

From the 'impossibly messy' desk of the President



Firstly, sincere and profound thanks to Deb Fleming, who has volunteered to edit the newsletter. It's a tremendously important part of our communications, and we love to see it stabilised.

The times remain difficult, but we are starting to return to a careful normal. We held a very successful hybrid general meeting on Wednesday 24 June, with 19 'live' people and 18 online viewers. It was lovely to chat with members again. We had some interesting questions from the live audience. The online viewers were more passive, but there has been enough feedback for us to know that it worked. Thanks to Secretary Ngaire for brilliant techno-wizardry. She may be willing to do it again in July. After that, we'll see how restrictions are going.

You may be aware that the new date for the IPEd accreditation exam is 5 December 2020.

We are offering a session about accreditation in July. If you have already done the exam, your input would be helpful. If not, come along (or sign in) and consider your options. There will be training in the months leading up to the exam, and study groups are planned. See the Professional Development section for information about the ways we are supporting those of you thinking of taking the exam.

The review of our systems and website is underway, and there seem to be some good options in terms of software and support. We are working with the old system for a bunch of membership renewals due in early July, and we appreciate your patience and your ongoing support. Thank you to all who have renewed already. We will have everything better integrated and more accessible in the foreseeable future.

We have unfortunately lost our Membership Secretary. Kellie Nissen did an enormous amount of work in her seven months on the committee, and she's left us with some excellent tracking and strategies. If you'd like to assist your committee in that role, please get in touch.

Thank you for continuing to support CSE. Stay strong and safe.

Eris Jane Harrison AE
President

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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.

Hello from the new editor

Hi, just a quick bit of background about myself.

I've worked in a variety of roles in communications and public policy; mainly in education, science and technology, although I have also worked with data and statistical analysis. That means drafting and editing lots of media releases, speeches, user guides and content for websites. I also have experience managing quality assurance and production of annual reports, strategic plans and consultants' reports.

I enjoy reading, and in the past few years I've returned to my first love which is writing fiction – I am a word nerd on many different levels!

Recently I've been fortunate to have some short stories published and working with different anthology editors as an author has given me a glimpse into the other side of editing. As editors we might not always get the opportunity to experience what it's like to have our writing critiqued, but the process teaches me a lot (I hope!) about communicating my own editorial feedback.

In the future I would love to learn more about fiction editing and to expand my range of non-fiction editing. One of the main reasons that I joined CSE and the committee is that I'm passionate about continuing to learn and to keep improving my knowledge and skills.



I'm working towards the IPEd accreditation exam in December and I think that raising the profile and status of the profession is really important.

I look forward to steering *ACTIVE VOICE* and if you have ideas for content or contributions, or you'd like to help out with production, please get in touch through the contact form on the website.

Deb Fleming, BA, MA (Prof. Comms)

Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) News

The new Chair of IPEd is Ruth Davies AE. Ruth takes over from Kerry Davies, who saw IPEd through a major transition period and has made a huge contribution to its ongoing success. Ruth is also based in Queensland, and her profile is available [here](#).

IPEd has announced the new date for the 2020 accreditation exam. It will be held on Saturday 5 December 2020, and it won't be re-scheduled or cancelled. The Accreditation Board is putting contingency measures in place in the event of another lockdown in any or all of the exam venues (which include Canberra), so the exam will go ahead on this date even if it's in limited venues or a modified form. The next exam will not be until at least 2022. So think carefully about whether you would benefit from accreditation, and plan accordingly.

Register for the exam at http://iped-editors.org/Accreditation/accreditation_exam/exam_registration.aspx. There are many helpful resources on the IPEd website such as practice exam materials and the Accreditation Standards.

The lockdown is making IPEd branches creative, with meetings everywhere now available via Zoom. Check out all the offerings on the IPEd website.

IPEd has resumed planning for its biennial conference, to be held 28 to 30 June 2021 in Hobart. Submissions from potential presenters are due by **Friday 4 September 2020**; see the website for more <https://iped2021.org.au/>.

As the COVID-19 restrictions ease and we can have more in-person gatherings, the committee hopes to organise networking lunches later in the year, so stay tuned for further updates. -Ed

Professional Development

Now that IPED has rescheduled this year's accreditation exam to 5 December 2020, we are once again turning our attention to exam preparation. If you are still undecided about whether to sit the exam or just wondering what accreditation is all about, then be sure to join CSE's general meeting on 29 July for a presentation and discussion with freelance editor and trainer Malini Devadas, who will outline what accreditation means for you as an editor.

Then in August we will be providing a series of three training workshops covering copyediting, grammar, and the exam itself. While these are designed primarily to help candidates prepare for the exam, you may also wish to attend if you are still undecided at this point or even just seeking a refresher.

On Friday 14 August Accredited Editor and CSE member Cathy Nicoll will present a full-day workshop on *Copyediting*.

This will be followed closely by *Grammar in a Nutshell* for a full day on Saturday 15 August, presented by CSE

member and Distinguished Editor, Elizabeth Manning Murphy, and Dr Jon Rosalky.

On Saturday 29 August Ted Briggs, Accredited Editor and member of the IPED Accreditation Board, will present a full-day workshop intended to be a local in-person version of the three two-hour online exam preparation workshops offered by IPED.

All three workshops will be presented in-person at the Griffith Neighbourhood Hall. Further details are provided below, and we will send information on cost and registration processes by email.

In addition to these workshops, we are exploring options to support informal study groups for those of you working towards the exam, including a monthly online discussion group using Zoom.

We are also still working on bringing you some other training before the end of the year, so keep an eye out for announcements.

Nigel Brew AE
Professional Development Coordinator

IPED exam workshop with Ted Briggs AE, Saturday 29 August

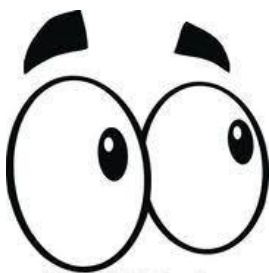
This interactive workshop is aimed at people thinking about sitting the IPED accreditation exam. Even if you decide not to sit the exam, you will learn about various aspects of editing that you can incorporate into your current work as an editor. The workshop is also a great opportunity to meet other editors.

The workshop will cover:

- strategies for preparing for the exam and managing your time
- practice exercises
- tips for working with Word and PDF
- what to expect on the day
- study resources, and more.

There will be a mix of presentations, group discussion and editing exercises.

Ted is an Accredited Editor and an Honorary Life Member of both CSE and IPED. He has been on the Accreditation Board since 2012, serving as the chair from 2013 to 2017. He has also been a joint national coordinator of the IPED Mentoring Program for Editors since its inception in 2012 as a pilot program in CSE.



On reports that NSW police took action against 183 people for arson in the recent bushfire season, here is some context from NSW police commissioner Gary Warboys:

“I know that all of those people aren't arsonists in a sense, I know a lot of them were doing things like using fireworks or lighting fires to camp or cook food or young children, in fact, that got the benefits of the Young Offenders Act and quite rightly so.

I know all of those people are not people out there trying to kill people or destroy houses and so we need to get that in some perspective.” ([The Guardian](#), 7 Jan 2020)

Grammar in a Nutshell

Presenters: Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE and Dr Jon Rosalky

Full day workshop: 9.00am to 3.30pm

Date: Saturday 15 August 2020

Venue: Griffith Neighbourhood Hall, 53 Stuart Street, Griffith

The presenters are both experts in English grammar and the workshop will include activities that will be useful practice for exam candidates, but all editors and writers are welcome.

- Did you miss out on learning English grammar at school? Or have you forgotten the details? Or is English not your first language?
- Do you find it difficult to explain to editing clients or junior staff why you recommend grammatical alterations to their text?
- Can you explain 'agentless passives', 'parallel structure', 'agreement in number' or 'prepositional idiom'? Or does your own writing need the same edits time and again because no-one explained them to you?

This full day will alert you to some of the more common grammatical problems we meet in our text editing, it will explain the grammar behind the conventions that make text acceptable, and it will provide an opportunity to practise editing and to explain the grammar behind your edits – with feedback from the presenters.

The workshop progresses through the principles of good writing, from parts of speech to sentence structure to paragraphs and to whole documents. It includes punctuation that works and an introduction to editing for plain English, with practice all the way and terminology explained as we go. There are optional extra activities for home practice and a private consultation with one of the presenters (by Zoom, Skype or email) is included.

The workshop relates closely to Elizabeth's recent book *Effective writing: plain English at work – 2nd edition*, 2014, Lacuna Publishing. Copies can be purchased at workshop discount price (\$30) on the day. There is no required reading for the workshop, but this book is recommended reading and will be referred to throughout the day. Also available will be *Working words – revised edition*, 2019, Lacuna Publishing, (also \$30 at the workshop). We will recommend other texts, including more comprehensive grammar books, for further reading.

The workshop is mapped to the relevant sections of the *Australian standards for editing practice (ASEP)*, 2nd edition, 2013, Institute of Professional Editors.

Odd spot

Did you know that multiple adjectives in a sentence follow a distinct order? If I told you I'd bought a *beautiful little round white Chinese porcelain vase* on my holiday, you'd understand what I meant. But what if I said I'd bought a *porcelain round Chinese little white beautiful vase*?

The rule is that multiple adjectives (usually) follow the order: opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material, purpose. This means that we automatically know to say *black leather riding boots* rather than *leather riding black boots*. Or a *cute little white puppy*, and not a *white cute little puppy*.

The *Style Manual* notes that the role of adjectives is to evaluate, describe or define the adjacent noun, and refers to them appearing in the order 'evaluative', 'descriptive', and then 'definitive' — e.g. '*a heavy black steel door*' (p. 68).

Nigel Brew AE

General Meetings

JULY: *Accreditation: is it right for you right now?*

We are thrilled to have Dr Malini Devadas back on Wednesday, 29 July to present our introduction to accreditation. Is it right for you? We want to encourage members (and guests) to think about their future professional development, what study or training they might do in the future and whether accreditation—now—is right for you. If it is, how should you go about preparing for the exam?

Malini will also speak more broadly about making a commitment to studying, how to approach a test like this, how to handle failure—first try is not always the last try—and what success might bring.

If you have ideas for topics or speakers for the monthly general meetings, get in touch with one of your committee members and let us know. -Ed

Malini will be LIVE at St Mark's, Barton, and will also travel over the webwaves to those who still prefer to stay at home. So, come along and share the camaraderie and cupcakes, or join us from your comfy chair. The audience in far-flung parts of the region (and those in the next suburb) can use Zoom's Q&A facility to ask questions or offer opinions.

AUGUST: We have some ideas for August, but they're still being refined. We think that a fun night on the verge of Spring is in order.

The AGM will be at the end of October this year, so please clear your calendars for the evening of Wednesday, 28 October.

IPEd Mentoring Program

Where do you want to be as an editor in one, three, or even five years? Even when you have clear goals and ambitions, formulating a plan for getting there can be difficult. Editing can offer many and varied opportunities, yet this can also be daunting. Some people are lucky enough to find mentors through their work or daily life, but for most people this kind of relationship needs to be formally established through a structured program. This is where the IPEd Mentoring Program can help you.

Am I eligible?

Members of the CSE or IPEd at any level are eligible to apply. You'll need: some basic training in copy editing, some experience editing (paid or voluntary), and a clear idea of your goals for a mentorship. Mentorships are not just for early career editors. We welcome applications from editors at any stage in their career.

What can I be mentored in?

Any topic related to editing can form the basis for a mentorship — business development, career transition, accreditation exam prep, and editing for government being a few examples. The beauty of our program is that there are no restrictions placed on topics.

How does it work exactly?

Once you've filled out an application form and established your goals, we will match you with a suitable mentor. A mentorship can be as short as a few sessions or extend over several months. It is driven by your needs and communication preferences, such as meeting through video conferencing.

But I'd like to *be* a mentor!

Great! We are looking to recruit mentors. Sharing your specialist knowledge and expertise with your community will keep you sharp, and it will be a learning experience for you too.

Further Information, Forms and Contacts

Detailed information about the program can be found in the [Guidance Notes](#).

Useful articles on mentoring can be found in previous issues of the CSE newsletter, on the [CSE website](#).

For mentee/mentor application forms and any further inquiries please email Kate Horgan, ACT Mentoring Coordinator kate.horgan@alumni.anu.edu.au.

We are also very fortunate to have in the ACT the two Joint Program Coordinators, Elizabeth and Ted, who are happy to discuss the mentoring program:

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE – emmurphy.words@gmail.com

Ted Briggs AE – tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

CSE monthly meetings go online

We have held two general meetings by webinar. Both were very successful.

In April, Dr Malini Devadas spoke to us about *Finding clients in difficult times*.

Malini stressed the importance of valuing your services appropriately and marketing to the clients you choose; she recommended that editors find their 'niche'. You are promoting the service, the business, not yourself. Marketing needs to happen in times when work is flowing in, and you're doing well and feeling confident; don't put off marketing until work is slow. Get feedback from clients and use it on your website or marketing material. Testimonials are reassuring for new clients. Referrals are always helpful. Malini spoke about the three main markets for editors, where to find them and how to target them. Networking in organisations and online groups will get you known. A variety of specific suggestions inspired listeners to develop their own strategies and seek out new clients.

In May, Meaghan Newson from the Digital Transformation Agency spoke about the forthcoming, revised *Style Manual*. She is the Project Manager.

The process has been lengthy and complex, but beta testing is beginning, and CSE members can sign up for the newsletter or get involved by emailing stylemanual@dta.gov.au. Meaghan ran through the various categories and showed us some of the contents. Members generally felt positive about the online version, which will be freely available. Check out the last newsletter for an article by Meaghan.

In June, the meeting was a hybrid, available in person or by webinar. There will be a report of the subject matter in the next newsletter, but it's important to note that this was a very successful and safe meeting, where almost 20 people attended in person.

Attendees signed in and sanitised as they arrived. Food was carefully prepared to avoid buffet style crowding, and labels were supplied for plates and glasses. Chairs were well spaced and are wiped down after each meeting.

The room at St Mark's study centre is an ideal venue for safe meetings because it is such a big room with appropriate technology and good support. It holds 24 under current rules. It is booked again for the July meeting.

Grammar Gremlin No 1 – Prepositions

In 'Grammar Gremlins' we look at parts of grammar that writers often get wrong, or that we editors aren't sure how to explain to writers who make the errors.

Prepositions are those little words like to, by, from, with, for and into. Use the right one to get the meaning right. In 'The child fell *in* the pool' what does *in* imply? If we change it to 'The child fell *into* the pool', is that the same or different?* Changes in usage happen all the time. Years ago, we all wrote 'My shoes are different *from* yours'. Nowadays it's ok to write 'My shoes are different *to* yours'. Some choices of what goes with what are never right: 'The bank is *adjacent with* the library' is not correct. This is correct: 'The bank is *adjacent to* the library'. And different prepositions can be used to create entirely different meanings depending on what follows: 'I am a teacher *of* English *at* the local school *to* the children *from* the village.'

*Different. In the first, the child was in the water already and had a fall. In the second, the child was standing too close to the edge of the pool and toppled into the water.

Learn more: Section 11.8 *Effective writing: plain English at work* by Elizabeth Manning Murphy with Hilary Cadman, Lacuna Publishing, Sydney, 2014.

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE

Prepositions are positional words that get their name because they are usually placed before their objects, but it is possible to construct sentences in English where the object is before the preposition or missing altogether (*The Grammar Dictionary*, Dr George Stern, 2000). Maybe the 'pre-position' gave rise to the language myth that a preposition is incorrect to end a sentence with? -Ed



Book review: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, Pip Williams (2020, Affirm Press)

It's the late 19th century, and Esme Nicholls – clever, curious, motherless – is growing up at the feet of the men creating the Oxford English Dictionary. She spends her childhood under the sorting table at the Scriptorium, a large shed in the backyard of Dr James Murray, the dictionary's editor. As the team of lexicographers, including her beloved Da, sift through words submitted by thousands of volunteers, one word on a slip of paper drifts down and lands in Esme's lap. Bondmaid. This 'beautiful, troubling' word fails to make it into the dictionary's first edition and is the genesis of this absorbing debut novel.

In *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, Pip Williams has crafted a story based on meticulous research (including visits to Oxford and interviews with archivists) and a cast of characters both real and imagined.

Lizzie Lester the maid, Tilda Taylor the actress/suffragette, Mabel O'Shaughnessy the wizened market-seller, and Esme's aunt Ditte (based on the real-life historian Edith Thompson), provide a snapshot of female experience of the time and highlight the limitations women faced.

Strict rules governed the inclusion of entries in the new dictionary. Each word had to have been previously written down with an historical quotation to accompany it.

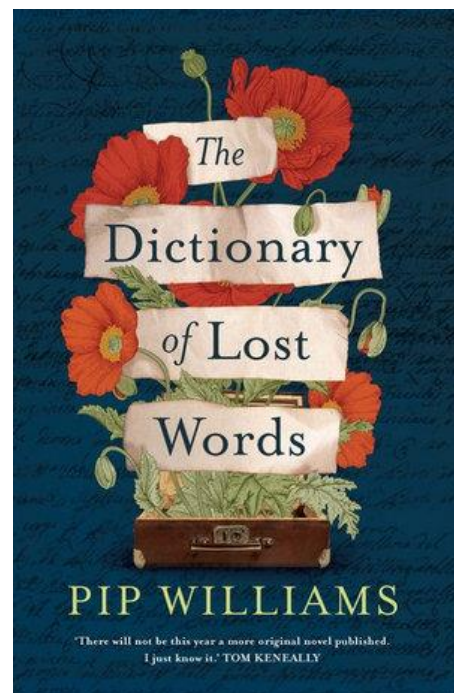
As Esme grows older and learns more of the world, she starts to realise that this rule excludes many words spoken by women, words about women or their sexuality (including so-called vulgar words) and words used by women in a particular way. She starts to collect them on bits of paper in a wooden trunk.

DOLLYMOP: A woman who is paid for sexual favours on an occasional basis, SISTERS: Women bonded by a shared political goal; comrades, MORBS: A temporary sadness. She also records the names of the women who share these words and a sentence that explains their meaning.

"My trunk is like The Dictionary, I thought. Except it's full of words that have been lost or neglected."

Time passes, and Esme is granted more work in the Scriptorium. But her gender means she can never achieve her dream of becoming an editor, in the same way female scholars at Oxford University are denied a degree. Still, she perseveres with her secretive work, through personal heartbreak and the upheaval of war.

"Words are like stories, don't you think ...? They change as they are passed from mouth to mouth; their meanings stretch or truncate to fit what needs to be said. The Dictionary can't possibly capture every variation, especially since so many have never been written down – "



Williams says her novel is "an attempt to understand how the way we define language, might define us." Does it matter, she asks, if a dictionary is a "particularly male endeavour"? Does it matter if women are absent? The answer, obvious to us now, is a resounding yes. Williams' eloquent, passionate novel – including its reference, at the end, to the need to preserve Indigenous languages – will delight any reader who loves the history and use of words.

Louise Maher



My True Shelf, with Dr David Lee

The “My True Shelf” series features interviews with people who work with words, inspired by the way Zoom backgrounds are giving us a peek at people’s bookshelves during lockdown.

Interview by Gina Dow



UNSW Associate Professor Dr David Lee at home during lockdown.

Dr David Lee directed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s history program until recently. Now Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, David’s fields of interest are diverse: Australian political and constitutional history, the history of foreign, defence and trade policy, and economic history. In between editing histories for DFAT, David has authored *Stanley Melbourne Bruce: Australian Internationalist* (London, 2010) and *The Second Rush: Mining and the Transformation of Australia* (Connor Court, 2016).

There’s a green wall lined with books in the background of David Lee’s zoom calls.

DL: This room I’m talking to you from is where I keep my Australian books. My strategy and Cold War books – topics on which I am currently lecturing – I keep at work. At least, I did before lockdown. I have had to cart most of those home.

In the main living room, I have literature. It is mainly Australian and English, but also some Russian novels. Then I have another room with American, international and global history.

GD: I remember that, in your old house, I was impressed by the double-shelving you practised throughout. That must have been through necessity, but I have always wondered, how does a ‘double-shelver’ remember what’s at the back?

DL: My office at UNSW gave me much more shelf space, but the bringing-home of books has meant that I’ve had to revive the practice of double-shelving. I don’t operate with a photographic memory. To be honest I don’t have a system. Which has its drawback, as I tend to forget what’s at the back.

GD: Double-shelving must increase the risk of duplication – accidentally buying books you already own?

DL: That happens. Yes, I have duplicates and I’m not as good at weeding them out as I should be. A good

strategy would be to start weeding. I’m going to run out of space. The problem is, I don’t like letting go of books!

David has plans, though, to catalogue and cull.

DL: I really need a librarian to come in and do an inventory and catalogue what I have. It’s a 30-year collection, I must have three or four thousand books. It’s one of those funny things, that you wake up and realise, “I have a limited lifespan and I will never get through all my books”. Even if I were reading for 12 hours a day, I would never get through them.

I’m getting to the point where I’ll just have to face facts: decide what I actually want to read, then cull, systemise them.

I have older colleagues who tend to do a big giveaway on retirement. They throw open their collection to friends: “Come and take what you like”.

GD: You have your literature, your Australiana, your Americana and your other room – where does your heart lie?

DL: I am mostly here in the ‘Australian room’, but I would like to be reading more literature, particularly Russian novels.

GD: Are you one of those people who can read at night, or do you fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow?

DL: I used to be able to read at night, but I am usually tired from reading at UNSW all day, and have difficulty concentrating by bedtime.

The COVID-19 lockdown is substantially affecting David's work.

DL: In terms of student numbers, our campus hasn't been as badly affected by COVID as some others, but I have settled in for the long haul to work from home.

One of the main effects of COVID has been to necessitate a shift to online resources because courses have had to be taught fully online. That's been the same at ANU.

That process was of course already under way, with postgraduate courses being taught online, but with the closure of public libraries in the first half of 2020 it has not been possible to direct students to hardcopy material of any kind. All courses have been online, so resources have to be available to students in digital form.

I personally prefer hardcopy as a reader, but I am considering investing in an e-reader for the first time.

Bookshelves at home are one thing, but David is looking forward to seeing the National Archives and National Library fully open up again for researchers.

DL: I'm so pleased to see the NAA reading room opening up again. We researchers have all missed consulting files in the Archive.

And, speaking of access to books, of course the Lifeline Book Fair looks to be not happening this year. That is always a highlight of the year.

GD: Hmm – does this mean you are still buying after all?

DL: I would love to have proper built-in library shelves installed in my house. That would create more shelf space so, yes, it looks as though I haven't stopped buying yet!

I ask David about favourite and standout volumes in his collection.

DL: My childhood favourites were the Narnia series and Tolkien. They are, of course, still vivid in my mind. The oldest favourite in my collection is an early of the White Company trilogy by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It's about a 14th century company of archers. Doyle once stated that he actually preferred the works to his more famous detective series.

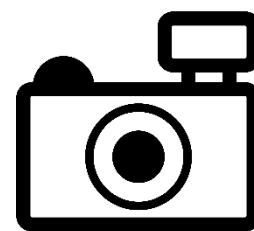
I'm currently re-reading the Van der Valk series by Nicolas Freeling from the 1960s, the best known of which is probably Love in Amsterdam. I was inspired to revisit those by a remake recently screened on ABC Television.

I ask David what writing projects of his own he currently has under way.

DL: I thoroughly enjoy my teaching work and, between my university work commitments, and COVID-19 delays, realisation of my book projects is some way off.

Would like to 'Show us Your Shelves'?

- Do you have a particularly small, or large, book in your collection?
- How about an unusual reference book?
- Have you found yourself (like many of us) thinking about the books behind you on your video calls?
- Do you have a special, unique, or personal system for arranging your books?



Send a picture and a short description to the Editor and share your best shelves! #shelfie -Ed



According to the Macquarie Dictionary Blog of 1 March 2020, *stricting* is the practice of organising books so they are flush with the edges of the shelf in an aesthetically pleasing way. Fascinating that this unfamiliar word came into circulation just in time for all those shelfie shots.

Seven new words for March.

Back Page Bloopers



world. I do respect this issue but at this particular point in time I would have liked to have seen a lot more responsibility on the part of Australians and I know this is an issue that a lot of Australians are very upset about. There are people who weren't able to go to weddings and mourn their families.

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
([The Guardian](#), 11 June 2020)

I'm not sure how Kristen felt, but surely any editor would find that proper expression only enhances the dating experience? -Ed

In July, all the free public sector [Innovation Month](#) talks are online. The schedule included this intriguing topic:

Day	Time	Event	Details
Tue 7 July	11.00am	Premier of Data from Space	Join this keynote presentation and panel discussion with experts as we discuss data, space and all things in between.

Is this the Premier of Data, like the Premier of NSW, presenting from space?

Or the minister responsible for data that comes from space?

Or could it be the premiere of a presentation on the types of data collected by space technology? -Ed

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