

From the impossibly Christmessy (?) desk of the President

What a difficult year it has been. Bushfires affected several members directly. Others had houses and cars wrecked by hail – and waited many months for repairs. Then came the pandemic, and people lost jobs; others found that work slowed down or became more physically challenging. Our sympathies are with all those who've suffered this year, and we have all our fingers crossed for 2021.

CSE has coped pretty well, by discovering and using much better technology than I ever knew existed and by calling on a great deal of goodwill and effort on the part of the committee and the non-committee helpers. Thanks to all of you who stayed with CSE, and welcome to the new members who've thrown in their lot with us in 2020. We hope to offer you some fun – and education – in 2021.

Bravo to those who sat the Accreditation Exam. It was a tremendous effort in a year when everything is that little bit harder. I look forward to recognising our new AEs in the new year. Thanks to all those (especially Nigel, Ngaire, Deb and Gina) who ensured that members had access to appropriate training and interaction. Thanks also to our very able mentors, who worked intensively with individuals to tailor and hone their preparation.

There is hope on the horizon, and we ended the year on a more cheerful note, with around 20 of us feasting sedately at St Mark's and others partying online. There is some bubbly left over for a future celebration. I hope that you enjoyed Louisa's excellent performance and Ngaire's technical wizardry. It was our first attempt at a hybrid meeting with a speaker offsite. If you have any ideas for speakers – or performers – for next year, please get in touch.

Our committee has renewed slightly, with some new faces and many stoics continuing for another year. Take a moment to meet them all in this newsletter and say hullo at a future meeting. We have a really terrific group of people keeping CSE humming.

I had a pleasant and productive meeting with IPEd's Chair and CEO at the end of November to talk over the relationship between IPEd and CSE and how we can work together effectively. We plan to catch up every six months.

Our new website is overdue, but we have a contract with us for review, and Howard maintains the old one ably. Our newsletter continues for another year under Deb's wise stewardship. Our finances, managed capably by Geoff Dawson, are in excellent shape. Our constitutional review was largely meant to improve online connection and meeting opportunities, so that became less urgent! We will gather up the reins of that and other projects in the fullness of time.

Meanwhile, relax and have a fabulous festive season. It may not be the best Christmas (or other holiday) ever, but celebrate safely and thoroughly with those you love (or just like).

Eris Jane Harrison AE
President

On behalf of the Committee and members I'd like to thank Eris for her intrepid leadership through this difficult year. And you can blame a naughty elf for the terrible pun in the heading. Eris would never stoop so low! -Ed

The Canberra Society of Editors acknowledges the traditional owners of country in the Canberra region and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. The Society pays its respects to the elders of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, past and present.

We welcome our new Committee for 2021



Eris Jane Harrison AE
President and Meetings Coordinator

Eris Jane Harrison is an accredited editor (2008; reaccredited 2013 and 2018). She enjoys freelancing because she can work while travelling and, when home, doesn't have to get up in the morning. A variety of work keeps her interested and on her toes.

Eris spent many years in the Australian Public Service and some later years with not-for-profits before setting up her business, Effective Editing. She is the author of an information booklet, *Forgotten Australians: Supporting survivors of childhood institutional care in Australia*, and has written several plays, some of which have actually been produced.

Eris has been Secretary and Vice-president of CSE in the past and continues for her second (and final, thanks to the Constitution) year as President with some trepidation but plenty of good intentions. She also seems to be stuck with coordinating meetings; any volunteers?

Hi CSE members, I'm glad to have taken on the role of Vice President this year. About me? I recently retired from a career in Indigenous affairs. I worked in the Northern Territory government for many years, and the Australian Government for a few. After completing my PhD in History in 2010, I published a book, *Reluctant Representatives: blackfella bureaucrats speak in Australia's north*, which is free to download via ANU Press. As a Visiting Fellow at the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, I still write about Indigenous representation in government. But I like other words too and I set up Elizabethan Editing in 2019. I like developmental editing best, particularly helping turn academic theses into more fun books. In 2020 I have started to edit fiction.

I am based in Canberra, although I often work from my retreat in Braidwood.



Elizabeth Ganter
Vice-President



Geoff Dawson
Treasurer

Geoff was interested in language from a young age. Who knows where it came from? Maybe from trying to order a ham sandwich in French during that New Caledonia holiday at the age of 10.

He studied languages at university, and after a few detours spent 20 years in the Australian parliament and public service managing public inquiries and researching, writing and editing reports.

Geoff retrained to focus on editing in 2014. His special interest is interpreting complex subjects in a concise, accessible, plain language style for non-expert readers. And writing about grammar.

I am a freelance communication consultant with a professional background in communication but now do more editing and publications work than communication practice. I have 3 degrees in communication and have worked in PR agencies and the ACT government.

I am the managing editor of the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* and I help my clients with their corporate publications and annual performance reporting. I am a Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Australia and, this year, stepped in to help CSE implement its membership database project. I like kayaking, cycling and travel.



Christine Belcher
Membership Secretary



Gina Dow
Public Officer

Gina has been a communications professional in the Australian Public Service for 20 years, mainly as an editor in the arts, culture and heritage sector.

She is a former Hansard editor and editor of the Australian Government *Arts and Culture* and *Living Heritage* magazines. She currently works as a historical researcher and publications manager at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has a BA in Fine Art (ANU) and an MA in Strategic Communications (UC) and recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Professional Editing (QueensU, Canada). Gina is also a poet and short story writer, published in *Mango* (University of Queensland), *Aktion Surreal* (Canberra) and *Quadrant*. She has had collections of poetry published by Finlay Press (Braidwood) and Limestone Press (Canberra). Gina is a hyper-parochial Inner Northian and is on Team Cat. Look out for further articles in Gina's 'My True Shelf' series in the newsletter in 2021.

Deb Fleming
Newsletter Editor

Whoops! Looks like that naughty elf has crept into the picture vault — that is not a pic of me, but I certainly share the sentiment...

My background is in government communications and public policy, mainly in education, science and digital technology. I've worked with data and statistical analysis too. All of that means drafting and editing lots of media releases, speeches, user guides and content for websites. I also have experience in quality assurance and production of annual reports, strategic plans and consultants' reports.

In my non-spare time, I write creative fiction and I've had a few short stories published. This year I started learning to edit fiction as well.





Elizabeth Manning Murphy
General Committee member

Elizabeth is a trained linguist, a Distinguished Editor (IPEd 2008), an Honorary Life Member (CSE 2013), a former President of the CSE and Principal of Elizabeth M Murphy & Associates (emma).

She has contributed to the editing profession through her local, national and international *Grammar in a nutshell* workshops, her many books – including a revision of *Working words* and a second edition of *Effective writing* – and through her co-chairing of the IPEd Mentoring Standing Committee, now an international program including New Zealand. Elizabeth has been an editor for more than 40 years. These days she specialises in editing academic material, including research theses in all disciplines, but in particular for students with English as a new language.

In 2020, Elizabeth became the inaugural recipient of the Janet Mackenzie Medal, awarded by IPEd for her wide-ranging contribution to the editing profession. Also in 2020, like everyone else, Elizabeth took video-conferencing in her stride and now presents her grammar workshop online. She was recently recognised for long service as an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders (formerly Australian Institute of Management).

Louise is a journalist, podcaster, Accredited Editor, and former radio presenter. She was a political correspondent in the NSW and federal press galleries, worked in Alice Springs and Bega, and spent 18 years at ABC Radio Canberra.

Since 2018, Louise has produced and presented the monthly podcast *Collected* for the Australian War Memorial and is the researcher/editor for the National Portrait Gallery's new audio guide *In their own words*.

She loves words and how they fit together. And she dreams of being the person who gets to pick the Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year because she never agrees with the committee's choice.



Louise Maher
General Committee member

Adam is a CSE student member, aspiring editor and musician. He has been part of CSE for around five years, whilst studying Communication in Advertising at the University of Canberra. He also plays flute and piano, and he helped start the University of Canberra Refugee Action Club.

He aims to pursue postgraduate qualifications, accreditation and a career in trade publishing. His main editing-related interests are in fiction (particularly speculative fiction and fantasy), academic editing, and editing for not-for-profit organisations



Adam Fenech
Assistant Newsletter Editor

You can see pics and bios of the rest of the committee in past issues, and you'll hear more from them in 2021; or maybe you can catch up with them in an online meeting (or, fingers crossed, in person). Have a safe and happy holiday break - Ed

Back Page (Festive) Bloopers

What's that Spanish Christmas song ? It goes like "The least knobby dot" ! 🤔👁️👁️👁️👁️

12:27 · 22 Dec 18 · Twitter for iPhone

186 Retweets 433 Likes

I think we'll just sing a quiet 'Felice Navidad' to that one... -Ed

2020 went by like a blur. My New Year's resolution must have been too low...

How do you know you've found the New Year's Eve party?

Look for the Auld Lang Sign!

New Year's resolutions are just a 'to do' list for the first week of January...



From The Guardian (UK)'s corrections and clarifications column.

- A [recipe](#) for chestnut brandy syrup omitted the amount of water required to make the sugar syrup, which is 500ml (21 November, page 12, Feast).

(The other ingredients were sugar, chestnuts and 500ml of brandy. Less 'syrupy', more 'sloshed'? -Ed)

- A recipe for [date and chocolate Christmas cake](#) in the 'Feast' section (page 17) gives the total baking time as one hour and 45 mins to two hours. That should say two hours and 15 minutes to two hours and 30 minutes. As well as lining the tin, extend the paper about 10cm above the rim (7 November 2020).

(Perhaps the recipe writers had been sampling the chestnut brandy syrup? -Ed)

Your Committee for 2021

President and Meetings Coordinator

Eris Jane Harrison

Vice-President Elizabeth Ganter

Secretary Ngaire Kinnear

Treasurer Geoff Dawson

Online Communications Vicki Taylor

Membership Secretary Christine Belcher

Public Officer Gina Dow

Professional Development Coordinator

Nigel Brew

Website Manager Howard Silcock

Newsletter Editor Deb Fleming

Assistant Newsletter Editor Adam Fenech

Immediate Past President Kate Potter

General Committee

Elizabeth Manning Murphy

Louise Maher

Gil Garcon

Non-Committee positions

ACT Mentoring Coordinator

Kaaren Sutcliffe

Catering Coordinator Mary Webb

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