

THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

Volume 24 • Number 5

December 2015

From the President



As you may know, during the October general meeting, the Society voted on the special resolutions put forward by IPEd. You may also know what the results were and what they mean for our immediate future as a Society. Given the results of the IPEd vote, establishment of a national single entity will go ahead.

On 28 October, 44 members of our Society voted on the special motions; the result was that the members rejected the IPEd motions. We had 30 full members of the Society at the Special General Meeting, more than enough to have a quorum for the vote. We also had 14 proxy votes that were carried by members of the Society, bringing the total to 44 votes, or just less than 37% of the membership.

For the vote to be carried, it required more than 75% (more than 33 out of 44) of the counted votes (at the SGM) to be accepted by the Society. Thirty four of the 44 votes on the night were against the motion to close our Society and join with other societies as a unified national society.

By the end of the discussions and voting, it became clear that the majority of those who voted against the motion were not opposed necessarily to the idea of a single national society, but that this 'no' vote, as carried by a majority of our voters on the night, reflected their desire to see a raft of changes made to the proposed structure of a single national society.

Some present simply felt there was no need to change the way things are operating now. Our federated societies do have a very functional and healthy interrelationship; why interfere with it?

I think that, no matter where you sit on this issue, there is room for improvement.

We have shown that we can engage with proposed changes to the way our Society is run. We as a society have voiced our opinion. The onus is now on us to follow through with change, not only to our own Society, but also to the way we operate in relation to the new single entity that was generated on 17 November.

There is a need for some change and we can, as a society, make changes that can help us into the future. I do hope that as active members of the Society, we re-engage with the issues of change and evolution, or we may simply fall behind.

Thank you to all members for making our Society what it is today. Now let's see what we can do about the future of our Society.

I would also like to take this opportunity to send everyone my best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season. We have had a big year in the Society, and need a well-deserved break.

I wish you all a happy new year.

Johann Idriss
President

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Fare thee well, Kaaren Sutcliffe



A stalwart of the CSE, Kaaren unfortunately has had to relinquish her roles as Vice-President and General Meetings Coordinator (any volunteers?).

As a published author and senior public servant, Kaaren's work includes editing for government agencies, coaching in writing, developing and delivering editing/writing workshops, and assessing or editing fiction or nonfiction manuscripts.

CSE thanks Kaaren for her many useful contributions to the Society, and wishes her well in the future.

New CSE members

A warm welcome to these new members!

Janelle Caiger
Peter Horton
Kaitlyn Palmer-Allen
Jessica Schumann

Associate Members

Nigel Brew
Denis Mitchell
Sarah Olesen

Professional development

Planning for the 2016 training calendar is underway. If you have ideas for workshops that you would like to see organised, please email Katie so she can add them to the list of workshops.

Membership Vote on IPEd transition

The Committee was heartened to note that of 126 eligible voting members, 44 either attended the meeting to vote or submitted a proxy. This clearly showed CSE members' view about the interests of their Society (summarised by Johann in his column).

Other membership matters

Subscriptions for new applicants will be reduced for the second half of the current membership year.

As the Society has voted against the Direct Membership Model proposed by IPEd, the Committee has decided to substitute the current arrangement for membership year to accord with the financial year, with membership year starting from date of joining. This will require changing the Society's Constitution. A motion to change the Constitution at the first Society General Meeting in 2016 will be circulated in due course.

Linda Weber AE

Membership Secretary

Selling your services

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

Saturday 5 March, 2016

This course is on sales and marketing, and aims to assist freelancers in

- better understanding and connecting with clients
- developing long-term, editor-client relationships to foster future business
- mastering highly effective closing techniques.

If you are interested in attending this course, please email your expression of interest to Katie Poidomani.

Below is a list of potential courses for 2016; please email Katie if you are interested in participating so she can determine whether to run a course.

- Legal issues for professional editors
- Structural editing: fiction
- E-books 101

Some Canberra organisations also conduct courses (often free) to assist you in running your business. Visit the following websites for more information:

- <http://actdigitalenterprise.com.au>
- <http://www.canberrabusinesspoint.com.au>
- <http://www.canberrabusiness.com>

Katie Poidomani

Professional Development and Training Coordinator
Katie@edgeediting.com.au or 0402 904 301

IPed National Mentoring Program

Since we last met on these pages, Ted, Elizabeth, all the local Coordinators and many mentorships around Australia and even internationally have been busy.

IPed National Mentoring Program—the ACT scene

What has been happening in Canberra in the past two months?

There are currently four mentorships in progress in the ACT. They are all going more than satisfactorily according to both mentors and mentees. Two others have come to an end as the mentors and mentees involved agreed that the mentees' goals have been fulfilled.

The seven State Coordinators and the two National Coordinators had one of their six-weekly meetings on Monday, 2 November. We discussed making the Guidance Notes clearer about the mentor's role—not teaching basics but building on the mentee's skills. We also discussed ways of helping mentees to state their goals clearly when they apply for a mentorship. Our aim is to make the journey as easy and welcoming as possible.

A mentorship is a great idea for those starting an editing career. If you think that you need help from an experienced editor, contact me and I will send you an application form for you to complete.

Ara Nalbandian
ACT Coordinator
yerevanarax7@hotmail.com

Interstate visits

During September and October, Elizabeth visited Brisbane and Hobart and had fruitful discussions with coordinators and committee members in the local societies of editors. Enthusiasm for the program is growing, and we continue to think of new ways to help members who want to be mentored in any aspect of the editing profession.

An issue that crops up from time to time

Members new to editing are sometimes under the impression that they can call on a mentor to train them in the basics of copyediting or proofreading. This is not true. Our Guidance Notes make it clear that mentoring is not the same as training or teaching, though it may contain elements of both. We expect new mentees to have attended a course that includes copyediting and proofreading skills and techniques, and we expect them to have some experience of using those skills in editing work, however basic that experience might be. A mentor can help a mentee to build on their basic skills, guide them through new techniques and new technology, check their level of competence by getting them to edit a document and then giving them feedback, but not provide basic teaching. The mentor may well recommend training, and may suggest that the mentee attend an upcoming society workshop in order to develop at least basic skills.

Mentors' workshops

These, as opposed to mentorships, could be classified as training—we like to think of them as discussions. We believe that our mentors need to understand what we mean by 'mentoring'—it's not quite the same everywhere. We look at a number of aspects of professional development and see where mentoring fits in. We look at the important aspects of mentoring: listening, being sure of what you can and can't mentor in, dealing with little surprises that mentees can sometimes provide. And we illustrate some of our discussion points with case studies that are based on real experiences. Our last mentors' workshops in November and the beginning of December were very successful, with Ted facilitating the discussions. We run these workshops whenever there is sufficient demand for them. Contact Elizabeth or Ted to ask to be included—these workshops are free to society members—you can join in even if you are just thinking about being a mentor.

A three-way mentorship excursion

Mentorships are, for the most part, one-on-one, strictly confidential undertakings—between a mentor and a mentee. But sometimes it seems appropriate to expand the conversation. Recently, two of Elizabeth's mentees, both being mentored in the same area, agreed that a short conversation between them, with Elizabeth facilitating, would be worth trying. And so it came to pass. For about 15 minutes, the two mentees, in widely separated parts of Australia, and Elizabeth in yet another location, chatted happily together about things they felt able to share—ideas bounced around the virtual Skype table. It was a stimulating experience, but one that needs to be undertaken with great care, given the overall confidential nature of the program.

Ours is a living program—it has guidelines, but it is growing all the time and the coordinators are taking on board ideas from around the country and from other mentoring programs around the world. It depends on members of all societies of editors for its growth—we're here to help and guide in anything related to the editing profession.

Ted Briggs AE
tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au
Joint National Coordinators

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE
emmurphy@ozemail.com.au

Meet your committee, 2016



Johann Idris, President Johann has lived most of his life in big cities around the world where he gained many valuable experiences and skills. The biggest shock

to him as a city boy was moving to remote Western Australia where he worked with Indigenous communities. There, he learnt to become self-sufficient on the road and to trust and depend on those he worked with. He joined the Society in 2015 and soon took up the President's role. His experience as a writer and editor spans the length of his career, spending most of his time as an intermediary between engineers and their clients. He and his wife recently established an editing business that focuses on technical communication.



Kate Potter, Secretary Kate is a new member of CSE. She works in strategic coordination in government and is studying editing through Macquarie University. She would

love to edit fiction.



Ed Highley, Treasurer As an editor and publishing professional for over forty years, Ed has extensive experience

in writing, editing, design and pre-press production. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Society and has served in various committee positions since joining the Society in 1994. From 2005 till 2012, he was Secretary of, first, CASE (the Council of Australian Societies of Editors) then, from 2009, IPEd. He was born a Scotsman and deals with money as such.



Dr Linda Weber AE, Membership Secretary and Public Officer Linda is an anaesthetist in clinical practice and

the Executive Editor of *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*. She joined CSE in 2011 and achieved IPEd accreditation in 2012.



Katie Poidomani, Professional Development Coordinator Katie began her editing career working on a teen science magazine, *The Helix*, then published by CSIRO Publishing.

She has a BA in English Literature and History. When not wrangling four young boys, Katie works as a freelance academic and corporate editor.



Farid Rahimi PhD ELS, Newsletter Editor

Since 2005, Farid has co-authored around 20 scientific articles and two book chapters, and has co-edited an academic book published by Elsevier. Farid took up freelance academic editing as a hobby in Los Angeles in 2009. He has strengthened his editing involvement by joining the Society in February 2013 and by becoming an ELS this year. He is a Senior Technical Officer at the Research School of Biology, ANU, where he is also member of the Colleges of Sciences ANU Press Committee.



Gabrielle Lhuède AE, Assistant Newsletter Editor

Gab recently celebrated over 25 years in the Australian publishing industry—in all aspects of publishing ... except finance! She is currently the National Publications Manager with St John Ambulance, and has been a member of the CSE since she arrived in Canberra in 2004.



Cathy Nicoll AE, Web Manager

Cathy Nicoll is a freelance editor and writer. She has been with CSE since 1998. Since then, she has filled various roles, including Training Coordinator, Catering Officer, President, and Webminder.



Ara Nalbandian, ACT Mentoring Coordinator Ara had been an in-house editor in various government departments and a

freelance editor for both government and private sectors since 1983. He is passionate about Germanic, Romance and Semitic language groups.



Eris Jane Harrison AE, IPEd Councillor and General Committee Eris is a freelance editor with a background in public service and NGOs. Eris is also a playwright. She was formerly CSE Secretary.

Eris authored and managed an information booklet, *Forgotten Australians: Supporting survivors of childhood institutional care in Australia*.



Ted Briggs AE, IPEd Accreditation Board Delegate and joint national coordinator, IPEd National Mentoring Program Ted has been a member of CSE since 2001

and is proud to have been appointed as life member. He has been on the committee for all but one year since he joined, and has served in most committee positions. By day, he can be found working as an editor, photographer and video editor in the Department of Defence.



Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE, General Committee and joint national coordinator, IPEd National Mentoring Program Elizabeth is author of *Working words* and

Effective writing; presenter of 'Grammar in a nutshell' workshop nationally and overseas; editor of research theses and academic journal articles, specialising in helping non-native English writers. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Society.



Alan Cummine, General Committee and immediate Past President

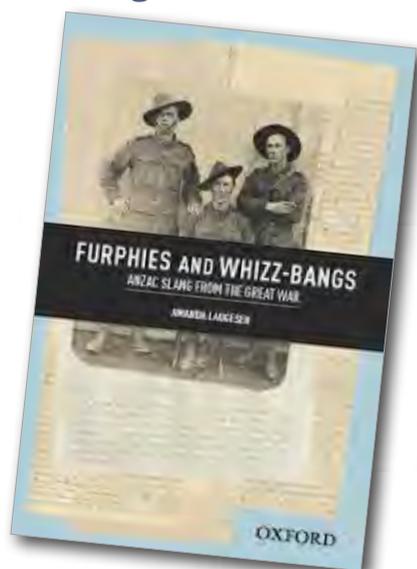
Having spent four decades researching, writing and editing diverse documents in public, private and NFP organisations, the last decade as 'boss', Alan started a freelance editing enterprise and rejoined CSE in 2012. Since then, he has served CSE as IPEd Councillor, Vice-President and President.



Mike Wilkins, General Committee Holding a Masters Degree in Linguistics and with experience in teaching

English as a second language, Mike is a part-time freelancer who enjoys editing assignments ranging from academic theses to Royal Commission reports. His full-time work in the Department of Finance focuses on the federal budget. Mike was CSE Treasurer from 2012 to 2014.

September general meeting



Furphies and Whizz-bangs

A good number of members turned up to hear Dr Amanda Laugesen talk about her research and books on the history of Australian English and the language and cultural history of war. Dr Laugesen is a historian and Director of the Australian National Dictionary Centre, and has authored several books and publications. The study of the language of war began as early as 1919 when Lothian contracted W H Downing to write a glossary of terms titled *Digger Dialects*.

Members sat spellbound as Amanda spoke of how language conveys the preoccupation of soldiers, focusing on food, injuries and information—or lack thereof. Soldiers apparently didn't mean anything by their extensive use of profanities. Aussie slang is described as 'unique', 'expressive' and 'unprintable'! War is a rich environment for language to evolve in, and was used as a form of identity among diggers. The delightful tale of three Aussies conversing by rattling off long and complex place names to outdo the 'swanky' British soldiers made members laugh. Examples of words developed during times of war include: camouflage, barrage, whizz-bangs, furphies, and mother's boys as a euphemism for MPs or the military police.

The digitisation of old newspapers has significantly helped Amanda's research, and *the Trove* at the NLA is also an excellent resource. Amanda fielded a flurry of questions from the floor, including whether the language varied across battlefields (yes). In recent wars, there has been a shift to the use of technical terms and jargon rather than slang.

Members agreed it was a whizz-banger of a talk ...

The Australian National Dictionary Centre is a joint venture between ANU Press and Oxford University Press. The *OzWords* newsletter comes out twice a year. Amanda's books can be purchased through Oxford University Press.

Kaaren Sutcliffe AE

BELS ran one of its 2015 certification exams on Sunday 30 August 2015 in Brisbane. All the participating Canberra-based editors succeeded and were certified as ELSs. Karin Hosking was one of them; she recounts this nail-biting experience.

Do you keep a list of goals? I do—like a list of New Year's resolutions, but these are things I plan *to actually achieve* rather than forget about by the end of January! Ever since Dr Hilary Cadman mentioned the BELS exam years ago, it had been on my list of (eventual) goals. Anyway, when 2015 rolled around, it felt like time to act. The Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) runs certification exams regularly in the US, but not so regularly elsewhere. Some unscientific polling indicated that there might be sufficient demand to hold an exam in Australia sometime in 2015 or 2016. After numerous emails were exchanged between BELS and IPed, a date was chosen, a room was booked, and a bunch of optimistic science editors submitted applications to attempt the exam.

Finally on Sunday 30 August 2015, the nervous-looking Aussie participants quietly filed into an exam room at the Ruth Fairfax House in Brisbane. The two proctors (Dr Janet Salisbury ELS and Matthew Stevens ELS(D)) explained the rules and started the timer. One hundred and six questions were to be completed in three hours; it was pretty challenging. Although the entire test is based on multiple-choice questions, differences between choices can be subtle. Multiple *correct* options may be given, but the *best* answer in each case must be chosen. By the end of the exam, some of us, myself included, were feeling fairly ambivalent about how we'd done.

BELS of success ringing in Brisbane

The US-based Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS), which was founded by 10 science editors, developed the BELS certification program in the early 1980s. BELS was incorporated in the state of Maryland on 23 January 1991, and the first official certification examinations were offered that year. BELS now has hundreds of members in different countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, India, and several European countries.

BELS offers three credentials:

- Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS, referred to as 'certification')
- Diplomate Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS(D))
- Honoured Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS(H))

Happily, the Canberra contingent passed. Tracy Harwood, Farid Rahimi, Julie Irish and I all received smart-looking certificates in the mail about five weeks after sitting the test.

Will the extra credential enhance our editing careers? Maybe, maybe not. In any case, we're now entitled to use the post-nominal ELS. While many of the participants have PhDs, or at least science degrees, I have neither, so passing the exam has provided a welcome confidence boost.

According to the BELS registrar, Australia now has 25 BELS-certified editors. IPEd has indicated that BELS exams will likely be organised in conjunction with national editing conferences. This one coincided with the 32nd annual conference of the Australasian Medical Writers' Association.

If you're interested in applying for BELS certification, their website has plenty of useful information and a study guide containing sample questions—well worth a look. I can also recommend the editing [quizzes](#) provided by the American Medical Association if you're after extra practice. Oh, and it's a good idea to revise the SI units and prefixes such as mega-, giga-, peta-, micro-, nano- and pico- if you're a bit vague about them. Other than that, I suspect the best way to prepare for the exam is to work as a science editor.

Karin Hosking AE, ELS

'Hyphenophobia' and autonomy of prefixes

Hyphens are often misunderstood, misused, confused or avoided, despite convenient word-processing afforded nowadays by a personal computer or similar communication devices. I have frequently seen hyphen avoidance where prefixes need to be joined to radical or root words to make complete words, for example, 'pre fixed' where pre- is used separately. While I am keen to know why this trend is followed, I would also like to ask some questions.

Could avoiding 'prefixing hyphens' (a form of hyphenophobia) likely lead to emergence of prefixes as independent words? Has this already happened (is it happening) in Australia? Would our editors challenge an in-house style suggesting use of stand-alone *non-*, *pre-*, or *post-*, for example? Would our editors use such stand-alone prefixes in their own writings? Would they comfortably accept them as such in their clients' writings? Would *you* imitate innocently? I haven't collected answers to such questions or the corresponding statistics on prefixing hyphen avoidance, but I would like to find out from the readers what they think.

Misuse or avoidance of hyphens may not be important to many writers, bloggers, authors or editors in this day and age, but I get sore eyes when I encounter prefixes, such as *non-*, *pre-*, *post-* or *re-* used as stand-alone words rather than half-words.

Non- indicates exclusion; negation or opposition; failure; or absence. It represents the stand-alone Latin word *non* for 'not'; it is not a prefix in Latin [1]; it was used unconnected in the mid-sixteenth century [2]. *Pre-*, a variant of *prae-*, indicates 'before' or 'beforehand' [1, 2]. It was used unconnected as a preposition from 1930 to 1969 [2]. *Post-* indicates 'behind' and 'after', and opposes the prefixes *pre-* or *ante-* [1, 2]. To keep you posted, if 'post' were used independently, it would mean 'a timber pole', 'an official role', or 'letters or packages' with stamps on them ready to be addressed.

While I was preparing for BELS certification, I found recommendations on prefix hyphenation that helped my sore eyes—*Formations with Prefixes* in the latest edition of *Scientific Style and Format* [3]. Here, concordant with the American English trend, closed-up forms of most of the prefixed words are now recommended. This recommendation can be easily made trendy in all other forms of formal writing for clarity, consistency and readability, and for emphasising the recognition that prefixes are not complete, independent words. Finally, removal of hyphens and use of closed-up forms of prefixed

words is progressive practice if minimal punctuation is preferred and if hyphenophobia is to predominate. I hope discussions like this can be taken into account in new style manuals or scientific style manuals used in Australia.

Some computer programs for searching text may not recognise the hyphenated form as a term. Some readers may object to the double vowels or double consonants that result from using closed-up forms; thus, *semi-independent*, *anti-intellectual*, *de-ice*, *re-entry*, *semi-invalid*, *non-negotiable*, *pre-eminent*, and *meta-analysis* are preferred. Confused meanings should also be avoided when using closed-up forms; for example, compare 'predate' and 'pre-date'. With time, formations above may become acceptable to the eye, as for *coordination*, *cooperation*, or *microorganism* which are now generally not hyphenated.

Examples of some non-hyphenated joining of prefixes to radical words, follow.

| Prefix | Examples |
|----------|---|
| aero- | aerostatics |
| after- | aftershock |
| ante- | antepartum, anteroom |
| anti- | anticodon |
| astro- | astrophysics |
| auto- | autoimmunity |
| bi- | bivalve, bicuspid, bipartisan |
| bio- | biomechanics |
| chemo- | chemotherapy, chemosensitive |
| co- | coenzyme, collaborator |
| counter- | counterimmuno-electrophoresis, counterintuitive |
| de- | denitrification <i>but</i> de-ice |
| di- | diketone |
| electro- | electrosurgery |
| exo- | exopathogen |
| extra- | extrasystole |
| geo- | geochemistry |
| hemi- | hemianaesthesia |
| hemo- | haemodialysis |
| hyper- | hyperventilation |
| hypo- | hypomenorrhoea |
| in- | incoordination |
| infra- | infrared |
| inter- | interface |
| iso- | isohexane |
| macro- | macroflora |
| meta- | metagenesis <i>but</i> meta-analysis |

| Prefix | Examples |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| micro- | microfossil |
| mid- | midbrain |
| milli- | millisecond |
| mini- | minicomputer |
| multi- | multiprocessor |
| non- | nonconductor, <i>but</i> non-natural |
| over- | overtone |
| para- | paramyxovirus |
| photo- | photochemistry |
| physio- | physiotherapy |
| phyto- | phytopathology |
| poly- | polyarthritis |
| post- | postprecipitation |
| pre- | prediabetes |
| pro- | proinsulin |
| pseudo- | pseudopod |
| re- | recombination |
| semi- | semiconductor |
| stereo- | stereochemistry |
| sub- | subspecies |
| super- | supersaturation |
| supra- | suprascapular |
| trans- | transpolariser |
| tri- | tribromoethanol |
| ultra- | ultracentrifuge |
| un- | unconformity |
| under- | undernutrition |

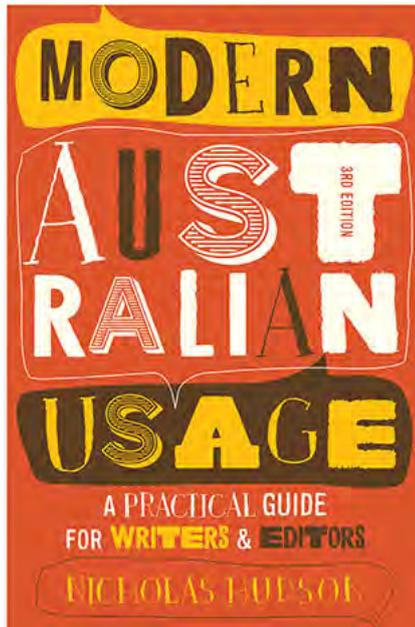
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2. Brown, L., ed. *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*. 5th ed. 2002, Oxford University Press: Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, UK.
3. The Council of Science Editors, *Scientific Style and Format*. 2014, <<http://www.scientificstyleandformat.org/Home.html>>, viewed August 2015.

Both hyphenating and using closed-up forms of prefixed words can facilitate readability and ensure consistency. But I would avoid independent prefixes, and use either hyphenated forms or preferably closed-up forms. The closed-up forms are progressive and would need some time to become acceptable or familiar to readers and writers. And closed-up forms should be used cautiously especially when meanings could be confused.

Farid Rahimi PhD ELS
Newsletter Editor

Book review



Modern Australian Usage: A Practical Guide for Authors and Editors, 3rd edition

Nicholas Hudson, 2015, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

\$35.00 (ISBN 9781760111557) \$48.50 (ebook ISBN 9781925267136)

At the Write | Edit | Index conference, I missed the launch of this fantastic book, *Modern Australian Usage: A Practical Guide for Authors and Editors*. Alan Cummine, the Immediate Past President of our Society, recounted to me the next day that the launch had been made all the more memorable by Nick Hudson's witty remarks and by seeing the line of highly experienced editors queuing up to buy their personally autographed copies. I wish I hadn't missed it.

To recompense myself, I logged onto Booktopia.com.au soon after the conference and ordered my own copy; yay! I wanted to know what the book was all about. Well, as Nick Hudson puts it in the preface of his book, it is about Australian English, "the language Australians speak and write". As such, it emphasises issues that are "peculiar to Australian English, not so much because Australians need to be taught their own language, but because we need to be aware of the differences when writing for overseas consumption". Here Nick mentions British and American English, all of which share a "common core".

Macquarie Dictionary's editor, Susan Butler, praises the book, "Nick Hudson has written an immensely readable account of Australian English in all its detail. As I read, I can hear the author's voice, amused by some twist of the use of a word or engaged by some interesting aspect of its history. Just occasionally the voice is wrathful as in the entry for 'literally'. This is a comprehensive usage guide based on great knowledge, experience and love of language". And this praise just sums it all up.

To get what the wrath was about, I turned to the entry 'literally'. Hudson writes on the usage of 'literally' and "... I should say *I literally turned the filing cabinet upside down searching for the missing letter* only if I actually rolled it over and stood it on its head".

Under the entries 'imply, infer', Nick writes, "... if I say that I have parked my Rolls-Royce in the street, my statement *implies* that I am rich, and you can *infer* that I am a liar". And that is how Nick Hudson's style of writing shows through in his book in different places.

The book is not an account of academic or historical word usages nor about musts or must-nots; it is about questions and everyday issues that had arisen or questions asked throughout Nick's career as an editor and publisher. And when there are many correct alternative answers to such questions, the readers are left to make their choice.

The book is not only about words. Nick writes also about general issues relating to formal communication, including elements of punctuation and grammar, copyright and defamation, common spelling problems, the editing profession, fonts, and the impact of digitised technologies on writing, editing and publishing.

I kept on learning incrementally as I looked through Hudson's book page by page. There are quite a number of Latin phrases throughout the book and also under the entry 'logic'. I found these quite interesting and educational.

I deeply recommend this excellent book as another reference work for every author and editor.

Farid Rahimi PhD ELS

Newsletter editor

COMICAL COLLECTIONS

Did I read that sign right?

Signs can be confusing sometimes but even more so they can tickle one's funny bone in a big way. A single word or a misplaced phrase can make all the difference ... I received an email in the not-too-distant past with the following hilarious messages. They should have had those signs edited!

Ara Nalbandian

ACT Mentoring Coordinator

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a type-O.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

A girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die, apparently they barium.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

On the toilet door of an Australian government office building

TOILET OUT OF ORDER.
PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a laundromat

AUTOMATIC WASHING
MACHINES: PLEASE
REMOVE ALL YOUR
CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT
GOES OUT.

In a London department store

BARGAIN BASEMENT
UPSTAIRS

In an office

WOULD THE PERSON WHO
TOOK THE STEP LADDER
YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING
IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS
WILL BE TAKEN.

Spotted in a safari park (I certainly hope so!)

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN
YOUR CAR.

In another office

AFTER TEABREAK, STAFF
SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT
AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN
ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Notice in a farmer's field

THE FARMER ALLOWS
WALKERS TO CROSS THE
FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE
BULL CHARGES.

Message on a leaflet

IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS
LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU
HOW TO GET LESSONS.

Notice in health food shopwindow

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS.

On a repair shop door

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING.
(PLEASE KNOCK HARD
ON THE DOOR—THE BELL
DOESN'T WORK).



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THE CANBERRA

editor

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

The newsletter is available for viewing or downloading at www.editorscanberra.org.

Regular features include IPEd news, professional development, mentoring news, interesting and relevant articles and much more.

Costs* and specifications

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|-------|----------|------------------|
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| \$60 | 1/2 page | w 180 x h 140 mm |
| \$120 | 1 page | w 178 x h 273 mm |

Artwork is to be supplied as jpg/png/tiff. RGB, 72 ppi.

Alternatively, you may forward your logo and text to the Assistant Editor, Gab Lhuede, who will provide a basic design for your ad and provide a pdf file for one round of proofing only.

*These costs are subject to review.

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The Canberra editor

Published by the
Canberra Society of Editors
PO Box 3222, Manuka ACT 2603
Volume 24, Number 5

© Canberra Society of Editors 2015
ISSN 2200-6344 (online)

Schedule for next newsletter

The next edition of *The Canberra editor* will appear in **March** 2016. The copy deadline for that issue is 15 February.

The editor welcomes contributions by email: newsletter@editorscanberra.org.

All articles must be in .doc format.