show that higher fees will result in improved services. The process will be some systematic, practical method of implementing the increase, whether all in one hit or staged over two or three years. And indexation is essential: otherwise we'll have a fight every few years over the need to raise fees.

This plan doesn't close off any options. It solves the immediate problems and allows for further incremental change. For instance, once the money is coming in, the Council could look at setting up a national newsletter, or a national

### Follow IPEd on:

 [Twitter@IPeditors](https://twitter.com/IPeditors)

 [Friend IPEd on Facebook](#)

website, or a national freelance register — or all three. This would have two benefits:

1. It would reduce the burden on the societies and reduce duplication and waste.
2. It would start to develop a national consciousness among editors so they get out of their state silos and feel part of a national profession.

Once that groundwork has been done, IPEd might evolve over two or five or ten years to a point where Model 2 becomes inevitable. Or maybe not. It doesn't matter. What we need to do now is solve the immediate problems without closing off future options. I repeat, the IPEd Council should establish a business case for raising fees and persuade the members that it's worth it.

*Janet Mackenzie, [superscript@netspace.net.au](mailto:superscript@netspace.net.au)*



## ANZSI Medal

Dear Colleague,

I am writing as the chairman of the ANZSI Awards Committee to ask you to consider submitting an entry in this year's ANZSI Medal. If you think one of your indexers has produced an outstanding index recently, entering the index as a medal contender is a potential way of giving credit to the indexer, and to yourself as a publisher.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal is offered annually for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

The index must be in print and published after 2009. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere. The index should be substantial in size; the subject matter should be complex; and the language, form and structure of the index should demonstrate the indexer's expertise, as well as serving the needs of the text and reader.

The publisher of the winning index will be presented with a certificate recognising their promotion of work of outstanding quality. The judges may also make 'Highly Commended' awards. Nominations, with bibliographical details and a copy of the book (which will be returned if requested) should be sent to the address on the nomination form.

Publishers, indexers and all interested people may nominate indexes, and indexers may nominate their own work. We invite you to have a browse around your local bookshop too. If you find an Australian or New Zealand title with an index, which looks as though it could be a Medal contender, complete the nomination form on the ANZSI website and send it to Garry Cousins, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

Entries close on 31 July 2013. A nomination form is available on the ANZSI website: [www.anzsi.org/site/medal.asp](http://www.anzsi.org/site/medal.asp)

Contact: Garry Cousins, Chairman, Awards Committee, 41 Gould Avenue, Lewisham NSW 2049, (02) 9560 0102, [gdcousins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gdcousins@optusnet.com.au)

*Garry Cousins, Chairman, Awards Committee, ANZSI*



*The final 'd' from the 'wide brown land' sculpture at the National Arboretum in Canberra.*

Elizabeth Manning Murphy comments: 'For a sculpture based on the hand-writing of Dorothea Mackellar, this final 'd' leaves a lot to be desired. Can you write a 'd' like this?'

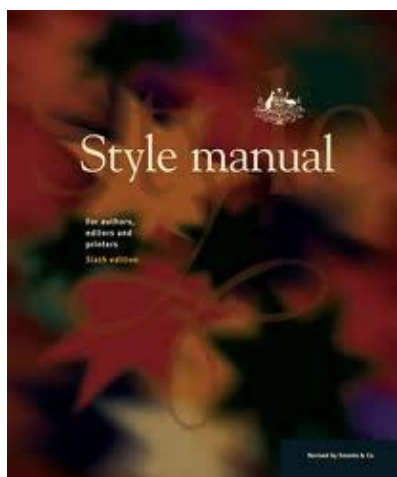
# Style manual

## Style manual, 7th edn — survey

The 6th edition of the *Style manual: for authors, editors and printers* (*Style manual*) was published in 2002. The Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) is preparing to tender for the 7th edition of the *Style Manual*. The plan is to update the content to reflect current conventions in style and language usage, and format the content for digital publishing. One of the first steps in the project is to scope the extent of the changes required, by asking those who use the *Style manual* the most.

In an attempt to understand how editors use the *Style Manual*, AGIMO requested users of the *Style Manual* to complete an online survey. It is hoped that the views of users will improve the utility of Australia's pre-eminent style guide, now and into the future.

The online survey has now closed but it follows here if you're interested in what is being considered by the AGIMO.



### Section 1: About you

*This section will help us understand who are the main users of the Style Manual so we can ensure that the 7th edition remains relevant to its audience.*

1. In which sector do you work? Australian Government\*, Academia, Media, Private industry, Other – please specify  
Australian Government respondents only
  - Is your work, or that of your organisation, directly related to a policy area that is included in the *Style manual*? For example, you or your organisation may be involved in developing policy around the use of Titles and Honorifics (page 504) or Copyright (page 408) etc
  - If Yes, please provide details on the policy area and where possible identify a contact (name, email and phone number) for the *Style manual* team to follow up for future content development.
2. What is the name of your organisation or business?
3. Which one title best describes your job role?
  - Editor, Journalist, Speechwriter, Communications and Marketing, Graphic Designer, Publisher, Webmaster/Web Designer, Public Relations, Media Liaison, Policy Officer, Author, Academic/Lecturer, Teacher/Facilitator, Other – please specify [free text box]

### Section 2. How do you use the Style manual?

*The questions in this section are designed to help us understand how the Style manual is being used so we can ensure that the 7th edition is best formatted.*

4. How long have you been using the Australian Government Style manual?  
Less than 10 years (the 6th edition is the only one I use); Between 10 and 20 years (I've used at least two editions); More than 20 years
5. Were you involved in the development (writing, editing, design etc.) of the Style manual (any edition)?  
YES/NO. If yes, please provide the details of your past involvement in the box below:
6. What best describes your reasons for using the Style manual?  
Writing for government; Designing for government; Publishing for government; Editing for government; As a reference tool for Australian language style in general; To teach communication skills; Other – please specify
7. How often would you refer to the *Style manual* as part of your work?
  - Daily, Frequently (two or three times a week); Often (a few times a month); As required (a few times a year); Rarely; Never
8. In what format(s) would you use the forthcoming 7th edition of the *Style manual*?
  - Hard copy book; E-book; Online version (searchable); Application for a tablet (e.g. iPad); Application for a smart phone; Other—please specify



9. Please select the parts of the *Style manual* that you use or refer to the most:
- Part 1: Planning the communication; Part 2: Writing and editing; Part 3: Designing and illustrating; Part 4: Legal and compliance aspects of publishing; Part 5: Producing and evaluating the product; Appendix A—Titles, honours and forms of address; Appendix B—Metric conversion table; Appendix C—Standard proofreading marks and how to use them; Index
10. What other references do you use to supplement or compliment the *Style manual* for editing or publishing guidance?
- None; Other—please specify

### Section 3 – What needs to change?

*In this section we hope to identify what changes need to be made to the content of the *Style manual* for the 7th edition. This is your opportunity to tell us your views on corrections, omissions or even what you want us to leave as is or drop.*

11. Have you identified any changes that are required or any information that needs updating for the 7th edition?
- YES/NO. If YES, please provide details (with page number reference, if possible) in the box below:
12. What is missing from the 6th edition of the *Style manual* that you would like to see in the 7th edition?
13. Are there any parts of the 6th edition that you think are superfluous and should be removed for the 7th edition?
- YES/NO. If YES, please provide details (with page number reference, if possible).



## Redact 2013

Editors Victoria is excited to announce a Redact residential training program will be held on 10–11 August in Hepburn Springs, central Victoria. If you are considering some exciting professional development this year, think about Redact. You will join a group of up to 12 registrants for in-depth training in a specialist strand of your choice. Plenary sessions and meal breaks will present opportunities to hear about participants' experiences in the other groups, as well as provide a collegial setting for socialising and networking. Registrants are required to have at least two years' editing experience.

Trainers for this event are:

- fiction editing—Mandy Brett (Mandy Brett is a senior acquiring editor with Text Publishing working on both fiction and trade non-fiction titles.)
- ePublishing—Sarah Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher is a freelance editor and trainer specialising in ebooks.)
- project management—Kirstie Innes-Will and Niki Horin (Kirstie Innes-Will has over 12 years' experience in publishing, as both an in-house and freelance editor. Niki Horin has worked in book publishing for more than 10 years specialising in children's books. Both Kirstie and Niki have extensive experience in all areas of project management.

Detailed course outlines are available in the registration form. Registrations are open and early bird bookings close on Sunday 30 June. Places are strictly limited, so book early! Places, and preferences for the three strands, will be allocated strictly on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Download the Registration form from <http://www.editorsvictoria.org/professional-development/redact>, and return by email to register. For any further enquiries: [redact@editorsvictoria.org](mailto:redact@editorsvictoria.org)

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## Articles

### From XML to other markup languages—the basis of ebooks

The articles in this series about learning XML markup have taken editors from the 'big picture' of all types of XML technologies, through to how content in a word processing document is converted to markup, and down to the detail of formatting text and lists. In this article, **Dave Gardiner** gives a recap on how XML has been one way to learn about markup languages in general, as a base format for ebooks.

#### Introduction

If you have been diligently following this series of articles and undertaking the exercises, then well done for getting this far. And you would have noticed that a free ebook has been compiled containing all the articles (and a few more you haven't seen yet). So where is all this leading?

XML is seemingly complex when you start off—so is any new technology. There is a learning curve, of course. But if you've managed to get through the exercises so far, then how do you feel about what you've accomplished? The excitement about turning a file of complex tags and text into a PDF you can read? The challenge of making the connection between abstract markup (where you can't figure out how the end ebook product will look) and what appears in a printed document? If you've made those connections, that's a leap forward in understanding digital content.

#### Markup is at the core of ebooks

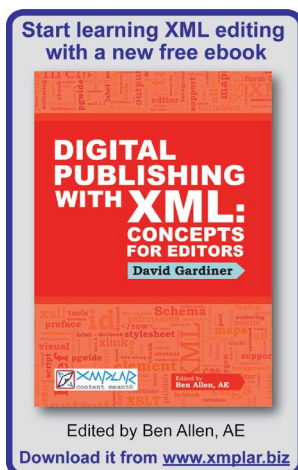
Digital publishing is changing very fast, and it's not always easy to see how editors can take advantage. Since the first article was written over a year ago, publishing workflows have changed, and improvements in software have meant slicker and easier-to-use tools for editing and publishing. Even web standards have changed. One XML technology used for typesetting (XSL-FO) is being rendered obsolete (according to the World Wide Web Consortium)—it will gradually be replaced by cascading stylesheets (CSS), which are much easier to understand.

At the recent IPEd conference in Perth, some discussions about technologies used for editing and publishing mentioned extensible hypertext markup language (XHTML) as an emerging markup language for publishing. It's less complicated than XML, because it uses tags with standard names. It's easier to style documents using XHTML with cascading stylesheets. And I've discovered that it's possible to produce ebook formats from word processing documents such as PDF and EPUB ebooks for tablets and e-readers, all starting from XHTML. This is good news for publishers, who can match up those technologies with the appropriate typesetting software, and use templates to convert documents to XHTML. Another good thing is that while you've been learning XML and producing familiar page-based documents, you've also been learning the basics of XHTML.

Read the rest of this article at <http://xmleditoz.net.au/tutorials/xml-othermarkup.pdf>

### Plain sailing ... it's not plain English

Last October my husband and I spent two weeks sailing an open-ocean voyage from Noumea to Sydney on the tall ship *Søren Larsen*. I was (and still am) a novice sailor. We joined the 'voyage crew'. We weren't obliged to help run the ship, but were strongly encouraged to ... We were first assigned the midnight to 4 am watch. I was out of my comfort zone for much of the voyage but had an amazing experience.



#### Yahoo Canberra editors

Peter Judge continues to monitor the Yahoo Canberra Editor's discussion group (founded in February 2001). Contact Peter Judge: [peter.judge@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.judge@bigpond.com), and contribute to the discussions with over 70 other members.



"No, a 'spar-lash' isn't a nautical term. It's the noise the anchor makes when you throw it over the side into the water". © Original artist.

## Committee 2013

### **Acting-President**

Alan Cummine

### **Secretary**

Martin Holmes

### **Treasurer**

Mike Wilkins

### **Professional Development Coordinator**

Malini Devadas

### **Membership Secretary**

Margaret Millard

### **Newsletter Editor**

Kerie Newell

### **Meeting Coordinator**

Ara Nalbandian

### **IPEd Councillor**

Alan Cummine

### **IPEd Accreditation Board Delegate**

Ted Briggs

### **Committee members**

Cath Nicoll

Kaaren Sutcliffe

Tristan Viscarra Rossel

Mike Wilkins

### **Non-committee positions**

#### **Webminder**

Cathy Nicoll

#### **Public Officer**

Ara Nalbandian

#### **Catering Coordinator (tbc)**

Please send all correspondence via the website.

Nautical language is full of its own special jargon and not much is intuitive. Often a command would be shouted and the voyage crew would stand about blankly, until one of the regular crew quickly yelled a plain English translation.

'two, six, heave' does not mean losing your lunch over the rail in rough seas.

'ease to the stopper' — release tension on the line (you and I would call it a rope, but that's a hanging offence on a ship, or at least an indication of gross ignorance) back to the person who has responsibility for making the line secure around a large wooden peg that is called a belaying pin.

'come up' — let go the line and throw it forward (so the stopper can make the line fast around the belaying pin, and has some line to work with immediately, rather than waste precious seconds pulling the line towards themselves. Setting and taking down sails often needs to be done quickly, as the result of sudden wind changes, and flapping sails can be damaged in the wind — a few holes were torn in our sails and expletives accompanied the damage.)

... but 'let go' — cast off, or unleash a line from its belaying pin. DON'T hang on to the line.

'well there' — stop doing what you're doing. That's good enough.

'make fast' — secure a line on a belaying pin.

'hands to the braces' — my first panicky thought was, where are they, and what do they do? They are lines used to adjust the yards, which are horizontal timber poles on which the square sails sit, on the foremast. Pull the braces on the starboard side, and the yards move towards starboard. Pull the braces to port, and the yards move port side. As the braces are pulled down on one side, they are correspondingly eased on the other. This manoeuvre, while not too onerous, usually required many pairs of hands.

'gasket' — a thin strip of tape and rope that is used to wrap around a furled sail and pulled tight, secured with a slipped half-hitch knot for quick release later.

'wear ship' or 'wear sails' — change the orientation of the sails to better catch the wind when it changes direction.

'heads' — toilets and showers (housed in the same tiny space. The toilets used an old-fashioned but effective hand-pumping method to flush them with seawater. It required some strength.)

'bitter end' — the end of the line that is not secured to anything. The other end is the standing end.

I realised how many ordinary expressions have entered our everyday language from nautical terms, and they make so much sense now. Keeping everything 'shipshape' is vital on a ship where space is at a premium. Movement, sometimes violent, is constant, and everything needs to be in its place and tied down when not in use.

Plain sailing is always desirable, in my estimation. The alternative is very uncomfortable. And hardship? Sometimes it was.

'two, six, heave' means on the count of three, pull hard on the line (translation: one, two, pull ...). It needs to be done in a synchronised fashion. The origin of the expression is disputed and is possibly quite modern (mid-twentieth century), rather than stemming from the 'romantic' era of tall ships with cannons when numbers two and six of the six-member cannon team moved the (greater than 2 tonnes) cannon to its gunport, ready for firing.

Unlike my husband, who has a love of ships but not the stomach for it, I didn't heave once, having the constitution of a goat. But a sturdy constitution alone does not make a sailor.

*Tracy Harwood*

next meeting

**Wed. 26 June  
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm**

*Speakers: Ted Briggs and  
Elizabeth Manning Murphy  
on mentoring for editors.*

Federation Room,  
Havelock House,  
85 Northbourne Ave,  
Turner

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**Newsletter schedule for August 2013**

The next newsletter will appear 23 August 2013. The copy deadline for that issue is 12 August 2013.

The editor welcomes contributions by email to:  
<[kerie.newell@bigpond.com](mailto:kerie.newell@bigpond.com)>.

All articles must be in .doc format.