

# THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

Volume 22 • Number 1

February–March 2013

## Why develop a core professional development program for editors throughout Australia?

*Connie Stamos, President, Canberra Society of Editors*

If professional development for Australian editors were coordinated by a national body (for example: by IPEd, <http://iped-editors.org/>) then the needs of editors seeking accreditation and those of their potential employers/clients would be met even more successfully.

Centrally-planned professional development programs would clearly be more beneficial for members. Conducting formal needs assessments would be an essential part of this planning. Over time, state society and IPEd members would enjoy better-targeted workshops, and we could guarantee that:

- all of the requisite skills are covered;
- the continuity and quality of training is maintained;
- resources are pooled;
- accreditation is promulgated; and
- public awareness of editing skills is promoted, and more.

### The editing skill set

An editor is endowed with much more than language skills. A successful editor needs to understand design and branding, balance nuances of tone and vocabulary, have an awareness of political correctness, social, ethical and legal issues. Specialist subject knowledge is often an advantage. Advanced IT skills and an awareness of web accessibility are a must given the exponential shift towards digital publishing. Freelance editors also need business and project management skills.

### Editor profiles

Although editors come from diverse backgrounds, there is a common denominator: many become editors later in life after enjoying rich careers, for example as teachers, lecturers, academics and/or former business people. Most are women (*The Editor's Companion*, Mackenzie J. CUP 2004, p. 4). Scientists turn their expert 'quill' to editing scientific texts. Doing (another) editing course in a tertiary context may be inappropriate for these people. Although editors are likely to embrace life-long learning, tertiary certificates and diplomas in editing may not be an option because of accessibility. And an editors' on-the-job skills (and recognition of prior learning) may be just as important, or even more so.

Our colleagues are keen to join state societies and we are welcoming them with high value support, including: mentoring, professional development, opportunities for networking and guidance. The path towards an editing career is not a «monodrome» (please excuse my French!).

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# IPEd notes

## News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

You can now follow IPEd on:



Twitter@IPeditors



Friend IPEd on Facebook—don't just watch us; add a comment, or say you like us!

### IPEd Accreditation exam 2014 Assessment Team

Dear Accredited and Distinguished Editors—

Applications are due Friday 29 March 2013, if you would like to be part of the Assessment Team for the May 2014 Accreditation exam. Contact Charles Houen, IPEd Secretary, [ipedsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ipedsecretary@gmail.com) for details.

### 6th IPEd National Editors Conference, 10–12 April, Fremantle, WA

**Editing across borders**

<http://www.ipedperth2013.com.au>

Twitter hashtag: #ipedcon2013

**Keynote speakers:**

*Nury Vitacchi*

*Don Watson*

*Dr Carmen Lawrence*

*Professor Roly Sussex*

**Master of Ceremonies**

*William Yeoman*

### Access to the members area of IPEd website

IPEd is the national body for Australian editors, and is a must have website favourite: <http://iped-editors.org/>. You can now access the members only area of the IPEd website if you wish to do so. The members only area contains useful information not available to the general public, such as information about accreditation exams. You can login using the following format:

Username: FirstnameLastname (e.g. SamSmythe)

Password: FirstnameLastname (e.g. SamSmythe)

You can change the password once you're logged in. Contact Margaret Millard ([margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au](mailto:margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au)), CSE Membership Secretary, for more information.

### New IPEd contact details

IPEd has a new postal address: PO Box 6585, Point Cook VIC 3030. The email address is now: [secretary@iped-editors.org](mailto:secretary@iped-editors.org)

### Call for expressions of interest

*Convenor for IPEd communications committee (CommComm)*

The IPEd Council, of which Canberra Society of Editors is one of seven members, needs to appoint a new convenor for its Communications Committee (CommComm). This is an honorary position. Expressions of interest are invited as soon as possible from editors and related professionals with expertise and experience in, and a strong commitment to, the abovementioned areas.

Enquiries regarding the position can be directed to the IPEd Secretary, Charles Houen ([secretary@iped-editors.org](mailto:secretary@iped-editors.org)).

### The national body. What is to happen with IPEd?

IPEd has sent a number of documents for distribution to our members. If you have not yet received them, please contact: Connie Stamos, President, CSE: [connie.stamos@gmail.com](mailto:connie.stamos@gmail.com)

The documents give the results of the 2012 survey of members, the possible models for IPEd in the future, and what the next steps are. The documents will be discussed at the IPEd Council plenary session at the national conference on 12 April.

At this stage, we ask you just to read these documents and understand them. Very briefly, the survey results suggested four possible models for a way forward, but the IPEd working parties recommended only the first and the fourth as practical:

1. A restructured IPEd model. IPEd structures to restrict its activities to accreditation and standards (ASEP). No new resources for national activities. There would be no added funding for IPEd beyond the \$25 annual levy. The societies will continue to serve editors on a state and territory basis.
2. A collaborative model. IPEd restricted to accreditation and ASEP. National activities are done under an explicit agreement for societies to work together on national activities. IPEd's involvement is/was not clearly described by advocates of this model.
3. A progressive merger model. Establish a single national body with the capacity to appoint paid staff (which could be called IPEd), but societies merge as they are ready to do so. Funding for national activities progressively increases as it gains members. MOUs needed for societies to support national activities until they join with IPEd.
4. A direct membership model. Establish a single national body with paid staff. Societies could keep their existing savings and responsibility for local activities. IPEd collects all new money and is responsible for all non-local activities. Funding for national activities assured.

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# From the President

## CSE's 21st anniversary celebrates its founders

The Canberra Society of Editors seeks volunteers to write profiles of CSE founders and significant members for the CSE 21st anniversary.

The profiles will be used as an update of the history section of our website and the authors will be credited for their work.

Please write to Connie Stamos (CSE President) to express your interest: [conniestamos@gmail.com](mailto:conniestamos@gmail.com).

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## CSE general meetings

CSE general meetings are usually held from 6:00 pm on the last Wednesday of each month at the Emeritus Faculty, ANU, Building 1C, 24 Balmain Crescent (entry from Balmain Lane to gravel parking area at rear of building).

Meetings start with drinks and nibbles and are a good opportunity to meet other members in a relaxed social setting. You can find more information about the meetings and speakers on our website at [www.editorscanberra.org](http://www.editorscanberra.org).

## Canberra editors on YAHOO

If you did not already know, Peter Judge is still monitoring the Yahoo Canberra Editor's discussion group which was founded in February 2001. If you would like to join in the discussions with 73 other members, please contact Peter Judge: [peter.judge@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.judge@bigpond.com).

## Happy birthday Canberra

Welcome to our first issue of *The Canberra editor* in 2013.

It's the CSE's 21st birthday this year and it coincides with Canberra's centenary.

Despite claims to the contrary, Canberrans won't be moping despondently around King O'Malley's, dropping hot tears of despair into their lager if the British monarch were to neglect to send Canberra a happy birthday telegram. I am referring to Annabel Crabb's article in Sunday's *Sydney Morning Herald* (10 March 2013).

I love Annabel, but I reluctantly laughed aloud at her funny 'From a tawdry, [clichéd] perspective, our nation's capital is ... er ... capital'. I must admit that the aftertaste did leave me a little 'cold around the cockles ...'

I mean, gosh, this article is a pretty 'strong' reaction (to put it nicely) from a national news media star on getting some negative feedback on her work (Annabel reports that she wrote the article in the aftermath of some negative reactions to the preview in Canberra last week of the ABC's 'Canberra Confidential' that she worked on).

To be fair to Canberra, imagine that on your 100th birthday, someone made a birthday speech that focused in an ageist way on your crotchety old ways, fading eyesight, sagging boobs and state-of-the-art walking stick rather than on your achievements. Not to mention your cute obsession with primary colours.

Well, despite the nation's capital being boring to some, there is definitely more than just a lizard wholeheartedly wishing Canberra a happy centenary celebration, never fear.

*Connie Stamos, President, Canberra Society of Editors*

## March general meeting: Wednesday 27 March 2013

*The role that editors can play in publishing accessible information*

Government is addressing its responsibility to make online information and services available to all Australians through the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy. This strategy requires all content to conform with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 by the end of 2014. Andrew Arch will address the many aspects that relate to how information is presented and the role that editors can play in publishing accessible information.

Andrew Arch works for AGIMO and is part of the team responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy to assist Australian Governments adopt WCAG 2.0.

## February general meeting

The first general meeting for 2013 was held on Wednesday 27 February, where Robert Messenger entertained the audience with his talk about 'The advent of the typewriter and What it meant to writers (or authors)'. Robert worked as newspaper journalist in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and England; was a former columnist for *The Canberra Times* and, as his talk revealed, a passionate typewriter collector and typewriter historian and author.

## New members

A warm and collegial welcome to: Joan Foster, Barbara Kit, Alison Massy, Harriet McHugh-Dillon, Marje Prior and Farid Rahimi.

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# Professional development

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# Committee news

## Next Committee meeting

Wednesday 17 April 2013

## Update your membership

If you have not paid your fee for 2012–13, please contact the Treasurer, Mike Wilkins, or the Membership Secretary, Margaret Millard, to arrange immediate payment. Email: [www.editorscanberra.org/about/contacts](http://www.editorscanberra.org/about/contacts).

## Efficient Business Writing with Ron Denholm

Saturday 23 March 2013, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, University House, ANU

For more information and to register: <http://www.editorscanberra.org/efficient-business-writing/>.

## Accessible content writing: Word and PDF documents with Sarah Pulis

Thursday 11 April 2013, 9:00 am–4:30 pm, Canberra

Contact [AccessiQ](#) for more details.

Disclaimer: This is not a Canberra Society of Editors workshop. We're just telling you about it and we make no claims about its quality. Whether you attend (or not) is entirely up to you.

## Volunteers needed for panel of editors

The CSE committee is seeking volunteers to participate on a panel of editors for a joint event with the ACT Writers Centre.

The aim of the evening is to provide an opportunity for members of the CSE and ACT Writers Centre to meet each other and talk shop. A feature of the evening will be a panel of half a dozen editors who can respond to questions from the writers about why, when and how to engage an editor. Ideally we will have a range of editors who specialise in different fields, such as fiction, non-fiction, academic works, science editing or children's books.

If you are interested in participating on the panel, please provide a brief paragraph about yourself and what sort of works you usually edit, as well as any particular points about engaging an editor you consider important for writers to know. There is no remuneration for participating on the panel

Please send your expression of interest to Kaaren Sutcliffe, [Sutcliff@smartchat.net.au](mailto:Sutcliff@smartchat.net.au), by 30 March.

## Last chance for the website review

If you haven't had a chance to respond to the CSE website review survey, please take five minutes to complete the survey and email it back to [cath.nicoll@gmail.com](mailto:cath.nicoll@gmail.com) by Wednesday 20 March.

1. Have you visited the CSE website in the past 12 months? (Yes or No)
  - Find the commissioning checklist
2. If 'yes', what was the purpose (or purposes) of your last visit?
  - Find out the guest speaker or special theme for the next general meeting
3. What are the five (5) tasks (on the CSE website) that are most important to you?
  - Find out the date or venue for the next general meeting or AGM
  - Find out when and where the CSE committee meets
  - Find out how to vote at the AGM
  - Find a copy of the CSE constitution
  - Find a CSE member newsletter
  - Find the name of a CSE committee member e.g. President
  - Find a specific article in a member newsletter
  - Find the contact details for CSE committee members
  - Find an upcoming CSE training course
  - Register for a CSE event e.g. Christmas dinner or AGM dinner
  - Register for a CSE training course
  - Pay for a CSE event e.g. Christmas dinner or AGM dinner
  - Pay for a CSE training course
  - Find out about the next IPEd national conference
  - Find out about IPEd accreditation

- Find out how to submit an article or advertisement in the CSE member newsletter
  - Other
4. What are the three (3) tasks (on the CSE website) that you most want your clients and colleagues to complete on the website?
- Find an editor
  - Apply for CSE membership
  - Renew your CSE membership
  - Find a list of CSE membership benefits
  - Find a CSE member newsletter
  - Find a specific article in a member newsletter
  - Find an upcoming CSE training course
  - Register for a CSE training course
  - Pay for a CSE training course
  - Find out about IPEd accreditation
  - Find the commissioning checklist
- Find out the guest speaker or special theme for the next general meeting
  - Find out the date or venue for the next general meeting or AGM
  - Find out when and where the CSE committee meets
  - Find out how to vote at the AGM
  - Find a copy of the CSE constitution
  - Find the name of a CSE committee member e.g. President
  - Find the contact details for CSE committee members
  - Register for a CSE event e.g. Christmas dinner or AGM dinner
  - Pay for a CSE event e.g. Christmas dinner or AGM dinner
  - Find out about the next IPEd national conference
  - Find out how to submit an article or advertisement in the CSE member newsletter
  - Other
5. What else would you like to see on the CSE website?
6. Is there anything else you think you should be able to do on the CSE website?

## Also ...

Your CSE Committee agreed to donate \$1000 to the forthcoming IPEd Conference in April, as a gesture of goodwill.

The Committee resolved (13 March) that a regular 'Conference 2015 update' should be written for every newsletter from now until the 2015 national conference in Canberra.

This event is yet to be formally announced in Fremantle during the 2013 Conference. However, we can tell you that Tracy Harwood has volunteered to be the convenor of CSE's team to work with ANZSI ACT on the important early decisions for the 2015 conference. Congratulations, thanks and good luck, Tracy.

## Mentoring

If you have ever thought you'd benefit from having a mentor, or ever thought that you have skills and knowledge that you could pass on to less experienced editors, then please consider taking part in a pilot mentoring scheme in CSE.

We are running the pilot over the next three to four months, after which we'll evaluate it, learn from our mistakes, and then launch a full-blown scheme. We've had a terrific response to date.

Mentoring is where one individual provides support, encouragement and advice to another, based on their knowledge and life and experience relative to the mentoring theme. It provides a two-way learning experience for both mentor and mentee, which can encourage deep satisfaction and numerous benefits in many personal, career, organisational and developmental areas.

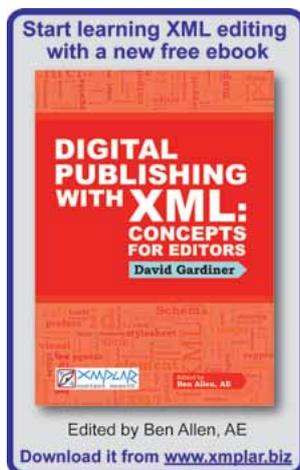
The CSE mentoring scheme is aimed at editors at all levels. For example:

- editors entering the profession
- editors preparing for accreditation
- people returning to the profession after time off
- editors with any level of experience who want to brush up their skills or move into a new area of editing
- editors who have accepted a job which is outside their usual area of expertise.

The proposed scheme is explained in Guidance Notes for CSE Mentoring. Contact Ted Briggs on 0407 018 433 or at [tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au](mailto:tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au) for a copy or if you have further queries.

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## Article



Another really useful contribution from Dave Gardiner ...

### XML markup: Formatting text and lists

Structuring content properly at a broad level is essential to create valid XML, and so too is getting the fine detail of the text marked up. This article outlines how to create XML markup for text formatting and lists.

The previous article outlined the significance of nesting elements within each other to create valid XML markup. Only a valid XML file that has elements nested in the correct order according to a schema's rules will produce an output document. With those concepts in mind, an editor can look at unstructured text (such as in a word processing format) in a much more structured manner and make decisions on how best to organise the content when converting text to XML. The first considerations are identifying the type of content in a word processing document, thinking of the broader picture of how that document is structured (paragraphs, sections, subsections, chapters, etc.) and deciding what elements are most appropriate to represent that content in an XML file.

In the first exercise, you focused on developing the broad structure of a chapter by adding elements within chapter tags then pasting content into those elements. At one point, you were asked to add 'uri' tags around one of the web addresses. This had the effect of changing the typeface of the first web address, but both still came out as active hyperlinks you could click on. In the DocBook stylesheets, which produce the output document by adding styles to content within each type of element, the uri element is assigned a typeface called 'monospace' (it is Courier). You would have noticed in the PDF that all content within title tags turned out as sans-serif (Arial) and body text as serif (Times Roman). But don't think that you should use different elements just to change the typeface – each element is interpreted by the stylesheets to do different things or to go in certain parts of the output PDF. Recall that the table of contents (TOC) was generated by the stylesheets when you transformed the XML. That TOC was compiled from content in the title elements that were nested in sect1 first-level sections. The title that was in the chapter element wasn't extracted to the TOC – it went into the running header instead. It was a title, but it was immediately within the chapter element and not within a section, so the stylesheets did something different to it for the PDF. In this next exercise you'll start to experiment more with other elements to format different types of content.

Read the rest of this article at <http://xmleditoz.net.au/tutorials/tute6/xmltextformats.pdf>. Got a question? Post it at [http://iped-editors.org/Forum/XML\\_editing\\_and\\_desktop\\_publishing](http://iped-editors.org/Forum/XML_editing_and_desktop_publishing).

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## Reading

*Back to basics: Should universities teach grammar? What has happened to the teaching of English grammar and syntax in Australia.* Read more online at the CSE website.

***Our House is Not In Paris*** Susan Cutsforth, freelance editor and award-winning teacher librarian, has written her memoir. In between renovating in Australia and working full time, *Our House is Not in Paris* is an account of all the challenges and hard work while attempting to renovate an old farm house in France during annual working holidays. It starts with drama and possible disaster and the sense of 'what have we done?' Written with humour, poetic language and insights into the French way of life, it is available on Amazon.

***Working Words*** *Working Words* by CSE member, Elizabeth Manning Murphy, is an excellent companion to books on grammar, style, punctuation, plain English, editing and the business of being a freelance writer or editor. Available from the CSE <http://www.editorscanbe=rra.org/resources/workingwords/> and Paperchain, University of Canberra Coop Bookshop, ANU Coop Bookshop and Readings, Carlton.

# your committee 2013

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**Non-committee positions****Webminder**

Cathy Nicoll

**Public Officer**

Ara Nalbandian

**Catering Coordinator (tbc)**

*Please send all  
correspondence  
via the website.*

## The Canberra editor. Print or electronic?

Currently, the print version of our newsletter, *The Canberra editor*, is mailed out to only a small number of members who opted some time ago to continue with that version. The majority, including new members, receive the electronic format by default.

Some time ago, the Committee decided to canvass members again about their preference for receiving the newsletter in print or electronic format. This is your opportunity to elect how you would like to read the newsletter: on-screen via the website (or as a downloaded PDF), or in hard copy, printed and mailed to you. Please let us know your preference via email to: [margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au](mailto:margaret.millard@ozemail.com.au).

### Copy Editors Killed In Ongoing AP Style, Chicago Manual Gang Violence

News in Brief • news media • News • ISSUE 49 • 01 • Jan 7, 2013

NEW YORK—Law enforcement officials confirmed Friday that four more copy editors were killed this week amid ongoing violence between two rival gangs divided by their loyalties to The Associated Press Stylebook and The Chicago Manual Of Style. “At this time we have reason to believe the killings were gang-related and carried out by adherents of both the AP and Chicago styles; part of a vicious, bloody feud to establish control over the grammar and usage guidelines governing American English,” said FBI spokesman Paul Holstein, showing reporters graffiti tags in which the word ‘anti-social’ had been corrected to read ‘antisocial’. “The deadly territory dispute between these two organizations, as well as the notorious MLA Handbook gang, has claimed the lives of more than 63 publishing professionals this year alone”. Officials also stated that an innocent 35-year-old passerby who found himself caught up in a long-winded dispute over use of the serial, or Oxford, comma had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

## Newsletter contribution due dates for 2013 newsletters:

Issue 2, April–May: **Friday 19 April**

Issue 3, June–July: **Friday 21 June**

Issue 4, August–September: **Friday 23 August**

Issue 5, October–November: **Friday 25 October**



The ACT Writers  
Centre is a non-profit  
association dedicated  
to helping ACT region  
writers achieve their

full potential by providing targeted  
services and opportunities: [http://  
www.actwriters.org.au/](http://www.actwriters.org.au/).



The UK's  
Society for  
Editors and  
Proofreaders  
— ‘the people

who strive to make text accurate and  
readable’ — has included a link on  
its website to the [CSE website](http://www.sfep.org.uk/default.asp). See  
Links/Overseas: [http://www.sfep.org.  
uk/default.asp](http://www.sfep.org.uk/default.asp).

next meeting

**Wed. 27 March  
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm**

*Speaker: Andrew Arch,  
The role that editors  
can play in publishing  
accessible information*

ANU Emeritus Faculty,  
Building 1C/24 Balmain  
Crescent, Acton

*See page 3 for further  
information or CSE online.*

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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.

**The Canberra Editor**

Published by the Canberra Society of Editors  
PO Box 3222 Manuka ACT 2603  
22nd year, number 1  
© Canberra Society of Editors 2013  
ISSN 1039-3358 (print) 2200-6344 (online)

**Newsletter schedule for April 2013**

The next newsletter will appear 17 May 2013. The copy deadline for that issue is Friday 19 April 2013.

The editor welcomes contributions by email to:  
<[gjhuede@gmail.com](mailto:gjhuede@gmail.com)>.

All articles must be in .doc format.

If undeliverable, please return to:

**Canberra Society of Editors**  
PO Box 3222, Manuka ACT 2603

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