

THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Canberra Society of Editors.

From the President

Well ... Acting-President, actually. But let's not quibble for now.

Some of you will know and appreciate how unusually hectic these last three months have been for me and your committee. 'Recent CSE committee business' on page 6 should tell you why.

I'd much rather tell you what a great time this is to be a member of the Canberra Society of Editors with some exciting events and activities ahead to get involved in. And it is all happening in the year of our 21st birthday!

CSE's membership is stable. We've had many new members in the last year – a small number are rejoining, but most are for the first time. Some have not renewed and we've begun a program to follow up past members.

New members can bring new skills, fresh ideas and sometimes boundless enthusiasm. This bodes well for the CSE committee after the 2013 AGM on 28 August. A few of our experienced office-bearers are stepping down this year, leaving opportunities for new young members to have more influence on the society's direction and its membership services. The blending of experience, enthusiasm and new attitudes should be infectious and productive. The list of what new members are willing to help with is impressive and encouraging. I look forward to seeing that promise fulfilled at and after the AGM. So, your nominations for committee positions are most welcome.

Not surprisingly, almost every new member in 2012–13 stated 'networking' as the main reason for joining the society, followed closely by 'professional status'. Your current committee intends to expand the number and scope of networking opportunities for members, beyond monthly general meetings. Expect to see the first of these sometime in October. And for those who haven't yet become Accredited Editors, 3 May 2014 is the date of the next accreditation exam, an important pathway to increased professional status.



Continues page 2.

next meeting? AGM and dinner!

The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting, the most important meeting of the year. It will be accompanied by pre-meeting drinks and a convivial networking dinner. We'd love to see you there. See page 7 for more details.

When? Wednesday 28 August 2013

Where? University House, ANU

Time? **Drinks** from 6.00pm – **AGM** 6.30 to 7.30pm – **Dinner** from 7.30pm

All but the most recent new members will be well aware of the review of our national Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd). After substantial consultation among state and territory societies, an IPEd Council working party is preparing for a referendum in November 2013 where society members—you—will be asked to vote on IPEd's future structure and relationship with member societies. Whatever structural model is chosen, we will all benefit from closer collaboration among societies and a greater sense of national cohesion in promoting and supporting the editing profession.

CSE is honoured to be the host of the 2015 national biennial conference, which we are jointly convening with the ACT branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers. Our former treasurer, accredited editor and indexer Tracy Harwood is the conference convenor and planning is well underway (see page 2). While organising a national conference is hard work, it is rewarding in many ways. All conferences are fantastic national networking opportunities but this conference will also be a chance to showcase the host society and the editing profession to the territory and the national political leaders. Editors WA set the bar pretty high for our national editors' conference but I am confident that we can lift it higher still. I know many of you will get involved as the time gets nearer.

CSE's successful 'mentoring pilot scheme', driven by two of our most eminent members, Elizabeth Manning Murphy and Ted Briggs, has now been launched as a full program and is already attracting interest from other societies. Before long it will be a 'national' program from which many editors will benefit.

To support all these exciting developments, we're also reviewing our website and our newsletter – our main communication tools. And our professional development program will surely continue to be topical, relevant and engaging.

Of course, none of this can happen without lots of enthusiastic participating members – both organising and attending events and activities. I look forward to working with many of you in the year ahead as you willingly and happily lend your hands to make light work of 'running the show'.

Alan Cummine
Acting-President

Write, Edit, Index

A national conference for editors, indexers and publishing professionals

Since the last newsletter report, the conference committee has been gently advancing plans.

Rydges Lakeside has been selected to host our conference and a deposit paid to confirm our booking. The four-star hotel has recently been refurbished and is looking pretty flash. With the trendy New Acton precinct continuing to grow, we think Rydges Lakeside will be an excellent venue.

The committee has contacted two keynote speakers, who have both expressed interest, but have yet to be confirmed.

We are going to set up a website using WordPress, and have a placeholder (writeeditindex.net.au) – graphic design and content to come!

And now the conference committee is beginning to think about the most important element – the conference program. In these early stages, all ideas or suggestions for speakers or subjects are very welcome, so please send them our way: writeeditindex@gmail.com

And if you have any brilliant ideas to attract sponsorship, let us know about them too.

Tracy Harwood
Conference Convenor

CSE July meeting

Getting it Wrong

It's a dilemma all editors face at some time or another: do you accept that when an author writing a military history of the Gallipoli landing says 'The troops landed at Anzac Cove at 5am' he's done his homework and the statement's correct and there's no need to check the facts? Or do you spend an inordinate amount of time checking, checking, checking...

Well, the take home message from the talk at the CSE's July meeting is that if Robert Nichols, the Australian War Memorial's Senior Editor reads the book, you'd better check, check, check...

Robert's lively and entertaining talk – to an outraged and gasping editorary – was an exploration of case studies where supposedly authoritative authors got facts wrong.

We're not talking about typos or text mangling here, we're talking about serious errors of fact; things that shouldn't be there and should've been picked up: wrong dates, wrong names, wrong places, etc. that all combine to reduce the credibility of the author. After all, 'If he's got that wrong, what else has he got wrong?'

So why does it happen? Robert suggested a number of reasons, among them that – with the rush to publish and cut costs – publishers follow the mantra of 'don't get it right, get it written', and manuscripts aren't sent out to expert readers anymore. Or it can be an editor unfamiliar with the subject, or it can

be an editor who checks but still gets the wrong answer. After all, who fact checks Wikipedia? Thus myths and errors enter the public consciousness through supposedly authoritative authors making mistakes in landmark books that in turn become references.

When we pick up errors, we often think 'the editor should have noticed'. It's Robert's view, however, that it's the author – often a 'challenge' to the editor – who is ultimately responsible and those who are sloppy are unfair to those who take the trouble to get things right.

Robert believes readers deserve the truth, and the whole truth. But he related an anecdote about being in a bookstore. Two books were on sale side by side. One was an accurate text

from a credible author, the other from a less careful (but popular) author and containing factual errors. When this was pointed out to the bookstore owner, the reply was that he gets the same profit from each.

Finally, a question: you arrange to meet the AWM's Senior Editor in a restaurant. You've never met before, but how do you pick him straight away? Answer: he's the person correcting the menu.



Acting President Alan Cummine with Robert Nichols

Mentoring

The mentoring program is now officially under way, after a highly successful launch at the June meeting. We already have a number of people lined up and are in the process of matching people up according to the skills offered by the mentors and the goals of mentees. At the moment, we are in great need of more mentors. If you would like to be involved, either as a mentor or a mentee, contact Ted Briggs on tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

Committee news continued

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

Follow IPEd on:



IPEd highlights

At its April meeting in WA, Council elected Owen Kavanagh (NSW) as Chairman, taking over from Rob Sheehan (Vic.).

Here are just a few highlights of the many matters IPEd Council has dealt with since April.

- The IPEd Review was a major source of debate at the national conference, focusing on possible changes to the IPEd structure and relationship with member societies. Working Party 3 was established to analyse the conference input, conduct a survey of all the society members, develop business cases for alternative ways forward and conduct a national referendum of members in November 2013. Cathy Nicholl is CSE's representative on WP3.
- The Accreditation Board (currently chaired by CSE's Ted Briggs) has developed the program for five-year reaccreditation, which 2008 AEs can apply for between September and December 2013. Detailed guidelines and the application form are now available on the IPEd website, www.iped-editors.org
- The Board is also overseeing the complex preparations for the next accreditation exam, to be held nationally on 3 May 2014, which editors with at least three years' experience should seriously consider. More information and sample exams are also accessible on the IPEd website.
- IPEd Secretary Charles Houen has been communicating with AGIMO about preparation of the 7th edition of the *Style Manual*, to discuss consultation with IPEd members and engagement of the best qualified editors.
- IPEd has endorsed a range of new and updated governance policies organised by WA councillor and IPEd treasurer Jo Smith.
- IPEd wrote and lodged a submission to the Treasury discussion paper on the Government's proposal to cap self-education expenses at \$2000 a year. IPEd is also joining the 'Scrap the Cap' campaign, an alliance of more than 70 professional bodies opposing that decision.

From 1 September Ed Highley – IPEd's first secretary until 2012 – will be the new CSE councillor.

Alan Cummine
IPEd Councillor

Welcome to new members since June 2013

Cecilia Burke

Heather Champion

Anne Constantine

Gaynor Evans

Margie Peters-Fawcett

Ayesha Inoon

Kate Le Strange

Ann Milligan

Anneke Myers

Nicole Norris

Melissa Prowse

Robyn Schultz

Belinda Thompson

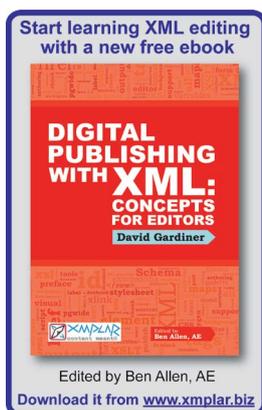
Joann Williams

Jane Wiles

Michael Wilson

Harry Wise

Kathryn Vukovljak



Markup languages for ebooks

In this article, **Dave Gardiner** outlines the basics of XHTML markup and cascading stylesheets (CSS) used in the EPUB ebook format, and introduces tools that editors can use to modify coding and web page styles.

Introduction

The previous article took you through the structure of an EPUB file – one of the most popular formats for ebooks. You ‘cracked open’ an EPUB by renaming it as a zip file then unzipped it. By looking through each of the directories and files that comprise an EPUB, you saw the various XML-based files that are used to control how an EPUB is displayed in e-reader devices and in browsers. At the end, we touched on cascading stylesheets (CSS) and outlined how the styles are used to display the look of text and graphics (the content) in XHTML (extensible hypertext markup language) web pages.

Now you will look more closely at how both XHTML markup and CSS work together to display text-based content in browsers.

HTML editing

The XHTML markup language is the previous format of hypertext markup language and is the basis of EPUB 2.0 ebooks. The current version for web pages is HTML5 (see <http://goo.gl/RC1iab>), and that is used as the basis of web pages in EPUB 3.0 ebooks. Currently there are not many e-reader devices that can display EPUB 3.0 ebooks (the iPad does though), and EPUB 2.0 is still dominant as an ebook format. So this is a good starting point to begin learning more about the structure and functionality of markup.

To understand the ‘big picture’ of web pages, there is XHTML markup with lots of tagging (elements and attributes) that defines the *content* of an ebook – such as text, graphics and tables. To change the look of that content when it is displayed in a browser or e-reader device there is a separate cascading stylesheet which defines the *style* or how the content needs to look – such as font size and colour, typeface, displaying borders in tables, and the size and position of images on a page.

When you read through books on web page design you might come across this discussion of ‘separating content from style’ (see <http://goo.gl/qXgMKH>). It simply means that when you want to control how content looks onscreen, you need to edit styles in a separate CSS – don’t try to add styles in the XHTML.

In older versions of HTML web designers could mix text styles in with the markup tagging. With the current version of HTML5 there is a very strict separation of style from content such that you must use CSS styles a lot, or you could end up with an invalid web page that doesn’t display correctly.)

Read the rest of this article at <http://goo.gl/8MpJQc>

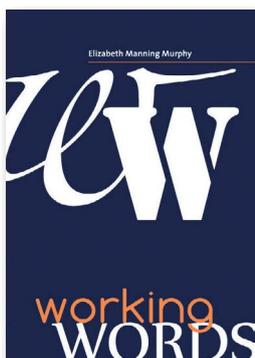
Dave Gardiner

Xmplar, info@xmlpar.biz, M 0424 003 020

Working words still selling

Working words, written by CSE legend Elizabeth Manning Murphy, was published by CSE in 2011. It has been well reviewed (including by well-known grammar tragic, Jack Waterford) and continues to sell in Australia, the UK and South Africa.

CSE has about 100 books left. If you don’t yet have a copy on your shelf, you can purchase one with cash or cheque at a CSE meeting (autographed if Elizabeth is there!) or from the CSE website, www.editorscanberra.org. We suggest you do so before the next promotion for Christmas and the 2014 course reading lists.



Committee news continued

Do you have the new *Australian standards for editing practice*?

An essential item on every editor's desk should be the second edition of *Australian standards for editing practice*, published by IPEd early this year. If you haven't already got a copy, you can:

- pick up the printed booklet at the CSE annual general meeting on 28 August
- ask CSE to mail you a copy
- download and print one of the two pdf versions from the IPEd webpage, www.iped-editors.org.

Copies will continue to be available at CSE general meetings.

Professional development

Recent CSE committee business

Recent months have been somewhat unsettled for your committee. President Connie Stamos resigned suddenly to take up a permanent position in Sydney and most office bearers and committee members have had various personal, family or paid work commitments understandably affecting their volunteer time. Nonetheless, we have continued to deal with essential CSE business while preparing for a substantial change of committee personnel at the August AGM. Here are some highlights.

- Following good sales of *Working words* at the IPEd conference in WA, we did an audit of all sales and revenue and plan to market and sell the remaining 120 books.
- The 21st anniversary dinner will be combined with the traditional CSE end-of-year dinner. We will contact many founding members and at least one new Life Member will be announced.
- Use of TryBooking for membership renewals was successfully trialled on committee members and introduced for the 2013–14 membership year.
- Committee position duties were updated, summarised and distributed to all members with the call for nominations at the AGM.
- We've successfully managed a transition in editing responsibilities for The Canberra Editor to better use our volunteers' skills and preferences. We expect to be publishing every month over the next couple of issues.
- After years of internal debate, the committee purchased a data projector. In similar vein, public liability insurance was investigated and a suitable \$20 million policy chosen.
- An agreement between CSE and ANZSI for the 2015 conference is being finalised, along with a budget and planning for demands on CSE funds during the lead-up period.
- At the end of July, after some early membership renewals (thank you!), CSE's financial position was modest but reasonably robust.

A summary of committee business will be a regular feature in future issues of our newsletter.

Alan Cummine
Acting-President

Canprint tour

Our recent tour of Canprint was 'sold out' and enjoyed by all who attended. General Manager Sam Holden talked to the group about changes in Canprint's services. As print runs get smaller, operations like Canprint need to be able to produce publications in digital formats to stay in business. Sam also said that many clients nowadays want to be able to deal with one supplier who will do the writing, editing, graphic design, printing and digital delivery.

Upcoming workshops

CSE is currently organising two workshops to be run between now and the end of 2013. Dates will be confirmed soon, so keep an eye on your email and the CSE website.

- Cathy Nicoll will run a half-day workshop on copyediting (20 September)
- Glenda Browne will run a half-day workshop on EPUB for editors (8 November).

Professional development continued

Annual General Meeting and dinner

Dinner menu

Choice of:

- Braised lamb rump
- Pan-fried ocean trout
- Pasta Sorrentino (V)

Chef's selection of fresh cakes

Dinner cost: \$49.00.

Payment must be made in advance. We now use the TryBooking system for registration for events such as this. Please log on to <http://www.trybooking.com/DJNA>

From NSW Society of Editors

Decoding XML: A practical guide for editors

Presented by Dr Linda Nix

Friday, 13 September 2013, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

UTS Short Courses Venue, Level 7, UTS Bld 10, 235 Jones Street, Sydney

Cost: \$220 for society members, \$350 for non-members (includes lunch, and morning and afternoon teas).

From Editors Victoria

Dance Steps for the Self-Employed Editor

7 September 2013

Centre for Adult Education (CAE), 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Introductory Grammar for Editors

14 September 2013

Centre for Adult Education (CAE), 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

The annual general meeting (AGM) is the most important meeting of the CSE year, and the accompanying networking dinner makes the meeting especially enjoyable. Here are the arrangements for the 2013 AGM and dinner. We hope to see you there, old and new members alike.

Date and time: Wednesday 28 August 2013, 6.30–7.30 pm

Place: Seminar Room A, University House, ANU

Attendance: Members may attend the AGM without attending the dinner. Note that the CSE constitution sets the quorum for general meetings at 20 full members.

Agenda 6.00 pm Pre-meeting drinks
6.30 pm Acting President's opening of the AGM

Minutes of the 2012 AGM

Business arising from the minutes

Treasurer's report

Acting-President's report

Election of new committee

General Business

7.30 Close AGM

Election of new committee

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

President

Secretary

Assistant Treasurer

Professional Development Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Web Manager

IPed Councillor

Committee Members (three to five)

Catering Coordinator (need not be committee)

Vice-President

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

General Meetings Coordinator

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Public Officer

IPed Accreditation Board Delegate

An email has been sent to all members with a nomination form for committee positions and the draft minutes from the 2012 AGM.

Martin Holmes

Secretary

Your committee 2013

Acting-President
Alan Cummine

Vice-President
Vacant

Secretary
Martin Holmes

Treasurer
Mike Wilkins

**Professional Development
Coordinator**
Malini Devadas

Membership Secretary
Margaret Millard

Newsletter Editor
Kerie Newell

Editorial Assistant
Vacant

Meeting Coordinator
Ara Nalbandian

IPEd Councillor
Alan Cummine

**IPEd Accreditation Board
Delegate**
Ted Briggs

Committee members
Cathy Nicoll
Kaaren Sutcliffe
Tristan Viscarra Rossel
Elizabeth Manning Murphy

Non-committee positions

Webminder
Cathy Nicoll

Public Officer
Ara Nalbandian

Catering Coordinator
vacant

Please send all
correspondence via
the [CSE website](#).

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Schedule for next newsletter

The next newsletter will appear in September 2013. The copy deadline for this issue is 8 September 2013.

The editor welcomes contributions by email to kerie.newell@bigpond.com

All articles must be in .doc format.