

THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

Volume 28 • Number 2

April | July 2019

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FROM THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE

We hope you've been enjoying a good year so far, with as much work as you want to have, with opportunities to continue developing your skills and networks, and with a safe and satisfying balance in your lives.

As we noted in the end-of-year 2018 edition, our 2018 Committee elections brought five new faces onto the Committee—all of them recently joined Society members. We wrote: 'It's a mix of experience and new energy that augurs well for 2019'.

And so it has proven. The new members have helped maintain the Society's momentum while bringing some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to your organisation. This has included their stepping beyond General Committee into office-bearer roles.

New AE, Gaëtane Burkolter, offered to become General Meetings Coordinator, and has singularly brainstormed several ideas for how we might use some of CSE's substantial reserves to increase benefits for our general membership. Ngaire Kinnear has been actively strengthening and streamlining our online communications, especially the

popular broadcast emails—among other random tasks that she takes on willingly. Gina Dow (General Committee) has replaced Linda Weber as CSE's Public Officer. Kate Horgan (General Committee) has just been appointed ACT Mentoring Coordinator. And Marilyn Harrington (General Committee) has taken on some administrative tasks to help our Secretary get through the rest of the year.

And, at each General Meeting, Mary Webb and Dallas Stowe have continued to ensure we have adequate and tasty refreshments. Many thanks to both!

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) next November will see another 'changing of the guard'. With the expiry of two years in their respective positions, President Kate Potter, Secretary Alan Cummine and Treasurer Geoff Dawson will step down from those 'executive' positions (per the CSE Constitution). Further, Alan has given early notice that he will not be nominating for any Committee position, although he has offered to 'hang around' next year to help our Newsletter Editor with newsletter-related tasks, and to be a 'general factotum'.

Shortly, your broadcast emails will circulate the roles and responsibilities of all the Committee positions, and promote the benefits and joys of Committee membership! We hope many of you will consider nominating for a position at the AGM elections in November.

As you'd expect, the Committee has been keeping things rolling these past months, and has developed some plans for the rest of 2019 and early 2020.

Here's a potted version of the Committee's business and plans.

Membership

A steady flow of new and renewing members has continued, which is more or less balancing the numbers leaving for various reasons. Some have moved interstate, some have left the profession, some have simply not renewed without explanation, while others have resigned from CSE to become solely direct members of IPEd via one of its newly created branches (usually NSW), and others have joined IPEd but retained their CSE membership. Little has changed since last year.

Treasury and Finance

Membership continues to be the main source of Society revenue, and our reserves have remained within a range of just more than \$70 000. This is a strong financial position, built up by our highly successful organisation of the joint national Editors/Indexers Conference in Canberra in 2015.

The Committee has been considering ways to put some of CSE's reserves to good use for the benefit of members. In May, \$3000 was shared among most of the team from CSE that attended the Biennial National IPEd Conference in Melbourne. (A couple chose not to apply for the grant. Others said they couldn't have gone without the help.) The Committee is now contemplating a suite of ideas put forward by Gaëtane, and will share these with members once we have agreed on a shortlist of proposals.

General Meetings

CSE Members have continued to take part in the Society's monthly General Meetings at the National Library, for convivial networking

and to engage with our interesting guest speakers and panels. Most of these have been recorded for the benefit of members who can't make the meetings. (See the General Meetings section in this edition.)

The Committee has brought you speakers on fair editing rates (Moirá Byrne in March); making online accessibility user-friendly (Cathy Nicoll in April); revisiting and reflecting on the IPEd conference (Justine McNamara, Cathy Nicoll and Elizabeth Ganter in May); authors and editors (in June, best-selling authors Karen Viggers and Inga Simpson, organised by the indefatigable Kaaren Sutcliffe, herself a well-published author).

July is locked in on annual report indexes (Max McMaster). August and September are being negotiated, October is settled (Helen Topor), and November is the AGM and end-of-year dinner, with a guest speaker (TBA) and light entertainment. Plenty to look forward to.

The Committee is investigating affordable alternative venues for our monthly meetings. August is imperative, because NLA has a major function of its own scheduled on our usual date. This could give us an opportunity for a trial run at a new venue—somewhere that doesn't close at 8.00 pm. More information to come soon via broadcast emails.

Professional Development

Professional Development (PD) workshops have been sparse this year, partly because of the challenge of finding suitable dates that fitted around Easter, school holidays and the IPEd Conference. But Pamela Hewitt's well-received Structural Editing workshop in February gave us the opportunity to try out the Belconnen Arts Centre venue, which proved to be very suitable. It will be used for Max McMaster's workshop, Indexing for Editors, on Friday 2 August, and may become a regular venue for the future.

Later in 2019—date to be set—we will have the first of a three-step run-up to the next accreditation exam, which is scheduled for Saturday 15 August 2020. The other two steps are planned for the first half of 2020. Elsewhere in this edition, PD Coordinator Cathy Nicoll has invited expressions of interest for workshops related to the exam, to plan for courses that will help CSE members who are contemplating sitting the exam. The three workshops will be

supplemented by a CSE study group, planning for which has already been initiated by Ngaire Kinnear. You will hear more about this shortly.

Mentoring

Much of the Committee's attention in the first few months this year was focused on preparations for the Mentoring presentations at the IPEd Conference. (The Joint National Coordinators, Ted Briggs and Elizabeth Manning Murphy, are both CSE Honorary Life Members and were the founders of what is now the National Mentoring Program.)

The Committee was briefed each month on progress of the new continuous-loop explanatory video, the poster display and the Plenary presentation. In May, Ted attended our meeting as a guest and debriefed the Committee on the success of the Mentoring Program presentations at the conference. The Committee also learnt that the State and ACT Mentoring Coordinators are now formally one of five IPEd standing committees.

Although being drawn away by other priorities and commitments, ACT Mentoring Coordinator Geoff Dawson agreed to stay on in that position until the conference. Then in June, Geoff was replaced by a new CSE and Committee member, Kate Horgan, who is settling into the role well.

Style Manual, 7th edition

Early this year, new CSE and Committee member Marilyn Harrington, who co-wrote the *Parliamentary Library Style Guide*, joined the CSE sub-committee formed last year to collaborate with the IPEd Style Manual Working Group (SMWG). (This group had been meeting, corresponding and negotiating with the Government's Digital Transformation Agency [DTA], particularly about how best to utilise the expertise within IPEd and CSE to produce a 7th *Style Manual* with content quality at par with the 6th edition—which had 10 editors engaged part-time for two years—enhanced by innovative web-accessible delivery platforms that are now expected of such a publication.) IPEd and CSE supported an early DTA proposal to make use of an external advisory panel.

CSE reps on the IPEd SMWG during this period have been Geoff Dawson and then Cathy Nicoll. In 2019, despite attempts to be

updated, the Committee has had almost total 'radio silence' on the subject, because the DTA has shared very little information with its stakeholders. The Committee has been most disappointed in this opaque DTA process. And Committee hasn't met since DTA announced on 18 July that it had signed a contract with consultant firm Ethos CRS to scope the content 'for the first-ever digital *Style Manual*'. There is much to learn about the direction this project is taking.

CSE/IPEd relations

The past two editions of *The Canberra editor* recounted the slow progress on the question of whether CSE should wind-up as an independent organisation and become a branch of the re-birthed, unitary and centrally controlled IPEd. Newer CSE members should refer to the September–December 2018 edition for background and a detailed description of the process CSE and IPEd have been working through for months, plus the conclusions CSE's senior negotiators drew from this unsatisfactory one-sided process. To restate the background for the benefit of new 2019 members:

CSE remains the only editors' society that didn't vote in 2015, and again in 2016, to wind up and become a branch of a restructured IPEd from 1 July 2016—restructured from a federated body of decades-old autonomous state/territory societies into a singular, unitary structure where members belonged directly to a nationally run IPEd through branches governed by centralised rules.

Despite CSE's dissatisfaction with IPEd's continued disregard for, and apparent refusal to seriously address, CSE's long-standing concerns, CSE nonetheless made a commitment in 2018 to consider once again the amended IPEd constitution and branch by-laws and, some time in the new year, to put the information to CSE members to debate, and then possibly to revisit their 2016 decision to remain an autonomous editors' society.

This intention has been discussed at all CSE 2019 Committee meetings so far and, in April and May, plans were made to devote two General Meetings in the second half of 2019 to this complex and seminal question—to conclude with a members' vote about whether CSE should 'wind up' after 25 years and become a centrally controlled branch of a national organisation it once owned.

In these discussions, the Committee considered many aspects and dimensions of the issue—including the consistent flow of new and renewing CSE members, the apparent lack of concern about 'the IPEd issue' among new and many longstanding members, and then the recent revelations that the 're-birther' IPEd is already struggling financially (as CSE had forewarned during the two-year-long 'consultation' between 2013 and 2015).

Consequently, the June Committee meeting formally resolved to reverse the previous intentions to organise a months-long members' consultation and vote (with its attendant legal complexities). Instead, Committee decided that CSE would write to IPEd 'explaining the CSE Committee's conclusion that such action would still be premature, and that CSE would continue to work closely with and promote IPEd and its work'.

Job opportunities

The Committee noted in June, and followed up in July, an invitation for CSE and its members to advertise in *Canberra History News*. CSE member Helen Topor reported a communication from the Canberra and District Historical Society that the ACT Government had announced it will now provide grants toward the cost of heritage

publications 'provided that the author is using a professional editor'. A representative of the Historical Society notes that some of the older authors rarely use the internet or emails, and may submit manuscripts that must be edited in hard copy. This invitation will be promoted again via CSE's broadcast emails.

Finally ...

The President and Committee have noted the recent deaths of a close South African friend (Joan Fairhurst) and a prominent and important early CSE member (Claudia Marchesi). Elizabeth Manning Murphy's tribute to Joan Fairhurst can be found in these pages. We'll have more to say about Claudia in a later edition.

In the meantime, friends of Claudia are invited to a commemorative get-together from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Sunday 25 August at 52 Haines St, Curtin. RSVP by 20 August to friendsofclaudia@inet.net.au or to Anne at 0450 292 554. A broadcast email to CSE members will give more details.

As always, the Committee thanks all CSE members for continuing to support the Society, invites comments and feedback, and looks forward to continue providing the services and opportunities for professional development and companionship you expect from your membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Weber AE ELS Membership Secretary

New members

A warm welcome to all our new members!

Full: Andrea Close, Doug Abrahms, Alison Darby and Emily Kilham

Associate: Kellie Nissen, Apsara Maliyasena and Howard Silcock

Farewell

Martin Holmes, a past CSE secretary, has retired from editing and from his membership. Tracy Harwood, a past treasurer, has given up her membership as well. Tracy will be long remembered for her excellent leadership of the team that organised the acclaimed National Editors/Indexers Conference in Canberra in 2015.

Members' Area on the website

Our web manager Cathy Nicoll has our new database up and running, and I have been busy entering all our current financial members into the database. You will receive an email with login details. At this stage you will only be able to update your contact details; other functions will follow!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members on the financial year membership system (i.e. those who joined the Society before 1 July 2016) should have received their membership renewal notices by now. Membership renewal notices have only been sent to those who are current financial members. If you think you should have received a renewal notice but haven't, please email me.

IPED NATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM

Ted Briggs AE tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE emmurphy.words@gmail.com

Joint National Coordinators

We have lots of news for this issue of the newsletter: we have a new ACT Coordinator for the Mentoring Program; we did really well with our poster presentation at the IPED conference in Melbourne; and we have a lot of prospective mentors and mentees coming to workshops this month.

New ACT Coordinator

As we bid farewell to Geoff Dawson and thank him for his wonderful commitment to this role, we welcome Kate Horgan. Here are some words from Kate:



Hi everyone! I'd like to introduce myself as your new ACT Mentoring Coordinator. I look forward to working with you and facilitating rewarding partnerships between mentees and mentors. Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information about the program: kate.horgan@alumni.anu.edu.au.

Mentoring at the IPED conference

The Mentoring Program was well-represented at the IPED conference.

At the IPED plenary session, Ted Briggs AE, one of the joint national chairs of the Mentoring standing committee (the other being Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE who wasn't able to attend the conference) gave a brief update on the program, tracing its history from a pilot program in CSE in 2012 to becoming a full-fledged IPED national program in 2015. He paid tribute to the



Mentoring: 2-way learning IPeD. To advance the profession of editing

Covering anything about being a **professional editor**
Developing new skills | moving to a different area of editing | tackling a freelance business | preparing for academia

1-on-1 Partnership matching goals with experience
Mentor's goals matched to mentee's experience | matching fees by skill level | Mentoring can be done online or in person

Lasting about **8 sessions** No time limit | average about 8 sessions over 24 months | negotiated between mentor and mentee | matches only the page

Mentees gain skills and confidence
Mentee takes responsibility for setting and achieving goals | builds on skills | expands knowledge | gets personal guidance tailored to needs
Consent of relationship confidential between mentor and mentee

Mentors get just as much out of it
Mentor learns through guiding others, researching new areas of expertise
Highly rewarding experience | opportunity to give back to the profession

It's not expensive
Mentor pays \$250 - \$200 goes to mentee, \$50 goes to program improvement fund

For anyone interested | covers mentoring as part of professional development in editing | includes case studies | opportunities to share ideas | conducted face-to-face or by Skype

Come to a free Workshop

Be part of it - come and talk to us
Talk to our state coordinators at the conference
Add your name to the "Please send me..." form
Take a handout
Look us up on the IPED website under Professional Development-National Mentoring

support of the state coordinators, most of whom were at the conference, and who are the lifeblood of the program, organising and administering the actual mentoring partnerships. Ted gave a call for more mentors to join the program and stressed the personal benefits of being involved—in every mentoring partnership the mentors have reported that they felt they got as much out of it as the mentees, in terms of their own learning and the satisfaction of having contributed to the profession.

The Mentoring Program also presented a very active and well-received poster session, which gave attendees more detail about how the program works. This generated lots of interest and many attendees asked for more information about a number of aspects of the program. Elizabeth and Ted are now organising workshops to introduce them to the program.

Workshops

Ted and several of the state coordinators helped to show off the Mentoring Program at the conference. This resulted in a lot of people taking away information about the program, and 17 people signing up for information about the workshops that we run. These workshops were for prospective mentors and mentees and anyone interested in the program. We arranged two fully booked workshops for June (a record number of participants from all over Australia, and including a new IPEd member from New Zealand for the first time). We also

have a waiting list for further workshops that will be run later in the year. If you are interested, let Ted or Elizabeth know and we'll send you some information about the workshops. They are free and run by video-conferencing (Skype or Zoom) for a maximum of two hours of friendly discussion about what 'mentoring' really means, and a look at some illustrative case studies. A good way to keep warm on a cold evening—lively discussion with fellow editors, over a hot coffee or soup, without leaving your warm home! See you at a workshop soon, perhaps.

MENTORING IN THE ACT

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE emmurphy.words@gmail.com

Mentoring in Canberra and region is alive and well, and now being managed by our new ACT Coordinator, Kate Horgan. There are currently four mentorships in progress, all devoted to guiding mentees in their preparation for the next IPEd Accreditation exam, plus one mentorship currently in planning stages. If you would like to find out more about mentoring, future mentoring workshops (free) or would like to sign up as a mentee or a mentor, please write to Kate for information or for the appropriate application forms: kate.horgan@alumni.anu.edu.au.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Upcoming courses

Professional development: Indexing: adding to the editor's skillset

The purpose of this course is to equip editors, particularly freelancers, with the skills necessary to compile a relatively simple index, thereby expanding their skillset and boosting their employability.

Presenter: Max McMaster

Date: Friday 2 August, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Venue: Belconnen Arts Centre

Cost: \$250 (members); \$400 (non-members)

Lunch and morning/afternoon tea provided.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.editorscanberra.org/indexing-editor-skillset-2019>.

Or register now via [TryBooking](#).

Planned courses

Prepare for accreditation

The next IPEd exam will be held on Saturday 15 August 2020. It is never too early to start preparing, and CSE is here to help.

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer a half-day workshop later this year to help you identify areas you need to focus on. Please contact us and let us know if you are interested or if you have other suggestions.

We will also run the copyediting and grammar preparation courses, depending on the level of interest, closer to the event. We are happy to hold those two courses first if that will be of more help.

Contact Cathy Nicoll for suggestions and details: cathy.nicoll@atrax.net.au.

NEW RESOURCE

Inclusive Publishing in Australia: An Introductory Guide

This important resource is an introduction to accessible publishing for anyone involved in the publishing process. The guide explains how inclusion and accessibility benefit both the community and business, and offers a range of workflow strategies and resources for creating accessible digital books that are inclusive by design.

Inclusive Publishing in Australia: An Introductory Guide is available for free download from: <https://aipi.com.au/inclusive-publishing-in-australia>.



VALE: JOAN FAIRHURST

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE emmurphy.words@gmail.com



Joan Fairhurst was a good friend of the Canberra Society of Editors, and particularly of its fledgling mentoring program. I first met Joan in Johannesburg when I travelled there to run grammar workshops and promote the first edition of my book *Working words*, published by the CSE. Joan and I became friends and kept in touch, and met up occasionally when she visited her son and his family in Melbourne. On a couple of those visits she stayed with me in Canberra and, on one such visit, she spoke briefly at the CSE General Meeting on 26 April 2017 about editing in South Africa, and about the Professional Editors' Guild (PEG). Joan was, at that time, the immediate past chair of PEG's Gauteng Branch.

Joan wanted to be part of our growing mentoring program, so Ted Briggs AE and I arranged for her to be attached to Editors Victoria. She attended one of our Skype workshops, prior to which I had instructed all the participants that they didn't need to call out to have a say—they just needed to put their hand up to be noticed. Well, while I was rabbiting on about something, one of the other participants butted in and said, 'Excuse me, Elizabeth, but Joan has been holding her hand up for a while and you haven't called on her'. Oops! Was my face red! Joan had her say straight away, of course!

On another occasion, Joan joined a CSE General Meeting by Skype from Johannesburg to congratulate us on 'going national'. She spoke briefly about her association with us and with EdVic, and got a good round of applause from us. She mentored a member of EdVic for some time, remaining friends with her mentee, Sharon Lierse, until her most recent visit to Melbourne earlier this year.

Joan was a geographer by training and in her academic life. She held the title of Professor until she retired. In more recent times, she did a lot of editing of research theses for African students, and found this to be an absorbing challenge.

I will miss our meetings and our Skype chats, often about matters of English grammar that we both loved talking about. She was a good friend, a lovely lady and a shining light in the South African world of editing.

Joan died on 2 July 2019 after a short illness, but having enjoyed a final visit with her Melbourne family.

REFLECTIONS ON THE IPEd CONFERENCE 2019

Elizabeth Ganter

I write this piece with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I am pleased to have the opportunity. On the other, I am dismayed, as after giving my five-minute talk on the conference at a recent CSE meeting, I threw my notes away, for the first and last time in my life—all of them, my speaking notes and, even more cruelly, my conference notes. So these 1000 words are drawn from memory and a sadly fresh and unannotated copy of the program.

I only attended one day of the conference, Thursday 9 May, but it was a memorable and very worthwhile day. I approached it with the intention of finding out as much as I could about editors and editing, in particular working on my own professional dilemma: 'should I take up editing of scholarly work?'—given my extensive experience in the field, having written a PhD thesis and publishing it as a book—'or should I try my luck with fiction?'—in which I have no writing experience, but prefer to read. Working for government was already out of the question, as I knew, after many decades as a public servant, it would frustrate me. I want to edit writing that tussles with, and reflects carefully on, the representation of ideas.

I was captivated by the first speaker, Dr Angela Savage, Director of Writers Victoria, and her presentation on 'Great moments in editing'. Perhaps this was because she presented herself as a writer. Speaking about how great editors could help lift great writing, Dr Savage presented witty and moving snippets of writing that had benefited from editing. She also spoke about the book she was about to publish, *Mother of pearl*, from her PhD in Creative Writing—marvellous title, which I look forward to reading.

From there it was into the detail. Susan Butler, Editor of Macquarie Dictionary Online and self-described 'lexicographer at-large', delivered a fabulous keynote address, 'When to care and when not to care: The editor's angst'. She went for the detail, lovingly discussing her pet pick-ups: 'literally' where the intended meaning is anything but; 'agreeance' for 'agreement', 'ensure' for

'ensure' and, my personal favourite moment, 'discreet' where the context calls for 'discrete', as in the government category dear to my professional heart, 'discrete Indigenous communities'. Butler seemed willing to let apostrophes go—in the face of so much public uncertainty about where to put them—and explained how she opts for none rather than watch their feral application; like in 'asparagu's' (!). She was forgiving of spelling variations, especially regionally based, but less so of plain errors ('repsychlable'—really?). I think her point was that she tries not to be pedantic, but cares very much when meaning is affected.

Next, I thought I would attend the panels on academic editing, and was even drawn to 'Perspectives of academic authors in the humanities, arts and social sciences', but my current attraction to non-academic writing meant I found myself again in other genres, listening to the ethics of memoir writing and, inspiringly, the wonderful conversation between an editor and Sian Prior, author of the inspiring book, *Shy: A memoir*.

Next conference

The 10th IPEd National Editors Conference will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, 28–30 June 2021.

One speaker put it all together for me. Dr Angela Meyer gave an award-winning presentation on a category of participant in the fascinating world of editors that I hadn't previously noticed, even in myself: the 'writer-editor'. Her talk, 'The writer-editor: How elements of a personal writing practice enhance developmental editing work', was really something. Dr Meyer's research into the relationship between writing yourself—as she so beautifully put it as having a 'writerly identity'—and working on the writing of others helped me understand my reservation about editing fiction. I'm a scholarly writer, not a fiction writer. I've been able to encourage better scholarly writing in others, and to feel appreciated for it. But, if I want to assist with someone else's fledgling work of fiction, I should perhaps try grappling with fiction writing myself.

Michael Williams, Director of the Wheeler Centre, then entertained us magnificently—leading me to wish I lived in Melbourne, a city that celebrates creative writing. The day finished with a great panel in which six Accredited Editors, Ted Briggs, Edward Caruso, Ruth Davies, Loene Doube, Kirsten Rawlings and Kathie Stove, revealed the ‘Five things they wished they’d known’ when they started out. Their stories were funny, and renewed my interest in sitting next year’s accreditation exam, for which I have the privilege of being mentored by Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE.

Here are five things I wish I’d known before attending my first IPEd conference:

1. Attending one day will leave you wanting more.
2. The dinner would actually be welcoming and fun.
3. Some see ‘writer–editor’ as something with which it is possible to ‘identify’, like a social category.

4. Authors care about editors as much as editors care about authors.
5. Never, under any circumstances, throw your conference notes away.

I still don’t know what the second day was like, but, as a hopeless lover of words, I would definitely have attended ‘A typology of typos’ and ‘A lifetime loving words’. Thanks to CSE, I did get to hear from Justine McNamara at her follow-up talk during one of the General Meetings that a ‘raven is like a writing desk’—to quote her presentation title—in the same way that other professions, such as hers in social work, influence editing. This made me reflect on the pathway to my own business, Elizabethan Editing, and confirmed why I’m so drawn to talks by writers and editors. For me, as for them, it’s about the words and how to write them.

GENERAL MEETINGS

May 2019

How our ‘other’ professions inform editing practice

Deb Fleming

At the May meeting, we heard from members who had presented at, or attended, the 9th National Editors Conference in Melbourne on 10 May. This was a great opportunity for those of us who couldn’t attend to get a flavour of what was covered at the conference.

Justine McNamara gave a summary of her presentation ‘Why is a raven like a writing desk: How our other professions inform our editing practice’ (voted ‘catchiest title’ at the conference). Justine had analysed how her previous careers created connections, added value and built skills that she used in her editing practice. For example, from social work and academia, she gained expertise in working with multi-disciplinary teams and finding creative solutions. She finished with some questions to expand our thinking about our strengths, our likes and dislikes, and how this can help us build a successful editing career.

Next, Cathy Nicholl provided an overview of her presentation ‘Let’s make the accessible usable’. (Cathy had given a longer and highly informative pre-conference version at the April meeting.) There were some excellent tips on how to move beyond a narrow concept of online accessibility, to make content usable for people with a range of different learning styles and preferences. Cathy’s mantra is ‘accessible, usable and multi-channel’.

Finally, some of our other members gave a quickfire impression of their highlights and favourite sessions from the conference:

- Elizabeth Ganter spoke about improving her understanding of good writing and how to explain it. She also shared her thoughts about the session on fiction editing with Susan Butler.
- Karin Hosking found the networking very valuable, and spoke about the session on grant writing, which she said was especially useful for clients in an academic context.

- Leanne Manthorpe shared her highly positive experience of Kevin O'Brien's workshop on using macros, and recommended Paul Beverley's book, *Macros for editors*, which is free to download from: www.archivepub.co.uk/macros.html.
- Eris Harrison learnt more about using WordPress, and she also went to the launch of the Janet Mackenzie Medal, which IPEd has established to recognise the work of an outstanding professional editor.

Janet Mackenzie Medal

IPEd launched the Janet Mackenzie Medal (the Mackenzie) at the conference in Melbourne. The Mackenzie is IPEd's highest award, to be conferred on an outstanding professional editor who has lifted the standard of the editing profession and/or given exemplary service to IPEd.

The Mackenzie will take the form of a medal to be awarded annually. Recipients will also receive Honorary Life Membership of IPEd and will be able to use an electronic rendering of the medal in their editing business branding. Detailed criteria and a nomination template are available from the IPEd website. The inaugural Mackenzie requires nominations to be submitted by October 2019 and will be awarded in 2020.

You can find out more about Janet's amazing contribution to the profession of editing and the Medal from: iped-editors.org/News_and_events/View_News/Janet_Mackenzie_Medal.aspx.

June 2019

The view from the other side

Leanne Pattison

Two published authors walk into a roomful of 30 information-hungry editors, some scarred by prickly writers. What could go wrong?

Absolutely nothing. This was a warm, candid and well-structured meeting, with questions from organiser Kaaren Sutcliffe posed to two writers—Inga Simpson and Karen Viggers—who happily said their editors are positive, encouraging guides who nudge them to self-assessment and self-revision. That is, they're the essential 'other eyes' that help these writers see their work more clearly. We editors, of course, all identified with these qualities. There were no stories of soured relationships, like the one I heard about the editor who insisted that the chooks in a children's story be replaced by Indigenous creatures. Maybe that was targeted marketing, but the story is as much about a dictatorial editor.

Nor have our two authors had tortuous paths to publication, although when Inga's first chapter of a vaguely imagined following

story was accepted and a complete novel of an exact number of words demanded within 36 hours or else, she had 34 hours left after stowing her surfboard and calling in her characters. Finding herself some hundred words short just before deadline, she changed the title character's name from one word to two. That's adaptability. Hence her second book, *Mr Wigg* (2013), which was a great success.

Their editors, provided by their publishers, work with these two people who have been crafting stories since they were children, never wavering in their vocation, though Karen had more parental approval than did Inga. This long experience showed in their informed openness about how they'd evolved subject, characterisation and plot as well as different voices and styles. Perhaps this long experience with shaping words leads to empathy with an editor's task.

Karen particularly talked about the positive experience of learning about

different levels of editing and the whole process leading to publication. From the start, she found her editors encouraging and tactful.

Well into drafting her fourth book, she found she had written herself, she said, 'into a corner' of increasing bleakness and broken characters. In fact, she was ready to abandon it, but her editor insisted that its essence was worth saving. With structural and tone advice, she achieved more light and optimism. It was *The orchardist's daughter*—well worth saving!

Inga, when once in a sticky place with characters, took the advice not to get caught up in her own experiences, but to walk in the shoes of someone quite different. She projected herself to the life of a man in his eighties, to an old man slowing down in his circumscribed world, and the writing lived again. Only after *Mr Wigg* was conceived did she realise that he was probably based on her grandfather, who had an orchard in Europe.



Karen Viggers

While writing her memoir, *Understory*, she was 'in a bit of a downer', a mood clear in one negative comment near the end. About this, her editor just said gently, 'It always pays to be kind'. Inga made one verb change that did the job.

They both find that place and character influence their voice and style, but it's also particularly how they see the world, what's important in it, and what they want to read that directs them. Karen writes about 'the extraordinary lives of ordinary people'. Inga's focus is more on the natural world, especially trees.

How did we get these two interesting and accomplished guests? Kaaren, a writer–editor herself, met them when she attended a literary lunch organised by Moruya Bookshop, where Inga interviewed Karen, and when they both spoke highly of their editors, Kaaren decided to ask them if they would visit us at CSE.

And the other hunger? After a lively discussion following the interview, this was well assuaged for many of us at a Thai restaurant. Thank you, organiser Kaaren.

Photo: Claire Plush



Inga Simpson

COMICAL COLLECTIONS

Alan Cummine, Secretary

Just when I thought my literate truckie mate in Harden-Murrumburrah had run out of language bloopers and other editing funnies for me, he sent this wonderfully timely graphic. I'm sure other editors share my despair at the steady decline in contemporary English usage—even in supposedly example-setting media (where I hear this mistake regularly)!

More word fun!

What follows is from *Friday offcuts*, a weekly forestry newsletter covering New Zealand and Australia.

- Which letter is silent in the word 'scent'?
The S or the C?
- Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- The word 'swims' upside-down is still 'swims'.
- Have you noticed that if you replace W with T in 'what, where and when', you get the answers to all of them?
- Why do doctors call what they do 'practice'?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'broker'?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called 'rush hour'?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport 'the terminal'?



- If poison expires, is it more poisonous, or no longer poisonous?
- Why do they sterilise the needle for lethal injections?



The Editor's Anthem

By popular demand, here's *The Editor's Anthem* once again. Written by 'Anne Neditur' for the Second National Editors Conference in 2005, the anthem is meant to be sung to the tune of *Advance Australia Fair*.

We're editors and that's because
We know our ABC.
With words to spare and tender care,
We'll dot your i's and cross your t's.
Your p's and q's we'll daily mind,
With grammar rich and rare.

On every page, we'll rant and rage,
If there's an error there.
With joyful stains of ink that's blue,
We'll make your copy fair.



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THE CANBERRA EDITOR

THE CANBERRA SOCIETY OF EDITORS' NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28 No. 2 April-July © Canberra Society of Editors 2019
ISSN 2200-6344 (online)
PO Box 3222, Manuka ACT 2603

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next edition of *The Canberra editor* will appear in September 2019. The copy deadline for that issue is 31 August. Send your contributions by email to newsletter@editorscanberra.org. All articles must be in <.doc> format.

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