

THE CANBERRA editor

Newsletter of the Canberra Society of Editors

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From the President



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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.

This is the last edition of *The Canberra editor* before Christmas. So let me begin by wishing all of you a peaceful, safe and joyous Christmas and New Year, leading to a prosperous 2014 with lots of new adventures.

Two important activities have taken place. First, members of all state editors' societies cast their votes about the future structure of the national professional institute, IPEd. Second, we celebrated the CSE's 21st birthday dinner!

The IPEd vote concluded on Saturday 30 November. I sincerely hope that before you voted, you made the effort to read, understand and consider the material we broadcasted and posted on the website. This included your committee's concerns about the way the consultation process was being pushed to a conclusion with a few key questions unanswered.

While attendance at our October general meeting on the IPEd vote was disappointing, the presentations were apparently well received and the ensuing discussion lively and engaged. And it gave your committee some ideas to give you more helpful guidance for the vote.

Our 21st birthday party and end-of-year Christmas dinner at The Brasseley was a joyful occasion, which included the celebration of our new Life Members. Photos and anecdotes may be found on pages 3 and 5.

Our first 'networking lunch' at Tilley's in Lyneham on Friday 15 November saw quite a few new or rarely-seen faces, which is what Malini and I want to achieve. And about another 20 members said they want to come to subsequent such events. This is a very encouraging response to Malini's initiative to provide other opportunities for those who find it very difficult to attend early-evening meetings, no matter how alluring the speaker or topic.

So we're planning the next networking lunch for late January! Watch the website and your emails for details.

Please accept my thanks for renewing your memberships, and my welcome to those who continue to join our merry band. CSE now has around 180 financial members—full, associate and student—with about another 30 still to renew. And we're planning to give some past and lapsed members a phone call or email as well!

The flurry of new and renewing members has helped CSE start 2014 with healthy financial reserves. These will be reassuring in the year leading up to the 2015 biennial conference, which may periodically need more seed funding before sponsors and registrations start to flow in.

As well as preparing for the flagship 2015 conference, 2014 offers some challenging opportunities, not least of which is the national accreditation exam on 3 May. This will be preceded by excellent exam preparation workshops (in March), part of what is shaping up as a well-targeted, year-long professional development program. We can also expect to see the CSE mentoring program bed down and expand towards being truly national. And in the new year, your

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From the Editor

Welcome to the November/December issue of *The Canberra editor* and the last for 2013. This month's newsletter contains a collection of articles we had to drop during the year and items of immediate importance to our members over Christmas/New Year. Other articles have come to the newsletter but will wait until 2014.

Dave Gardiner has been a regular trooper for the Society and the last article in his digital series—'Links'—is in this issue.

Members like Dave and our other small pool of regular contributors have been very important to *The Canberra editor* these past twelve months. But for the newsletter to continue—especially if we are to get back to publishing monthly—we require more regular contributors and people able to assist the production team when needed.

Many new CSE members express an interest in working on the newsletter, and I am already ringing those people for help. At the September 'speed chatting' meeting, many great ideas for articles were discussed: information on relevant training courses, workshops or conferences in Canberra or elsewhere; book reviews; member profiles (past and present); letters to the editor; a Q&A column; a specific email address for newsletter contributions (already put to Committee); articles from other society journals; guest writers from other societies; information about resources for editors; and e-publisher. But we need volunteers to implement these ideas, and any others you may suggest. Please consider.

Your committee is also open to assistance and would welcome some extra help with a few specific tasks. We give our time freely but we also have jobs and families to care for. Would you like to help our Secretary and write the article about our general monthly meetings? Or you could be one of a rostered team for this task? We also need a photographer to take photos for the website and the newsletter at general meetings and special functions. And we are still looking for a General Meetings Coordinator (see the advertisement on page 7 for details).

As our President makes clear, 2014 will be an important year as we prepare for the IPEd conference in 2015. For the newsletter, it is a good reason for everyone to get together in a team and return *The Canberra editor* to its monthly glory.

Once again, my thanks to everyone who contributed articles to the newsletter during the year. More importantly my thanks to our small production team of Gabby Lhuede (graphic designer), Cathy Nicoll (webmaster) and assistant editor Farid Rahimi.

Kerie Newell
Editor

committee will fulfil its promise to report back with a compilation of your ideas at September's valuable 'speed chatting' evening.

Breaking with convention, we have decided to hold a committee meeting in mid-January; we don't like the idea of a three-month break when there is business to attend to. So don't be afraid to call, email or write over the summer if you have some pressing issue to raise.

Once again, my compliments of the season to you all.

Alan Cummine
President

From the President
continued



Turning 21 with style

Canberra Society of Editors turned 21 this year. To celebrate, we combined our usual end-of-year dinner with a special birthday bash at The Brassey Hotel.

As well as Christmas tinsel, we had special 21st birthday name tags, celebratory balloon towers, a small display from early Society archives, champagne, and an impressive birthday cake with an edible logo—enjoyed by a wonderful turnout of 65 happy guests.



Alan Cummine bringing us all to order with his whistle, and providing quick and heartfelt introductions.

President Alan Cummine was MC for the evening (referee's whistle firmly in hand). Our two Honorary Life Members, Loma Snooks and Peter Judge, were our special guests and *Canberra Times* Editor-at-Large, Jack Waterford AM, was our after-dinner guest speaker.

Among our 65 diners—courtesy of our President's persistent personal phone invitations—were most of the inaugural CSE committee, elected at the 1992 Annual General Meeting: Loma (President), Nigel Harding (Vice-President), Sandy Paine (Treasurer), Roger Green (Newsletter Editor), and Gregg Berry and Peter Judge (Committee members). Secretary Maureen Wright sent an apology from Queensland. All by choice shared the same table, joined by Chris Pirie, a member of the earlier founding committee.

Other inaugural and very early members celebrating were Elizabeth Manning Murphy, Janet Salisbury, Damaris Wilson and Dallas Stow (all still current) and Graham Jackson. Former Presidents present for all or part of the evening included Louise Forster (elected 1999), Lee Kirwan (2000), Virginia Wilton (2005), Ted Briggs (2007), Cathy Nicoll (2009), Gil Garcon (2011), Elizabeth Manning Murphy (2012) and Connie Stamos (2012). Stefanie Pearce (1994) sent an apology and a reflective message, which Alan Cummine read out with some emotion. Seven other lapsed members from the mid-90s sent apologies and congratulatory messages.

The happy tone of the evening quickly became apparent during pre-dinner drinks in The Brassey courtyard. It was no easy task to move the guests into the dining room!



Peter Judge and Loma Snooks, inaugural CSE and life members, providing an interesting history to our beginnings.

After a warm welcome from our MC and toast to friends who couldn't join us, Loma Snooks and Peter Judge kicked off proceedings. Together they gave some well-scripted reflections on the creation and early years of our now 21-year-old Society. Loma recounted the first idea of the Canberra Society, the formation of the founding committee, and the many steps to turn the idea into reality and the widespread surprise at the number of editors (58) who attended the first general meeting in May 1992.

Loma and Peter also outlined the milestones and achievements of the Society's early days—the development of the Commissioning Checklist, a strong training focus, the freelance register, the website in 1998, the online discussion group, and CASE (the Council of Australian Societies of Editors). They also reminded us of more recent achievements—the National Standards for Editing Practice, the transformation of CASE into IPEd, and national accreditation.

Loma claims that this will be last time she publicly recounts this story, which you can read in full on the CSE website, www.editorscanberra.org.

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Scrap the cap

On 6 November, Treasurer Joe Hockey and Assistant Treasurer Arthur Sinodinos announced that the Federal Government would scrap the previous government's plan to place a cap of \$2000 per year on tax deductions for self-education expenses. So deductions will continue to be allowed under the existing long-standing rules.

New Government 'scraps the cap' on self-education deductions

It is rarely wise to claim credit for having changed a government's policy. But it is notable that, as the ramifications of this policy sank in after the 2013 federal budget, a campaign to reverse the decision was rapidly put into place, spearheaded by Universities Australia and General Practice Registrars Australia.

A national 'Scrap the Cap' alliance and an interactive web page grew very quickly in both scale and momentum, supporting the efforts of many professional societies and their members to get the Government to see reason. The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) networked closely with this alliance and was one of many professional groups that made submissions to the Treasury's discussion paper on the proposal and communicated with selected parliamentarians.

After a strong explanation of the editing profession's demographics and typical expenses for continuing professional development, the IPEd submission concluded with these strong paragraphs:

The Government's move to cap deductions for legitimate work-related professional development expenses—having the biggest impact on self-employed small business professionals and on women, older Australians, and professionals in rural and regional Australia—directly threatens the ability and financial capacity of professional editors to continue to maintain the currency and standard of their competencies. This is a worrying prospect in an era of rapid and constantly changing communication technologies.

IPEd joins with other professional associations in calling for the Government to immediately reverse this ill-conceived and counter-productive policy, and instead to consider alternative properly targeted measures to curb the mischief the Government alleges some taxpayers are practising.

The Abbott Government's decision to abandon the proposal has been widely welcomed.

Alan Cummine
President

Renewal of accreditation

The renewal application fee is \$150 for state or territory editing society members and \$175 for non-members. Only EFTPOS, cheque or money order payments will be accepted for an application. IPEd will accept applications until 31 December this year.

The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) is taking applications for renewal of accreditation.

IPEd Accreditation Board chair Ted Briggs said editors who were accredited in 2008 can renew their accreditation by showing they had been actively involved in the editing profession.

Ted said the editors should also demonstrate they had undertaken professional development activities to maintain and extend their editing skills. 'There is no exam—all you have to do is provide the required information *via* an application form available on the IPEd website,' he said.

People whose professional activities do not meet the above criteria have the option of presenting a case for their renewal.

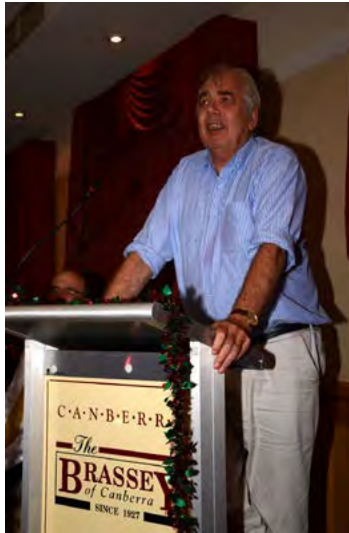
The chair said IPEd will accept late applications from only those editors who submit an exceptional reason for a delay at least two weeks before the due date, and which is approved by the board in a prior arrangement.

To renew, please see the IPEd Accreditation website at <http://goo.gl/MiOVrj>

If you have a question, please email abchair@iped-editors.org or Canberra Society of Editors' IPEd Councillor Ed Highley at ed@highley.com.au.



Turning 21 with style



CSE's favourite friend, Jack Waterford, giving his usual inspiring, congratulatory and jovial speech.

Jack Waterford's predictably entertaining talk after dinner covered the use and misuse of words in modern language and the importance of editors in maintaining some sanity and discipline. Naturally, Jack couldn't resist three really good editor jokes. Ask us about them.

A special feature of the evening was the announcement of four new life members. Elizabeth Manning Murphy, Virginia Wilton, Ted Briggs and Ed Highley joined the exclusive club of Peter and Loma, each receiving a certificate for their outstanding and sustained contributions to the Society and the editing profession. Sadly, Ed couldn't be present, so Ted did a good impersonation and accepted Ed's certificate for him. The four citations will also be posted on the CSE website.



Our new life members. Loma Snooks presenting certificate to Elizabeth Manning Murphy, Virginia Wilton and Ted Briggs also accepting in the guise of Ed Highley.

Champagne, cake, a birthday toast and rousing cheers capped off a most enjoyable evening of personal and professional companionship and celebration. Everyone appeared to go home smiling!

Loma's determination to create the Society would not have escaped those present. 'I'm sure most editors,' she said, 'share these same desires—to network, learn and promote their skills—which is why the Society has grown to become the impressive institution it is now.'

At 21, the Canberra Society of Editors has a lot to celebrate and to take pride in.



Mentoring



Our mentoring program is well and truly up and running with a number of mentorships currently in progress and more in the pipeline. The program has mentoring coordinators in four states as well as the ACT. We have truly gone national!

We held our first round-Australia meeting of coordinators by Skype on 20 November. Present were Kerry Coyle and Jan Knight in Perth, representing Western Australia; Linda Hale in Brisbane, representing Queensland; Davina Daddley-Moore in Melbourne, representing Victoria; Sheelagh Wegman in Hobart, representing Tasmania; and Ted Briggs and Elizabeth Manning Murphy in Canberra, representing the ACT and hosting the meeting as national coordinators. Thanks to Skype Premium, we could all see and hear each other in video with no hitches—the technology proved its worth for such meetings.

Most of the meeting consisted of getting to know each other, making sure everyone understood and agreed on the procedures to be followed in running this national program, including administrative procedures such as dealing with payments, maintaining a national database in Canberra, reporting processes, and so on. Ted and Elizabeth have made arrangements to meet some of the local coordinators in the course of private visits to Melbourne, Brisbane and, we hope, Hobart in the next couple of months.

This was an exciting meeting, a milestone in the growth of the mentoring program, and all stemming from a Canberra initiative less than twelve months ago. Compared with other mentoring programs round the world, ours is unusual, if not unique, in being totally unrestricted as to topics for mentoring, as long as they are editing related. This perhaps makes it a little more difficult to administer, but is worth it for the mentees seeking friendly guidance, and is rewarding for mentors. The enthusiasm for the program was evident around this inaugural coordinators' meeting. We can only see it moving forward from here.

Mentorships can start at any time—we process mentees' applications as they come in and as we can make suitable pairings.

Mentorship pairings are made by the coordinators in the states/territory in consultation with the national coordinators. Where local mentors may not be available, the national database can be consulted by coordinators for possible interstate mentors willing to mentor by making use of Skype and email.

We always have more mentees than mentors. If you like one-to-one relationships and have editing or related skills, knowledge and experience to share, please think about being a mentor (friendly guide) to someone who is looking for guidance. While experience, knowledge and wisdom help, new and younger members have experience that older editors may not have – we would like to hear from you too. Write to either Ted or Elizabeth if you have questions about mentoring, or to ask for an application form. We would love to hear from you.

The first of a series of workshops for mentors and prospective mentors will be held in Canberra on Wednesday 22 January 2014 from 7.30 pm, and repeated on a date to be decided in March 2014. We will share some guidelines on mentoring in general and in the editorial field in particular. It will be an opportunity for you to consult experienced mentors about any concerns you have about mentoring. The workshop will be held in a private home and there will be no charge. If you are interested, please contact Ted or Elizabeth.

Ted Briggs AE

tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE

emmurphy@ozemail.com.au

Article

Dave Gardiner takes editors through an important aspect of the mark-up language for e-books. This is the ability to link from one part of an e-book or web page to another. In this article, you'll explore the mark-up for hyperlinking and create links in web pages.

Generating links in e-books

Introduction

Hyperlinks are the basis of using web pages and allow users to move between different parts of a document. As you found in the previous exercise, an EPUB e-book is essentially a bundle of web pages. You opened up an EPUB and edited some text using an HTML editor. So, EPUB e-books use the same mark-up (elements and attributes) as web pages, and have similar hyperlinking capabilities that let you select (tap on) some text to jump to another part of an e-book.

You typically use links in a table of contents for a book or in each chapter, as well as cross-references from body text to other sections/headings in an EPUB, figures and tables, and even to specific entries in the list of references. For example, in the EPUB you edited, there is a hyperlinked table of contents at the beginning of each chapter. When you tap on one of the section numbers, it will jump to that section of the e-book. Similarly, throughout the body text there are hyperlinked cross-references to figures—for example, in Chapter 2, tap on the link to Figure 1. Also, in the first paragraph of Chapter 1, there is a hyperlinked reference (Mackenzie) that takes you straight to section 1.6 where the full reference is given.

Mark-up for linking

Links comprise two components:

1. Target (or destination)—this is a place in a web page that you are linking to.
2. Label—this is the text (or image) that is hyperlinked and which links to the target.

When you look at a webpage or in an e-book, the target isn't visible—you can't see where a hyperlink will take you until you get there. The target is hidden away in the HTML coding. On the other hand, you can see where a label is located on a web page, because that text is hyperlinked and appears blue and underlined. The hyperlink uses an HTML element called anchor. In HTML mark-up, you will see the anchor element defined with the tagging `<a ...>`. You would have noticed in the previous exercise that when looking at a web page in HTML Tags view, the anchor elements appeared as **a** in yellow boxes.

For a description of the 'a' element, see http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_a.asp.

Read the rest of this article at <http://xmleditoz.net.au/tutorials/linking.pdf>.

Job vacancy

Read this now! Too good to miss!

Got your attention? Good! Stick with us.

CSE also needs a General Meetings Coordinator, who works with the President and other interested members to plan and arrange the year's programs of general meetings. Where guest speakers are planned, the Coordinator contacts the speakers; promotes them and the general meetings in the newsletter, the website and the members' broadcast email; and summarises the guests' presentations (with photo) for the newsletter. It's a well-established routine for a role that offers personal introductions and networking opportunities.

How can you resist!?! CALL NOW! Alan: 0407 488 927.

New members are most welcome! Join the committee, grow your networks quickly, and be at the core of a vibrant professional society in an exciting year!

No more to pay! CALL NOW!

Or, if you prefer, e-mail alan.cummine@gmail.com.

Professional development

Australia Council Grants for editorial professional development

In 2014, the Australia Council will provide a new, one-off grant to assist Australian editors with professional development and cultural leadership.

Part of the Australia Council's Unfunded Excellence allocation for 2013–14, grants are available for editors to attend editing and professional development courses in Australia and overseas; individual mentoring; in-house editing; professional development roles; and opportunities for cultural leadership.

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for support towards course fees, travel and accommodation, mentoring and freelance editing costs.

Who can apply?

- Australian editors, both in-house and freelance, including commissioning editors and publishers who are actively editing
- editors with a minimum of two years' experience as an editor, and
- editors who have a minimum of five full-length manuscripts in areas of fiction, literary non-fiction and poetry for adults, children or young adults (or at least eight issues of a newsletter or journal).

Your application

Applications close on **Monday 10 February 2014**. Application forms are available from the Australia Council website www.australiacouncil.gov.au from mid-December 2013.

EPUB

In November, Glenda Browne gave a half-day workshop on EPUB. This was a great overview explaining what an EPUB is and how to create one. We had such an overwhelming demand for this workshop that we'll be running it again in February 2014, but only for those people who have already registered their interest.

Networking lunch

We had our first networking lunch on Friday 15 November at Tilley's in Lyneham. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, with about 18 people coming along to meet other members, have a chat about editing (and no doubt other things as well!) and enjoy some lunch or a coffee. There were another 25 or so people who wanted to come but couldn't make it on the day, so I can see that this will be a popular event in 2014. Watch your emails for notice of the next networking lunch, most likely in late January.

Grammar workshop

Elizabeth Manning Murphy will give her grammar workshop (full day this time) on Friday 28 February.

Venue: University House, ANU

Cost: \$200 (members); \$400 (non-members)

Time: 9am to 4pm (includes lunch)

Register at <http://www.trybooking.com/70729>.

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Welcome to our new members

Professional

Stephen Beckett
Dr Patricia Collins
Melissa Crowther
Bethany Price
Dr Tek Tay

Associate

Lisa Barney
James Spence

National accreditation exam 2014

The next national accreditation exam will be held on 3 May 2014. A two-part **exam preparation workshop** will be held in March/April. The timetable and venue for the workshop will be sorted out before Christmas so please check the CSE website and your emails for notification about this.

Again, the accreditation exam will be a three-hour written exam. For those who have special needs (more time to complete the exam, special access to venues etc), please contact our IPEd Accreditation delegate Ted Briggs tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au.

Registration for the exam will open on 6 January 2014. Keep an eye on the IPEd website <http://iped-editors.org/> for more information.

Malini Devadas

Professional Development Officer

Your committee 2013

President Alan Cummine

Vice-President Kaaren Sutcliffe

Secretary Eris Jane Harrison

Treasurer Mike Wilkins

**Professional Development
Coordinator** Malini Devadas

Membership Secretary Linda Weber

Newsletter Editor Kerie Newell

Editorial Assistant Farid Rahimi

Meeting Coordinator Vacant

IPEd Councillor Ed Highley

**IPEd Accreditation Board
Delegate** Ted Briggs

Committee members

Tristan Viscarra Rossel

Lindsay Nesci

Dallas Stow

Non-committee positions

Webminder Cathy Nicoll

Public Officer Ara Nalbandian

Catering Coordinator Karen Hosking

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

The Canberra editor

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Schedule for next newsletter

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

All articles must be in .doc format.