

# THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

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## From the President



I trust you're all making the most of winter. I love all the seasons, except the really hot windy fiery summers. For me and my family, winter has become a wonderful combination of cold, frosty weather; gloves, scarves and beanies; physical outdoor work we can't do in summer; dormant weeds; renewing flower and veggie gardens for the spring; moving pregnant cows to poorer pastures for their last two months; shooting rabbits from my office door; hours with chainsaws and log splitter; cosy fire, cosy house, cosy office, cosy company; hot vegetable soups, glutinous stews, red wine; and hot water bottles!

Enough boasting of my most fortunate life! But I do give thanks for it every day.

### Changing the guard

Subject to the schedule for the August–September *The Canberra editor* and its possible overlap with the Society's annual elections, this might be my last 'From the President' column. That might change if I write the next column before the elections.

The reason is that I will be stepping down as President. Those of you familiar with CSE's constitution will know Clause 13.4: 'No office-bearer of the Committee may hold the same office for more than two consecutive years'. My time is up in August.

At this year's AGM (26 August), I will be accompanied to the exit by the other three 'office-bearers'—Kaaren Sutcliffe (Vice-President), Eris Harrison (Secretary), and Julia Evans (Treasurer)—as well as Pam Faulks (General Meetings Coordinator) and Tristan Viscarra Rossel (Committee and our broadcast email guru), creating six definite vacancies. Others on the Committee have indicated their willingness to re-nominate for at least another term.

Of course, ALL positions are declared vacant at the AGM, and any CSE member is invited to nominate for the Committee, except that only 'Full members' can be the 'office bearers' (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer).

When you joined the Society, many of you noted your interest in helping with the newsletter, the website, training, meetings and events, and 'administration'. That just about covers the field—except perhaps representing CSE at IPEd. Can I urge you once again to consider nominating for one or more of the Committee positions? As I wrote last edition, being on the Committee is demanding but rewarding. And your own networks benefit as well.

I offered you 'duty statements' in this edition. That was my mistake. As in the past two years, we will send you a broadcast email in late July

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with another notice of the AGM and Committee elections, a nomination form, and a synopsis of the roles and responsibilities of all the Committee positions.

Lest any of you be speculating on what the upcoming national vote on the future of IPEd and the seven editors societies means for CSE in the immediate future, let me assure you that any actual on-the-ground changes won't happen for another year. That means we still have a successful, active, supportive and financially secure editors society to run until any change occurs—assuming the vote favours the proposed change. So it will be business as usual for a while yet. Why not bring your fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm to the leadership team?

And there's no need to hold back if you joined only recently. I was recruited to the Committee two months after joining in March 2012, and to Vice-President three months after that!

The broadcast email will also have all the details about our AGM dinner at University House. Holding the dinner in the adjacent Drawing Room encourages us to run the AGM efficiently, so we can relax and enjoy the convivial company that is a feature of these well-attended dinners. As usual, we have no guest speaker. Instead, we conjure up participatory fun to add a little variety to the evening. I look forward to seeing many of you at that event.

## Membership renewals

On 22 June, I broadcasted an email with a link to the trybooking.com for renewing membership due on 1 July. The same link can be accessed through the CSE website. Thank you to the many members who have already renewed.

I would like to remind members that membership lapses on 1 August if not renewed.

Now is an exciting time to be part of the Society as we move towards the new epoch of IPEd, continue with diverse training opportunities, and offer much, much more! I encourage you to retain membership of your Society and take advantage of all it has to offer.

### Linda Weber

Membership Secretary

## New CSE members

A warm welcome to these new members!

### Full

Gary Campbell  
Shae Lalor

### Associate

Kathleen McGarry  
Cas Le Nevez  
Ross Peake

## Transmogrifying IPEd and its member societies

On 'the other matter'—restructuring IPEd and winding up CSE—you've already heard plenty from me via the broadcast emails of the past few months. There will be another biggie at the start of September, attaching the final 'white papers', an info pack and the voting protocol for you to read and understand during September before you are asked to vote on the future structure of the editing profession's national and local representation.

Remember that CSE's 30 September monthly meeting will be devoted to what I hope will be a robust and informed discussion on this transformative decision. CSE is paying the National Library's security staff that night to enable us to carry on beyond our standard ejection time of 8 pm. Extra drinks and nibbles will be laid on as well.

Please mark that meeting in your diaries as a 'must do'.

## Renewing membership

Membership Secretary, Linda Weber, reminds you about membership renewal elsewhere in this edition. Don't forget, now!

It is most encouraging to see that, despite the increased fees, we finished 2014–15 with just over 160 members, only slightly down from the previous year's 180. New members keep joining, a few retire and leave, and renewals continue to arrive in a steady stream every week. I trust this indicates that CSE is indeed providing the networking, support and professional development opportunities that we join for.

## write | edit | index conference

I have had the opportunity to read some of the reflections and impressions of our national conference delegates from other societies and from ANZSI—published in their newsletters. They are overwhelmingly positive and complimentary. I know how committed our convenor, Tracy Harwood, and her team were to ensure a memorable and trouble-free conference. It appears the other delegates think as highly of the conference as we do ... if not even more so. And we had around 100 delegates! Everyone who made the conference such a success should take another bow. While my personal 'effort' was slight, I am proud to have taken part and contributed as a delegate and one of the host Presidents. It was a blast!

### Alan Cummine

President

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## Letter from the Vice-President



### The almost invisible VP ...

Dear members,

I am so sorry that I have been the almost invisible Vice-President for most of 2015. Events have been conspiring against me. For the first few months, I was flat out with work pressures intermingled with personal issues, such as having to put down my aspiring young horse. Things looked up somewhat in April and early May. I found a replacement mount, a young black-and-white brumby we call Pi (short for Pioneer).

And I made it to the WEI conference, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Yay! Two days later, possibly more tired than I thought after the conference, I did a face-plant while taking our two miniature ponies for a run. Apart from nearly giving the two ponies cardiac arrests, I took most of the skin off my nose and knees. For the next week, everyone who saw me asked: "Did you fall off your horse?" To which I would reply, "I certainly did not. I fell over my own two feet." Most people found this entirely amusing.

In fiction, we call this type of plotting 'foreshadowing'... and a mere week later, on 18 May, I did indeed fall off my new horse. Not entirely Pi's fault, one of those evolving incidents that should never have happened. Sadly, I can't say I was doing anything daring or dramatic as I was merely getting on to head off for a dressage lesson. Pi moved off before I had the reins and stirrups, I tipped forwards, my heels tickled his flanks and Pi did what any self-respecting young and inexperienced pony would do: he bucked. I was catapulted off to yet another shoulder-n-face plant. This time, at velocity into the hard gravel, and not-so-hard pile of horse poo, behind our horse float. I knew immediately that I was in trouble. I couldn't feel or move my left arm or fingers at all, my neck was on a peculiar angle, and blood was running down the right side of my face and dribbling annoyingly into my eye and behind my ear. I said a few choice words. Various cats came to sniff at me, but weren't well trained enough to go for help. While flat on my back, I used my teeth to remove my glove, tugged my mobile phone out of my pocket and dialled 000. Well, actually this took a few goes, one-handed, but in the end, I succeeded and an ambulance was despatched from Queanbeyan hospital.

The instructor turned up to see where I had got to, was mildly horrified (but not *too* horrified to take a few photos!) and kindly unsaddled Pi. In the meantime, a brightly coloured ambulance arrived and two wonderful paramedics strapped on a neck brace and did the whole emergency rescue routine of log-rolling me onto a board and then into the ambulance. Everyone wanted to ring hubby Andrew, to which I kept saying that he'd gone shopping and was a dinosaur who never answered his mobile phone. I sent the instructor inside to leave a note on the kitchen benchtop for him ... turned out they scared the socks off each other in the kitchen as Andrew had been inside the whole time, not having noticed a thing. That sort of made my day. As did the bemused queries from the nursing staff about the trail of brown flakes I left behind every time they log-rolled me from here to there ... alas, not mud, I told them cheerfully.

Anyway, I spent four days in hospital, an almost enjoyable stay due to the upbeat vibes in the neurology ward and the eclectic three other patients in the bay. I am apparently very lucky that I did not break my neck.

However, I suffered much soft-tissue damage, have a large blood clot sitting on my cervical spine, and have possibly torn or severed one of the nerves that controls my left arm. I am still wearing the tasteful navy and white neck brace and am unable to drive, so I may remain invisible for a bit longer. I miss my CSE colleagues and hope to join you all again soon.

**Kaaren Sutcliffe AE**

Vice-President

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## Professional development

### 2015 Training calendar

If you are interested in attending any of the following full-day courses, please email Katie Poidomani to reserve a place. If we don't get enough interest for a course, it won't run.

If you have ideas for other workshops that you would like to see organised, please email Katie so she can include them in the list of future workshops.

**1 August** Selling Your Services

**12 September** Academic Editing

**10 October** InDesign

### Selling your services

Cost: \$300 for members; \$500 for non-members

Saturday 1 August, 9 am–4.30 pm, University House, ANU

This course is run by [PD Training](#) and will be facilitated by Shane Horsburgh. Shane has qualifications in small business management, behavioural psychology and change management.

#### Course outcomes

- Interpret prospect needs by conducting a needs analysis
- Master active listening techniques to better understand and connect with clients
- Manage the sales process by understanding where the sale is and how to keep the momentum moving forward
- Master Sales Psychology 101 (mirroring, leading representational bias, tie-downs, and tag-ons)
- Negate competitor quotes, while remaining professional
- Deliver presentations that sell
- Handle objections professionally and effectively
- Master highly effective closing techniques
- Follow-up to develop long-term relationships and future business
- Set goals that motivate
- Manage your sales database effectively.

To register for this course, click [here](#).

### Academic Editing

Cost: \$220 for members; \$400 for non-members

Saturday 12 September, 9 am–4.30 pm, University House, ANU

Pamela Hewitt AE will run this workshop.

Academic editing engages freelance editors and those who work in universities. In recent years, there have been heated debates about the business model and potential conflicts of interest of giant scholarly publishers. This workshop looks at what's going on and what the future might hold for academic publishing and editing. We will also analyse common weaknesses in academic texts.

If you are interested in attending this course, please email Katie to register your early interest.

#### Katie Poidomani

Professional Development and Training Coordinator  
[Katie@edgeediting.com.au](mailto:Katie@edgeediting.com.au) or 0402 904 301.

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## News from the Accreditation Board

Planning for the next accreditation exam, currently scheduled for April 2016, is becoming more intense. The Board is working towards presenting the exam on-screen using Microsoft Word. We have had a trial run of the current prototype in Canberra, which produced valuable feedback not only about the prototype but about the administration and invigilation of the exam. After implementing a few changes arising from the trial feedback, we will make the prototype available on the IPEd website for everyone to try out.

We have sent out a request for expressions of interest to AEs and DEs to be involved in the development and marking team, and we expect to have a team in place by the end of July.

For those of you who might not have had a lot of experience in Microsoft Word, please don't feel you will be disadvantaged—the exam will require only a basic knowledge of Word. The aim is to test your editing skills against the Australian standards for editing practice; it will not be a test of your ability to use Word. There will be exam preparation workshops in each society before the exam, providing you an opportunity to brush up on your Word skills.

And to all AEs who were accredited in 2011: your accreditation is due for renewal in June 2016, and we will be contacting you early next year about it. In the meantime, it might be worthwhile making sure you are meeting the requirements for renewal, particularly in terms of your professional development activities. You will need to demonstrate continuing employment or involvement in the editing profession, and that you have undertaken a range of professional development activities over the past five years. More details are on the IPEd website.

**Ted Briggs AE**

Chair, Accreditation Board

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*write* | edit | index  
wrap up

Two hundred and sixty delegates from every state and territory in Australia, and from Belgium, China, Fiji, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, and the United States gathered in Canberra in early May for the joint national conference of editors and indexers.

Delegates were enthralled and diverted by our wonderful keynote speakers—Jackie French, David Astle, and Roly Sussex. We were educated and entertained by a diverse range of speakers and topics, with something to interest everyone. The welcome reception in Lucky's Speakeasy was good fun and probably took many people back to their teenage nightclubbing days. We hosted a successful book launch of Nick Hudson's *Modern Australian Usage*. Many witty speeches accompanied this event, and the charming author was there to sign copies, which all sold out.

The conference dinner was held in the Great Hall of University House on the Australian National University campus, a ten-minute walk from the conference venue. At sixty years old, the building is one of the oldest in Canberra. Professor Peter Kanowski, Master of University House, told us some of this building's background and some cheeky anecdotes before we tucked into a delicious meal.

Nine workshops, attended by 130 delegates, were held on the Wednesday before the conference proper. There was lots of choice here, too, and I hope delegates came away with new skills.

The tweeting that happened during the conference was an eye opener for me and it is clear that many editors in particular have embraced Twitter as a communication medium.

We sold out of books and T-shirts. Conference merchandise was available from CafePress.com until 30 June. We've moved these items to share the ANZSI online shop for just another couple of months. You can find them [here](#) by clicking on 'Shop, Indexing' at the bottom of the page.

The conference website domain will have expired by the time you read this newsletter. We have archived all the important bits [here](#); you can download copies of presentations, too. Some material will also be available on the IPEd website, [here](#).

Feedback about the conference has been overwhelmingly positive and the organisers received a lot of praise. I had been determined to attend the conference as a regular delegate, and not get bogged down by administration during the actual event (what more needed to be done?), but that wasn't quite the case. I did go to many sessions, but don't know that I absorbed very much. Fortunately, there are some excellent summaries of delegates' conference experiences in the June and July issues of the *ANZSI Newsletter*, and in the April–May issue of *The Canberra editor*. Also, I'm grateful that many presentations are available for download. I have some catch up to do. And as a self-confessed conference junkie, I'm looking forward to Brisbane in September 2017!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the people who put this event together: Denise Sutherland (committee and web manager), Shirley Campbell (committee), Janet Salisbury and Sherrey Quinn (program), Madeleine Davis and Gaynor Evans (sponsorship), Mary-Ann Came (publicity), Tristan Viscarra Rossel (workshops), Malini Devadas (exhibitions and trade), Gabby Lhuede (printed program), Kaaren Sutcliffe, Geraldine Triffitt, Karin Hosking, Emma Frater, Lindy Allen, Dallas Stow, and Andrew Bell. Also Margaret Telford, Peta Robsone, QT Canberra, University House, Conference Logistics, and SoundWorkshop.

And thank you to the people who responded to the call for papers—they became the backbone of the program content, which was so well regarded.

#### **Tracy Harwood AE**

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## **Reciprocal agreements with international counterparts**

*Extract from IPEd Notes—March to May 2015. Other articles in that issue have been covered and updated in articles in The Canberra editor and in CSE broadcast emails.*

IPEd continues to develop relationships with its international counterparts. All Australian societies of editors have agreed to recognise the accreditation or certification schemes of the UK's Society of Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP), the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) and the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS). This agreement will extend to the Professional Editors' Guild of South Africa (PEG) as soon as its accreditation program is in place and approved by the IPEd Accreditation Board.

Those who have achieved accreditation or certification from these organisations are entitled to be accepted as full or professional members of any of the Australian societies of editors on application, without the usual process, as our own Accredited and Distinguished Editors are entitled.

SfEP and PEG offer the same right to Australia's Accredited and Distinguished Editors to join those organisations as professional members. (The EAC has an open membership system, with no joining criteria, and BELS is a certifying body only, not a membership-based organisation; its examination process confers the postnominal ELS.)

IPEd now has ongoing communication with these sister organisations about its accreditation programs and conferences, with reciprocal member discounts offered to participants.

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## **Mentoring Program**



Our new WA Coordinator, Catherine Schwerin.

This month, we bid farewell to the first state coordinator to be appointed to this program—**Kerry Coyle** (Western Australia). Kerry has been a tower of strength in the program, and we will miss her wise counsel very much, but we wish her well as she steps back from this and other commitments to take on different challenges. Thank you from all of us and best wishes, Kerry.

Our new WA Coordinator is **Catherine Schwerin** who says of herself: 'As a freelance German–English translator, language consultant and educator, language is my passion and profession. Through the mentoring program, I hope that the skills and experience my background brings can benefit editors in reaching their goals, as well as reinforcing the sense that they belong to a supportive network of professionals'. If you live in WA, and would like to know more about being a mentor or being a mentee, write to Catherine at [caschwerin@gmail.com](mailto:caschwerin@gmail.com) to ask for guidance notes, or application forms to be a mentor or a mentee, or just to talk about mentoring in general if you're not sure about it. Welcome aboard, Catherine.

### **Report from Canada's 'Editing Goes Global' conference**

Carolyn Leslie participated in a panel discussion on mentoring at this conference, and, at our request, took information about our program with her. She has sent us her report.

'IPEd's National Mentoring Program is now receiving international attention. At the recent Editing Goes Global conference, hosted by the Editors Association of Canada (EAC), a well-attended session on running mentoring

*Our sincere thanks go to Carolyn Leslie (member of Editors Victoria and mentor in our program). We are delighted that other editing organisations are impressed with our program and guidelines and want to follow in our footsteps. This is great news for Australia and for our international voice in mentoring for editors so soon in our IPEd association. Carolyn can be contacted by email at [carolyn@carolynleslie.com.au](mailto:carolyn@carolynleslie.com.au).*

schemes took place. The panellists included Greg Ioannou and Gael Spivak (both from EAC), Joe Cotterchio-Milligan (EAC), Lenore Hietkamp (PEAVI), Kelly Lamb (EAC), Carolyn Leslie and Pamela Hewitt (Australia), Janet MacMillan (EAC), Sara Peacock (SfEP) and Laura Poole (North Carolina).

Carolyn Leslie spoke about her experiences as a mentor in the IPEd scheme, and shared a copy of the newly revised IPEd program's guidelines. While a number of organisations represented at the conference already have mentoring schemes, their offerings tended to concentrate on mentoring emerging editors. These programs also tended to focus on the technical aspects of editing, such as allowing a mentee to work on a manuscript under the supervision of a more experienced editor.

IPEd's scheme was hailed as a forward-thinking model of inclusiveness, as it offers mentoring opportunities to a wide range of editors, including more senior and experienced people. It also offers more flexibility in what type of mentoring can be offered—such as taking your freelance editing business to the next level, and exploring social media for editors.

A number of the organisations that were represented at the panel discussion are now looking at the IPEd guidelines to see how they can adjust their schemes to offer high-quality mentorships to editors up, down and across the spectrum of their membership bases.

### **Mentoring in accreditation exam preparation**

As our guidelines say, you can be mentored in just about anything, provided it has some link to editing. At the moment, there seems to be a surge in people seeking mentoring to help them prepare for the next IPEd Accreditation exam. Why would this be? Well, the next exam is planned to be an on-screen exam instead of the usual paper-and-ink exam. You will be able to use Track Changes and not worry about proofreading marks—maybe this will be good for you if you constantly work with Track Changes. Maybe you haven't done an exam of any kind for a number of years—planning your pre-reading, your examination strategies, what reference material to take with you and why, taking care of yourself so that you feel confident on the day, and other topics could be among your goals. Having a guide to help steer you through your preparation could help ease the pressure that any exam brings with it. Contact your local state or territory Mentoring Program Coordinator, or write to Ted or Elizabeth who will tell you who to contact in your area to find out about any aspect of our program.

For IPEd National Mentoring Program for Editors:

**Ted Briggs AE** ([tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au](mailto:tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au))

**Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE** ([emmurphy.words@gmail.com](mailto:emmurphy.words@gmail.com))

Joint National Coordinators

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## **Mentoring in the ACT**

Well done, Canberra! At latest count, we currently have no less than eight mentorships registered as either 'in progress' or 'being arranged' with at least one member of each partnership being a member of the Canberra Society of Editors—sometimes both. Some of these involve interstate partnerships, and one involves an overseas connection. Our mentoring program has certainly taken off in the ACT, and looks like growing. If you haven't seen the guidance notes already, do please contact the ACT Coordinator, Ara Nalbandian, and he will send you a copy. If you would like to be mentored in any aspect of editing or related topics, ask for a mentee application form. Perhaps you have skills you can share—ask for a mentor application form. If you just want to talk about what's involved, also email Ara at [yerevanarax7@hotmail.com](mailto:yerevanarax7@hotmail.com).

# Notice of Annual General Meeting (and dinner)

## Date and time

Wednesday 26 August 2015  
6.00–7.30 pm

## Place

Seminar Rooms, University House, ANU

## Attendance

All CSE members are welcome to attend the AGM, although the CSE constitution requires a quorum of 20 full (voting) members for the business of the meeting to be transacted.

Members may attend the AGM without attending the dinner.

The annual general meeting is the most important meeting of the CSE year, and the accompanying networking dinner immediately after makes the evening especially enjoyable. Here are the arrangements for the 2015 AGM. We hope to see you there—old and new members alike.

## Agenda

- 6.00 Pre-meeting drinks
- 6.30 President's opening of the AGM
- Minutes of the 2014 AGM
- Business arising from the minutes
- Treasurer's report
- President's report
- Election of new committee
- General business
- 7.30 Close AGM, and move to dinner in the Common Room

## Election of committee

All committee positions become vacant at the AGM. These are the current committee positions, although the new committee may change them. All CSE members may nominate for any position except the first four, which can be filled by full members only.

### President

### Secretary

Membership Secretary  
General Meetings Coordinator  
Assistant Editor  
IPEd Councillor  
Committee members (3 to 5)  
ACT Mentoring Coordinator\*

### Vice-President

### Treasurer

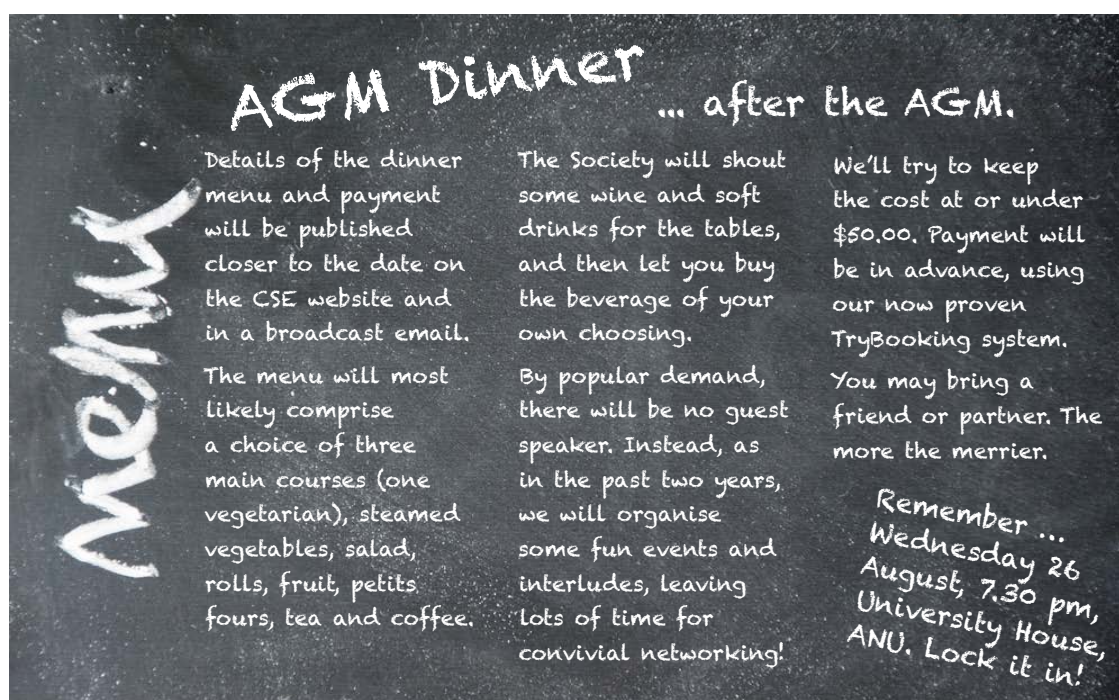
Professional Development Coordinator  
Newsletter Editor  
Web Manager  
IPEd Accreditation Board Delegate  
Public Officer  
Catering Coordinator\*\*

\*Not an elected position \*\*Need not be on the Committee

Separately, members will receive a broadcast email attaching a nomination form, a précis of the duties of committee positions, draft minutes of the 2014 AGM, and (if it's finished at the time) the 2014–15 audit report.

### Eris Jane Harrison AE

Secretary





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## Revolution or evolution?

*Debate about the transformation of IPEd is intensifying in these final months before 'the vote'. Janet Mackenzie DE has given permission for CSE to publish this letter, first published in the recent EdsVic newsletter. IPEd WP4 has taken Janet's letter very seriously, and is writing a reply, which may propose some late changes to the process of transition. We should be able to publish WP4's reply in the August–September issue of The Canberra editor.*

### Janet Mackenzie's thoughts on the proposal for direct membership of IPEd

Let me begin by explaining what my angle is on this. I am an honorary life member of Editors Victoria and a Distinguished Editor of IPEd. My efforts at persuading editors to organise as a profession began in 1971 when I helped to found the Society of Editors, now EdsVic. For more than ten years from 1998, I was active at the national level in IPEd's predecessor, the Council of Australian Societies of Editors, and later in IPEd, serving in various roles including Councillor, liaison officer and convenor of the Accreditation Working Group.

#### History

In setting up IPEd, we recognised that the strength of the profession was in the seven vibrant editors societies, and we were determined not to endanger them. Therefore, IPEd was designed as a structure that would support and enable the societies but not dominate or supplant them. As the then chair of IPEd pointed out three years ago, 'When IPEd was formed, assurances were given that the national organisation would not attempt any kind of takeover of the state and Canberra societies'.<sup>1</sup>

Although chronically underfunded, IPEd has enormous achievements to its credit, including *Australian Standards for Editing Practice*, the expanding accreditation scheme, a program of biennial national conferences, guidelines for editing theses, professional indemnity insurance, national surveys, and submissions to government and industry agencies. IPEd has delivered.

What started all this kerfuffle? In 2013, the national membership was surveyed about the future of IPEd. Of the 23 per cent who responded, 61 per cent favoured direct membership in principle. In other words, so far fewer than 15 per cent of the total membership have shown support for this model. To date, \$18,000 and countless volunteer hours have been spent developing the proposal.<sup>2</sup>

#### What's in it for Editors Victoria?

As a founding member, I have a sentimental attachment to EdsVic. Moreover, it seems to me that we, as the largest and wealthiest society, have little to gain from the proposed national model. The benefits are likely to flow mainly to the small societies. EdsVic members are entitled to ask, 'If I pay three times my present fee, do I get triple the benefits?'<sup>3</sup>

The claimed benefits include:

- increased access to professional development
- improved advocacy through a paid national officer
- less admin work for our committee
- tiered membership
- better communication, including news about job opportunities.<sup>4</sup>

EdsVic already has an excellent, accessible program of PD; it employs paid staff to take care of many administrative tasks; it already has tiered membership and can expand the scheme; and it circulates job advertisements to members. The only real advantage for EdsVic is in the appointment of a national executive officer to spruik the profession, and this could be achieved without any upheaval through IPEd's existing structure with a modest fee increase.

#### Risks

This proposal will determine the future of our professional organisation and we must be clear-eyed about the possible dangers as well as the possible advantages.

- **Death spiral:** The proposal includes a suggested figure for fees that is double or triple what members presently pay. This enormous increase in fees will certainly lead to a loss of members, though we cannot say how many. The danger is that a yes vote could be the beginning of a

death spiral: increased fees cause members to leave so that there are fewer members to support the organisation, leading to higher fees, leading to fewer members, and so on. We risk destroying not only IPEd, but the societies.

- **Lack of unanimity:** Another danger is in the various interests at play. The small societies (who stand to gain most) might accept the new national organisation but one or more of the big societies (who pay the bills) might choose to stand aside. Victoria, for instance, has approximately one-third of IPEd's members, and with Queensland and NSW accounts for well over half. A no vote by any or all of them would fatally damage the proposed cost structure and make the proposal unworkable, leaving the profession in disarray. A win by a narrow margin would leave many members dissatisfied and inclined to depart.
- **Burden on volunteers:** Even if the yes vote is overwhelming, implementation will impose a further burden on already burnt-out volunteers. Enormous effort has already gone into preparing the proposal, consulting members and putting it to the vote, and deserves our gratitude. But somehow further effort will have to be made at the national level to set up the new system (financial arrangements, procedures manual, complaints system, revamped website, etc.), and at the branch level to restructure committees and learn the new methods of operation. I predict a long period of paralysis while both the national office and the branches continue to focus on process rather than on action to advance the profession.
- **Disconnection:** The imposition of another layer of administration in a national head office (especially a virtual one) risks alienating people from their present connection with their society. Centralised procedures administered by faceless functionaries are never popular and can be cumbersome and frustrating. It is worth noting that at the recent *write|edit|index* conference in Canberra, the indexers voted to dismantle just such a model, eliminating direct membership, dissolving branches and setting up groups based on regions or special interests.

### An alternative

I am not opposed to direct membership. In fact, I think it is inevitable. But I doubt whether this is the way to go about it.

As careful, thoughtful people, editors are more likely to take one step at a time than to make a dizzy leap into the unknown. We should exploit all the possibilities offered by the existing structure of IPEd before we dump it. IPEd can continue to deliver.

I suggest we reject the proposed scheme and instead proceed cautiously and incrementally. The first step is to get agreement to a modest increase in fees, which will enable IPEd to employ an executive officer to undertake advocacy, among other things. Then set up a national freelance register, which should pay for itself. Establish a national newsletter. Increase coordination of professional development. When all these endeavours are working smoothly, it will be time to introduce new membership and financial arrangements with the help of paid staff. There is no need—and we do not have the resources—to do everything at once.

### Janet Mackenzie

IPEd Distinguished Editor  
Honorary Life Member, Editors Victoria

### Notes

1. Rosemary Luke, 'What is the future for IPEd? Paper prepared for planning teleconference to be held on Sunday 19 August 2012'.
2. Rosemary Luke, 'What is the future for IPEd? Paper prepared for planning teleconference to be held on Sunday 19 August 2012'.
3. Currently the annual fee for full membership of EdsVic is \$95 and for (e.g.) Queensland and Tasmania it is \$150; the proposed fee is \$280, *ibid.*, p. 2. I have no axe to grind here because as a life member I do not pay fees under either system.
4. Summarised from '[Answers to] Questions raised during the IPEd plenary session at National Conference May 2015'.

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## June general meeting



Guest speaker, Bobby Graham, with Ted Briggs, CSE Life Member and Chair of the IPEd Accreditation Board.

### Being an editor in a digital world

Well, that certainly sent a few CSE members home ponderin' and weighin'! I'm talking about Bobby Graham's thought-provoking presentation at our June general meeting about the editor's role in producing digital content for websites, mobile phones and tablets.

The usual number of CSE members who venture out on winter nights—including a couple of new faces—enjoyed the pre-meeting 'convivial networking' at the National Library's Ferguson Room. Then they endured my recounting of society business and upcoming events and activities, and got excited by Ted Briggs' update about refining an on-screen accreditation exam for 2016, before settling in for a stimulating talk from our guest speaker and the animated discussion that followed.

Bobby Graham owns BG Publishers, and has spent many years at the leading edge of digital publishing in Australia, most notably at ANU, the National Library and Parliament House.

In a well-structured and well-prepared talk, Bobby explained where her enthusiasm for digital publishing began, how it evolved, how and why she is now a committed denizen of the digital world, and why she believes that digital publishing will continue to overtake (but not replace) print publishing.

Throughout her talk, Bobby repeatedly stressed the core role of editors in the digital publishing process. This was central to her exhortation to us, as editors, to learn and master the diverse and ever-evolving digital publishing technologies that will enable us to play a key role in maintaining standards of the attraction, accessibility and readability of the written word.

Bobby supported this with valuable tips for editors working and intending to work in this 'new' environment.

Instead of my trying to summarise those tips, Bobby has made my task easy by publishing her illustrated talk to CSE in full on her [website](#).

For me, a hitherto reluctant entrant into this 'brave new world', here are my interpretations of three of Bobby's many basic points that are making me reconsider my approach.

- We should focus not only on producing books and other documents, but also, and more, on 'producing for the user'—which increasingly means content that is readable, findable and accessible online.
- We should 'think digital first'. Learn to work with HTML and ePub, comply with WCAG 2.0, so we can go straight to those tools, rather than having to continually convert PDFs for web access.
- We should be heartened by the broadening of opportunities for editors, equip ourselves to take advantage of them and thereby, as a profession, maintain the values and standards we are committed to, whatever the publishing milieu.

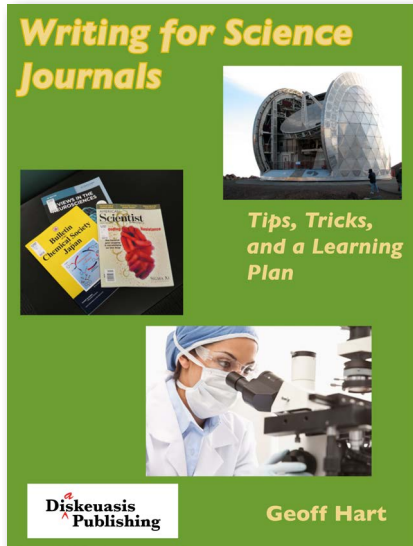
Bobby's tips for editors will help guide me on this exciting new journey.

#### **Alan Cummine**

President—and digital neophyte

## Book review

*It aims to teach 'the thought process involved in planning, preparing, writing, revising, and publishing a paper in a peer-reviewed science journal'.*



### *Writing for Science Journals: tips, tricks, and a learning plan.*

**Geoff Hart, 2014.**

Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Canada: Diaskeuasis Publishing. 634 pp.

When Farid asked me to review this book and forwarded the files, I was vaguely daunted. The book is enormous! Absolutely huge. Closer inspection revealed it is intended as a reference book rather than one you might read from cover to cover. Accordingly, I did what I always do when a gigantic non-fiction book lands in my lap, and started at the back. This book has a gloriously comprehensive index. Spanning 47 double-columned pages, it includes every science publishing term imaginable and is well cross-referenced. Topics range from experimental design to nitty-gritty scientific and mathematical issues, to ethics, language and grammar. I was surprised that, in a book written by an editor, there were only two items indexed under 'editing' or 'editors'. There was one item listed under 'copyediting' and one under 'on-screen editing' but it would have been helpful for editing to have been covered in more detail. (That said, the author welcomes feedback—with a view to incorporating improvements into subsequent editions—so maybe, he'll take this on board for revisions.)

Geoff Hart started out as a forest ecology researcher before realising he preferred scientific editing to scientific research. Since then, he has spent over 25 years helping other researchers publish their work. This book is a distillation of what he has learned about scientific publishing along the way. It aims to teach 'the thought process involved in planning, preparing, writing, revising, and publishing a paper in a peer-reviewed science journal' (page 2). Indeed, the book tackles experimental design and statistics as well as writing and publishing as there's no point trying to publish the results of unsound scientific research. I liked the author's conversational writing style, and as a frequent reader of mystery fiction, enjoyed his comparison between the structure of a journal manuscript and that of a detective novel (chapter 6). The 'dirty secrets'—15 inset paragraphs dotted through the book providing tips and tricks to help inexperienced authors have their papers accepted by journals—were excellent. The book breaks journal manuscripts down into sections, considering how each section can best meet the journal's needs, and also provides valuable insights into what journal editors and reviewers are seeking. While in many ways this would be a good general reference text for any science writing, the author notes it is specifically geared to helping people publish in journals; he obligingly recommends different guides for those preparing theses, conference presentations, monographs, and science writing for the general public.

I'd recommend this book if you're actively involved in writing or editing for scientific journals. It would also be a handy reference for anyone involved more generally in scientific publishing or seeking BELS ([www.bels.org](http://www.bels.org)) certification.

Where can I get a copy, you ask? Hard copies are available from Amazon.com for US\$32 (plus postage) at the time of writing. Both hard copies and electronic versions (PDF and EPUB) can also be purchased via the author's website for the same price. I received the electronic versions for this review but don't have any devices that can read EPUB format (alas, it is not available for Kindle), so read the PDF. Although the PDF is easily searchable and well hyperlinked, it would be worth buying a hard copy if you're after a science writing guide as it is easier to flick through a paper book than an ebook.

**Karin Hosking AE**

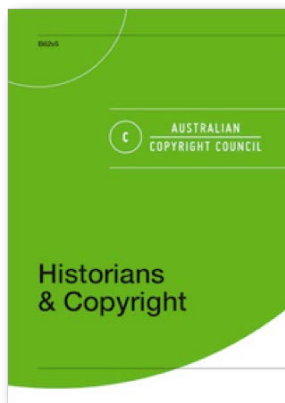
### **The 17th Biennial Copyright Law and Practice Symposium 2015.**

Thursday 22–Friday 23 October  
Australian National Maritime Museum  
2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney

This symposium is organised by the Copyright Society of Australia and the Australian Copyright Council. For more information on the symposium content, registration conditions, pricing, early-bird savings, and payment options, please see the Australian Copyright Council [website](http://www.copyrightcouncil.org.au).

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## Featured book



ISBN: 978-1-875833-57-9  
No. of pages: 68  
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## Historians & Copyright

*Historians & Copyright* was authored by Nathan Webster and published by the Australian Copyright Council, October 2014. This book outlines the general Australian law of copyright and answers specific questions relating to the copyright problems historians face. It discusses when copyrights need to be acquired or cleared, guides to where permissions can be obtained, and provides guidelines on acquiring rights. The book also shows copyright from the perspective of historians as copyright owners and discusses aspects of publishing contracts.

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## Quick quips

*Have you ever been irked by your encounters with people in shops, banks and restaurants or at the doctor's or dentist's? Have their forms of address and questions made you want to walk straight out or, worse, hit them with a well-aimed retort. Many a time, I wished I had a quip handy. Instead, I usually submit while fuming inwardly at their superciliousness and silently correcting their grammar.*

*Editors are educators. We feel the need to keep situational grammar alive. And I must admit I have an irresistible urge to throw in a lesson in good manners while I'm at it. A quick quip can help you keep your composure and educate the unwittingly rude out there.*

*Here are some you could use the next time you're asked these all-too-familiar questions.*

*Please share your quips or comments on social gaffes and 'ungrammatically' encounters in the next edition, won't you?*

**Helen Topor AE**

**Scene:** Anywhere you interact with people who provide some sort of service.

**Q: What was your name?** (You're spoiled for choice with this one.)

A: *In which life?*

A: *You want to know my maiden name?* (Sound incredulous.)

A: *I don't have a maiden name.* (Avoid sounding apologetic or haughty.)

A: *I didn't bring my birth certificate with me.* (Resist urge to roll eyes.)

A: *I never divulge my alias.* (Pull down brim of hat, or lift up collar.)

A: *My pseudonym is private.* (Watch for nervous mannerisms.)

A: *If you want to know my name, just ask me what it 'is'.* (Model correct use; mentally count how long it takes for realisation to dawn.)

Don't say I didn't warn you. And there's ample room to create your own finely tuned response.

**Q: How are we?**

A: *Don't know about you, but I'm/we're fine, thanks.* (Keep smiling pleasantly; my favourite.)

A: *Going through an identity crisis, are 'you'?* (Show compassion.)

A: *Confused about who's who, are 'you'?* (Modelling the use of the correct pronoun.)

A: *We are actually 'you', if you don't mind.* (Only for the daring.)

**Scene:** A restaurant where you've booked/asked for a table for one.

**Q: Only the one, is it?**

A: *That's right; only one table, please.* (Keep a straight face.)

A: *I don't see anyone else, do you?* (Check for hangers-on.)

A: *I've booked a table for one, yes.* (Look them straight in the eye; refuse the table near the toilets.)

**Q: Alone, are we?**

A: *Not while you're here.* (If feeling cheeky)

A: *No, I'm part of the human race.* (If not feeling cheeky)

**Q: Is anyone joining you?**

A: *Who knows what might happen.* (Project an air of intrigue.)

A: *No, but my food inspector boyfriend/girlfriend/lover/lawyer/hit man might pop in.* (Select most shocking option.)

Caution: Quips are to be administered with a dose of humour as often as necessary. If not administered regularly, even in fantasy, one could experience loss of control.

## LaTeX — a brief introduction

Please note: The website <http://dijg.4t.com> hosts two files, 'cse\_example.zip' and 'cse\_example\_tx.pdf'. The former is an archive containing the LaTeX source of a document demonstrating various capabilities of LaTeX. The latter is the typeset PDF. The document style is simple, suitable for a manual or a technical report. The source code in the archive demonstrates how to generate an index, a glossary, a bibliography, marginal notes, equations, tables, figures and other typical components of a text.

### What is LaTeX?

LaTeX is *not* a word processor. It is a suite of tools that allows an author, who is not a book designer or typographer, to produce a 'camera-ready' copy of near-professional standard.

LaTeX is built on the typesetting engine TeX<sup>1</sup> ('tech' as in 'technique'), which was developed by Donald E Knuth, a Stanford mathematician and computer scientist, as a result of his dissatisfaction with the quality of typesetting in his opus, *The Art of Computer Programming*.<sup>2</sup> The first volume had been hand-set, but early digital typesetting was inadequate for setting subsequent volumes, so Knuth took it upon himself to remedy the situation. As a result, TeX excels at setting technical documents.

An example of an equation typeset using LaTeX.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = & \sum_{\mathbf{n}_j, \mathbf{n}'_{j'}} b_{\mathbf{n}_j}^c b_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}}^c \exp [i\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot (\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}_j} - \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}})] \\ & + \left( \frac{\gamma e^2}{mc^2} \right)^2 \sum_{\mathbf{n}_j, \mathbf{n}'_{j'}} \exp [i\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot (\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}_j} - \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}})] \\ & \times S_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}} S_{\mathbf{n}_j} f_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) f_{\mathbf{n}_j}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) (\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{n}'_{j'}} \cdot \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{n}_j}). \end{aligned}$$

A few years later, LaTeX<sup>3</sup> was developed to make TeX easier to use. It can be thought of as a macro package that translates user commands into the TeX language. Where TeX mark-up is like detailed instructions to the typesetter, LaTeX mark-up is *logical* rather than visual. The author indicates the function of a piece of text (section heading, figure caption, etc.), but not how to format it. That information is contained in the LaTeX style files (macro packages) that tell TeX what to do. It is a bit like HTML + CSS. When additional functionality is required, additional macro packages are loaded. Packages exist to perform a wide range of tasks, and many are contributed by the user community. There are packages for drawing chemical diagrams, typesetting musical scores and ancient languages, and drawing complex mathematical diagrams and even knitting patterns. The central repository of TeX-related and LaTeX-related material is the [Comprehensive TeX Archive Network](#).

LaTeX's strengths include:

1. Typesetting of complex mathematics and diagrams such that they are closely integrated into the text.
2. Cross-reference, index, and bibliography generation.
3. Stability—the core of LaTeX has been very stable. Documents from 25 years ago can be reused today. It will be stable into the future.
4. The use of plain-text files. This avoids problems of file format changes and the 'digital dark age'. It also means LaTeX documents can be assembled by scripts that can query databases or handle conditional content.
5. Openness—it is open source, so many users have contributed solutions to unusual and highly specific needs. And, being open source, it is free.

Points 1, 2 and 5 are crucial in academic publishing, where print runs are small but typesetting is often very demanding and specific.

LaTeX can be exported to Microsoft Word, HTML and XML, but results are inconsistent, partly because these formats cannot implement aspects of LaTeX's functionality and partly because of fundamental differences in paradigm. There are other potential issues.

1. LaTeX is highly page-oriented and not yet ideal for products that need reflowable text.
2. As an open-source project, technical support can be erratic (although there are professional consultants—TeXnicians).

3. Many of the capabilities, while powerful, are not simple to use.
4. There is no simple equivalent to ‘track changes’, but please see the example document!
5. In many fields, LaTeX is not very common and few practitioners are familiar with it.
6. For many, the idea of ‘coding’ a document is daunting. In truth, it is probably no more difficult than becoming a ‘power user’ of Microsoft Word. But it *is* different.

LaTeX is often used for small-scale projects where the employment of book designers and typographers is uneconomic or impractical, or where a template can be designed by a professional and then used repeatedly by the authors (for example, an academic monograph with a limited audience, a PhD thesis, or a publication for an academic journal).

## Editing a LaTeX Document

A LaTeX ‘source’ file is prepared in your favourite editor and then, in a separate step, processed by TeX to produce a PDF or PostScript or HTML file. While in general, LaTeX is *not* WYSIWYG, there are graphical interfaces available for users who are not comfortable with the command line. (This was not always the case!)

To give a flavour of working with LaTeX, here is a small section of a source text, plus the resulting typeset text.

### 2.1 Newton’s Second Law

Newton’s Second Law can be written

$$\sum F = ma \tag{2}$$

which is to say that the acceleration,  $a$ , of a body of mass  $m$  is proportional to the net force acting on it. This is *not* a case of Newton’s Third Law, which is discussed in detail on page 234.

```
\subsection{Newton's Second Law \label{sec:ntwo}}
Newton's Second Law \index{Newton's Second Law} can be written
\begin{equation}
\sum F = ma
\label{eq:n2}
\end{equation}
which is to say that the acceleration,  $a$ , of a body of
mass  $m$  is proportional to the net force acting on it.
This is \emph{not} a case of
%DJG I think we could be more precise. After all, the
%DJG constant of proportionality is  $m$ .
Newton's Third Law, which is discussed in detail on
page-\pageref{sec:nthree}.
```

What is going on in this figure? LaTeX was told to start a new subsection called ‘Newton’s Second Law’. This text will appear on the page, formatted using the default subsection heading style, and can be referred to using the label `sec:ntwo`. The phrase ‘Newton’s Second Law’ was inserted into the index, and a simple, numbered equation was generated; it can be referred to by the label `eq:n2`. Math in-line with text is enclosed in \$ signs (‘ $m$ ’). ‘Not’ is emphasised (*italic* for this document). A user called DJG inserted some comments for their collaborator to read, and the last sentence cross-references to another section.

Because a LaTeX source file is a plain text file, there are rarely issues with file corruption and none with vendors changing formats. Everyone can use their own favourite editor or GUI on Mac, Windows or Linux. LaTeX can be used across different platforms easily and, because it is free, if a collaborator needs a particular macro package to process a document, they can download and install it at will.

Modern interfaces to LaTeX, like TeXstudio,<sup>4</sup> provide integrated spelling and grammar checking.

LaTeX files are plain text, so version-control software and file repositories (often used for software development projects—examples are `git` and `subversion`) can be used. These can catalogue differences between versions, let multiple users ‘check out’ components of documents, and so on. Some web services (Overleaf,<sup>5</sup> Share LaTeX<sup>6</sup>) act as ‘Google Docs for LaTeX’ and offer track changes, instant previewing, and so on. As shown in the second figure, comments that will not be processed can be sprinkled through the file.

## Getting LaTeX

The place to start is always CTAN,<sup>7</sup> and in particular [here](#) and the [TeX User’s Group](#).

There are TeX distributions for all modern platforms. TeXLive is cross-platform, while others are customised, like MiKTeX and proTeXt for Windows and MacTeX for Mac. There are also many ‘smart’ editors that can autocomplete commands, provide wizards for insertion of graphics and tables, show a preview pane, help with grammar and spelling, and generally aid the user.

A LaTeX installation consists of applications and macro packages.

Applications include editor(s), the TeX typesetting engine, toolbox programs to make indices, bibliographies, graphics, and a program called METAFONT<sup>8</sup> and its libraries to handle fonts, although LaTeX can also make use of your installed fonts.

A good option is to use a web service. This allows a user to try LaTeX without installing it, and to keep their documents in the cloud. The two most prominent examples are Overleaf<sup>5</sup> and Share LaTeX,<sup>6</sup> and these are great ways to explore LaTeX. Both provide a fee-based service for power users, but offer free accounts for smaller projects.

## Where to find more information

The installation comes with documentation for every package and for the system itself, and a good place to start is *The Not So Short Introduction to LaTeX2ε*.<sup>9</sup>

Of the many books available, those most suitable for the beginner include *LaTeX: A Document Preparation System*,<sup>3</sup> *Guide to LaTeX*<sup>10</sup> and *LaTeX Beginner’s Guide*.<sup>11</sup> *The LaTeX*<sup>1</sup> is very interesting, but it will not help with document preparation. It’s one for the enthusiasts.

There are many web-based [forums](#) and [wikis](#).

## Darren Goossens

[darrengoossens.wordpress.com](http://darrengoossens.wordpress.com)

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# COMICAL COLLECTIONS

*In this issue of The Canberra editor, 'Comical Collections' has gone international. The following notices from around the world indicate just what a world of linguistic knots it's become! They'll be of particular interest to editors who specialise in editing the work of those whose native tongue isn't English. Because there are so many of these notices, I thought it would be appropriate to present them in two segments. Here's the first set:*

*At a Budapest zoo*

**Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.**

*Cocktail lounge, Norway*

**Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.**

*Doctor's office, Rome*

**Specialist in women and other diseases.**

*Hotel, Acapulco*

**The manager has personally passed all the water served here.**

*Car rental brochure, Tokyo*

**When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigour.**

*In a Nairobi restaurant*

**Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.**

*On the grounds of a private school*

**No trespassing without permission.**

*On a poster in New York*

**Are you an adult that cannot read? If so, we can help.**

*In a city restaurant*

**Open seven days a week, and weekends too.**

*A sign seen on an automatic restroom hand dryer*

**Do not activate with wet hands.**

*In an Indian maternity ward*

**No children allowed.**

*In a cemetery*

**Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.**

*Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations*

**Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.**

*On the menu of a Swiss restaurant*

**Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.**

*In a Bangkok temple*

**It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.**

*Tourist agency, former Czechoslovakia* **Take one of our horse-driven city tours. We guarantee no miscarriages.**

*The box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong* **Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.**

*In a Swiss mountain inn* **Special today—no icecream.**

*Airline ticket office, Copenhagen* **We take your bags and send them in all directions.**



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#### Schedule for next newsletter

The next edition of *The Canberra editor* will appear in **September** 2015. The copy deadline for that issue is **6 August**.

The editor welcomes contributions by email: [newsletter@editorscanberra.org](mailto:newsletter@editorscanberra.org).

All articles must be in .doc format.