



## IN MEMORIAM – MABEL KAPLAN



Most of us remember Mabel Kaplan as our Bookworm editor. When she took on this role in 2009 she had the go-ahead to revamp the newsletter. As proofreader, I wasn't sure at first how I would adjust to the many changes. I needn't have worried. Mabel's wonderful energy and optimism made adaptation easy and working with her a delight. Before long we discovered ourselves to be on the same wavelength about many things and were enjoying our phone chats that spilled over into life and the world beyond Bookworm.

There was so much more to Mabel than her editing. Most outstanding among her activities and commitments — and clearly one of the most important to her — was her active participation in the Storytellers Guild of WA. Sadly for me, I never did hear Mabel tell one of her stories, but I have no trouble believing what I am told: that she was a consummate storyteller and understood the special skills this art entailed. I do know that from 1996 to 1999 she was president

of the guild. Under her direction and encouragement the group flourished, coming increasingly into public notice through the workshops and other events she organised.

But what I remember best is the impression Mabel's writing made on me in the form of a small book she had composed about her husband, Franz, as a young German boy. It tells of his experiences immediately following World War II — how he was forced onto a Soviet military-run work gang (among other things) and finally made his escape. The story is fascinating in itself and well worth the telling, but Mabel's rendition is a most engaging and compelling piece of writing that has stayed with me.

Mabel's illness came suddenly — a terrible shock to her and Franz (she was feeling well until early November). Even her death seemed to follow too soon afterwards (22 December). It was completely unexpected for me, too, and for the SoEWA committee members. (Five of us attended her funeral on 31 December).

I will miss working with Mabel on Bookworm. I know her absence is going to feel very strange for a long while. And I know she will be missed by all those in SoEWA who knew her.

Go in peace, Mabel, and may the storytelling live on!

*Michèle Drouart, A&E*

### In this issue

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**The next networking session will be held on Tuesday 15 February 2011. See page 3 for details on this month's speaker.**

**Copy deadline for next issue is Tuesday 1 March 2011**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Adjusting to the new year

### Robin Bower, AE



It was a sad start to the year with the news of Mabel Kaplan's passing. Her funeral was a celebration of her life, personality, and dedicated commitment to her community and family. Michèle has written a wonderful piece for this

month's Bookworm in honour of Mabel and the contribution she made to her community. We will miss you, Mabel.

The year has geared into action and the committee has started planning this year's events. Once we have confirmations, we will publicise our **events schedule** in Bookworm each month. We sent out a request for suggestions and have tried to incorporate some of those we received: aspects of English usage (James Hansen); editing for fiction, grammar points, indexing (Liz Tyndall); editing scientific works (Deb Fitzpatrick); romance writing (Carla Morris); dotdotdash magazine (Chris Walker); editing academic papers, making a personal website (Mary Elgar). Thanks to those people who responded.

We asked members to tell us what they've been up to over the last year, what achievements or products, or interesting projects they've been working on. You must all be very shy (or on a long holiday) as I received just one response to this. Is it because you don't want to brag? Or is it that you don't think what you've been doing is worthy of a short blurb in Bookworm? Start to think about ways of promoting yourself – we're inviting you and we have the platform to do it. It's up to you...

The Society will be holding its **AGM** on Tuesday 15 March. Committee positions will be up for

nomination and this is a great opportunity for you to volunteer your expertise this year. Please consider nominating – there are many ways you can help, and interesting tasks to perform. Look out for more information on this later.

We've just started a group on **LinkedIn** called Society of Editors (WA) Inc and a subgroup called IPED National Editors Conference Perth 2013 so I urge you to join in discussions and be part of our community. Go to this link to join and please invite friends who may be interested: <[http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Editors-WA-Inc-3753159?trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Editors-WA-Inc-3753159?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)>.

I'm pleased to welcome Bec Hitchings as our Bookworm editor. She is an editor and graphic designer with many years experience in the public sector, and currently the mining industry. She has come up with a new design which I hope you all like.

In 2010, attendance at networking meetings fell by about 50% compared to 2009. This is disappointing as we do try to tailor speakers and events to suit members' needs. We really want to see a vibrant community of editors developing in Perth, and we need your help to guide us into finding out more ways we can do this. We are always asking for feedback so feel free to complain, celebrate and suggest directly to me. We have a comfortable new venue this year, and we hope that the new cosy environment will be more conducive to networking and will lure you to meetings. Come along to our February meeting, and see for yourselves. Ray Coffey will reminisce about his 30-odd years in the publishing world. I'm sure we can all learn something from his vast experience.

Happy editing

*Robin*



## CONTACTS

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# MEMBERS' ROUNDUP

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 15 March 2011  
Tom Dadour Community Centre  
363 Bagot Road  
Subiaco

7.00 pm	Meeting and election of office bearers
7.30 pm	Panel discussion – Trends in children's publishing
8.30 pm	Light refreshments

Please consider nominating for a committee position.  
Nomination forms will be distributed soon.

Don't forget, both these events will be held at our new home, Tom Dadour Community Centre, Bagot Road, Subiaco (almost opposite King Edward Memorial Hospital).

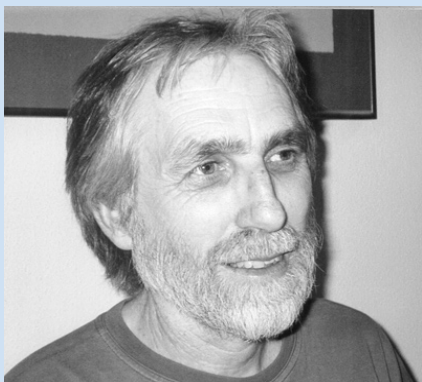


*Tom Dadour Community Centre, Subiaco*

## MEMBERS' NETWORKING MEETING:

### RAY COFFEY – A CAREER IN PUBLISHING

Ray Coffey grew up on a dairy farm in Western Australia. He studied at the Western Australian Institute of Technology and Murdoch University, and has taught Creative Writing. He has had work published in journals and anthologies, and was publisher with the Fremantle Arts Centre Press (now Fremantle Press) for more than 30 years. Ray is now the Publishing Manager at the Western Australian Museum.



Date: 15 February 2011

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Tom Dadour Community Centre, Bagot Road, Subiaco

Cost: members \$2, non-members \$5

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided

RSVP 11 February: [president@editorswa.com](mailto:president@editorswa.com)

## IPED NATIONAL EDITORS CONFERENCE PERTH 2013 – UPDATE

We are currently working on our presentation for the Sydney conference in September.

For updates or if you'd like to volunteer, subscribe to our subgroup on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3756049>) or contact Marisa Wikramanayake ([marisa.wikramanayake@gmail.com](mailto:marisa.wikramanayake@gmail.com)) Robin Bower ([robinb@westnet.com.au](mailto:robinb@westnet.com.au)).

# TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Carla Morris, AE



When I was just a young(ish), inexperienced editorial assistant, after spending months ordering books from the warehouse and forming a very close and personal relationship with the photocopier, I was finally given the opportunity to edit my first book. Obviously an editor on training wheels needs help, and my supervisor carefully proofread it for me. When it came back, almost all of my *mays* and *mights* had been swapped around. It took me a very long time to work out why.

For most people, *may* and *might* are interchangeable in everyday conversation.

*I may go to Rottnest this weekend.*  
*I might go Rottnest this weekend.*

Sticklers see a subtle difference between *may* and *might* when used this way to indicate a possibility. They suggest using *may* when the likelihood is relatively high and *might* when it is more of a long shot.

*Hell may freeze over.* ✗ (not good, as highly unlikely that this will happen)  
*Hell might freeze over.* ✓ (better, indicates just a very remote possibility)

It can also be useful to use *might* instead of *may* in some situations, regardless of the probability, to avoid confusion between a possibility and giving permission.

*He may leave me the bill.* (he has permission to do so)  
*He might leave me the bill.* (he has been known to bolt and leave me to pay)

In the past tense, however, you must use *might* to express possibility. This is where I came unstuck.

*Just as he was asking if it may rain, he felt the first drop hit his bald spot.* ✗ (even sounds wrong)

*Just as he was asking if it might rain, he felt the first drop hit his bald spot.* ✓

*I may have grown taller if, as a child, I had eaten more vegetables.* ✗

*I might have grown taller if, as a child, I had eaten more vegetables.* ✓

Before you go changing all your *may* haves to *might* haves in a global search-and-replace, remember that *may* have and *might* have can also occasionally be used in the present tense.

*I may have two steaks in the freezer.* (quite probable if the speaker lives alone)

*I might have two steaks in the freezer.* (less likely, for example, if a hungry teenager sometimes makes himself midnight carnivorous snacks)

Eric Partridge's *Usage and Abusage* also allows *may* have to be used in the past tense if the possibility that occurred is still open – in other words, still possible. Partridge's was the only source I found that allowed this use.

*I may have had two steaks in the freezer.* (and I *may/might* still have them in the freezer now)

A final caution: use *may* and *might* sparingly and only when there is real doubt. Overuse can make writing seem wishy-washy, as if the author is not confident about the subject.

*Byron might have been one of the most popular poets of his day.* ✗

*Byron was one of the most popular poets of his day.* ✓

I still have to concentrate on questions of *may* and *might*; I get confused because both sound correct to my ear due to my exposure to their everyday, interchangeable usage. Pam Peters in *The Cambridge Guide to Australian English Usage* notes that the distinction between *may* and *might* is fading. At least now I understand why my supervisor corrected my work!

Do you have a topic you would like discussed? Email me at [carlamorris@ozemail.com.au](mailto:carlamorris@ozemail.com.au).

Carla Morris, AE



# 2011 NATIONAL EDITORS CONFERENCE

## Call for papers

**The fifth National Editors Conference, presented by The Society of Editors (NSW) and IPEd, will be held in Sydney from 7–9 September 2011.**

'New Horizons for Editing and Publishing' is a broad, flexible theme that encompasses trends, innovations and new markets across all genres of editing, and includes both traditional and electronic publishing.

Three streams will cover different areas of publishing: trade (fiction and nonfiction); academic, education and technical; government and corporate.

The conference will celebrate the art of editing and the profession of editor. We especially encourage senior in-house editors to submit papers for the conference.

Papers are being called for in relation to several subthemes:

- Editing strand: working with new technologies
- Publishing strand: going global
- Editing and publishing of Indigenous texts
- Parallel publishing in print and electronic forms
- Professional strand: affirming the role of editors in the digital world.

A program of professional workshops will be offered on Wednesday 7 September, featuring presenters who have been well received in state-sponsored workshops.

The conference will incorporate exhibition space to showcase relevant organisations including professional associations, course providers and services for editors.

The Style Council, which will follow on 10 September, will call for papers on language topics such as international English style and Plain English, as well as language variation in different media. An open forum on usage controversies will be staged.

## Call for papers

This is the first call for papers:

- papers are for 25–30 minute sessions
- closing date for submitting abstracts is 10 February 2011
- the conference committee will notify applicants as to whether their proposal has been accepted on 24 February 2011
- full accepted papers due 7 August 2011.
- papers will be considered for inclusion in the conference proceedings, which will be published electronically.

## Conference venue



The 2011 conference will be held at Dockside on Cockle Bay to the north of Darling Harbour. Apart from being a sparkling venue, it provides easy access to museums such as the Maritime Museum, the Powerhouse Museum and the Aquarium, as well as the city itself, Town Hall, Queen Victoria Building etc.

## Accommodation

A range of places to stay will be available, from the high end (special rates at ACCOR hotels), to mid-bracket accommodation and budget places such as YHA and Backpackers.

## Social program

The social program will include such things as:

- short walking tours around historic buildings of Sydney
- informal dinners around the Rocks and in Chinatown
- literary pub crawl around Circular Quay
- Sunday walk from the Spit to Manly, for those who can stay on.

## Key dates

- First call for papers – 1 January 2011
- Last Call for papers – 3 February
- Abstracts due – 10 February
- Acceptances notified – 24 February
- Registrations open – 28 February
- Earlybird registration by: 28 May
- Presenter registration by: 28 May
- Full papers by 7 August 2011
- Registrations closes 24 August 2011

## Conference main events

- 7 September – One Day Workshop Program – Cocktail Party Reception and Registration
- 8 September – Editors Conference Day 1
- 9 September – Editors Conference Day 2 – Gala Dinner
- 10 September – Style Council Program – Style Council Dinner

*For conference updates please visit: <http://www.editorsnsw.com/conference2011.htm>, or contact the Conference Convener, Catherine Etteridge on [conf@editorsnsw.com](mailto:conf@editorsnsw.com) or by post: The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. PO Box 254 Broadway NSW 2007.*

# NEWS

## ACCREDITATION EXAM DATE ANNOUNCED

The third IPEd accreditation exam will be held on Saturday 21 May 2011. Like the 2008 and 2009 exams, this will be a pen (or pencil) and paper exam.

The exam costs \$530 (with no GST applicable) for financial members of societies of editors and \$680 for non-members or those who are not financial at the close of registrations. Exam fees are tax-deductible.

Registrations for the exam open on Tuesday 1 February and close on 21 April. All registrations must be made on the application form and accompanied by the relevant fee.

The fee has been calculated as the minimum required to cover exam costs in 2011. It is based on a target number of applicants, and in the unlikely event that this target is not reached, the Accreditation Board will postpone the exam until 2012. There is no limit placed on the

number of candidates who may sit the exam: all candidates who register and pay the fee will be accommodated.

A second sample exam will be placed on the IPEd website by 28 February. Both sample exams are very good indicators of what you can expect in May, and trialling them will help you decide whether you are ready for the real thing.

It is not recommended that you attempt the exam unless you have at least three years' full-time editing experience. All societies of editors will be organising pre-exam activities to help prepare candidates.

*To obtain further information, contact your Accreditation Board delegate or consult the guidelines for candidates and FAQs. Or visit <http://www.iped-editors.org/Accreditation>.*



## BEATRICE DAVIS EDITORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Call for applications for the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship closing date is Friday 25 March, 2011

Please go to the APA website and download the 'Call for applications' and the 'Guidelines with application form'.

This unique 12-week Fellowship combines an award with a research project to benefit the Australian publishing industry.

It aims to be the highest national recognition and reward for the contribution editors make to Australian writing and publishing.

It provides a rich source of information sharing and professional development opportunities both during and after the Fellow's overseas research trip.

*APA website address:  
<http://www.publishers.asn.au/>*

# MARKETING

## MARKETING FOR EDITORS

In an effort to market editors' skills, IPEd has developed some flyers for editors to distribute to their networks.

If you want to print the flyers, please use a professional printer and high-quality stock that will not show a crease mark when folded (eg 150 gsm silk gloss).

The text of the brochure may not be altered in any way as IPEd holds copyright in it. If societies or members want to add any local or personal information, this must be done in an accompanying email message or letter.

For posting in a DL envelope, the flyers can be folded in thirds horizontally, with the image facing up. The A4 brochures are also an ideal size for displaying as posters in writers' centres and many other locations. The flyers are also available as a PDF suitable for email distribution.

You can download the flyers from the new IPEd website, <http://www.iped-editors.org/>



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE EDITOR

### Bec Hitchings



When I was 13 years old, my eldest brother became sub-editor for Dolly magazine in Sydney. I still have the very first copy that he sent me with his name in print on the inside cover. I thought it was the coolest thing I had ever seen AND I got free copies sent to me every month. I was so in awe of my brother's talent that I decided I wanted to follow in his footsteps ... It really wasn't until I landed a job with M&C Saatchi Advertising in London some 10 years later, that I had the opportunity to start proofreading and gaining experience in some rather limited copy-writing for white goods' advertisements. But I got the taste for it and so began my journey into editing and design!

As the flexible learning publications officer at Central TAFE, I undertook the formatting, editing and proofreading of flexible learning guides for the vocational, education and training sector. While I had previous experience in proofreading, I didn't have formal editing training, and my skills were more focused on desktop publishing and graphic design. However, after producing learning and study guides for Central TAFE for over six years, I decided to focus on editing. I worked as an editor at WestOne Services for 18 months before I was approached and offered a role as Communications Manager for the Australian Centre for Geomechanics at The University of Western Australia. I have been here nearly three years and in that time we have published eight sets of proceedings for the mining industry. I edit, design and lay out all promotional material including event signage, newsletters, brochures etc. I am also responsible for event website design and maintenance, and anything else that gets thrown my way!

I'm excited to finally be a member of the Society of Editors and am looking forward to working with you all.

*Bec*

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY OR A SUGGESTION FOR THE DESIGN OF BOOKWORM?

Contact Bec with your articles or ideas | [bec@acg.uwa.edu.au](mailto:bec@acg.uwa.edu.au)

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