

BOOK WORM

newsletter of the society of editors (wa) inc.

March 2006

From the chair

One of the key goals for your committee in 2005–2006 has been to expand our membership and this has been done quite effectively as our Treasurer, Linda Browning, will report at our Annual General Meeting (7 March 2006).

The second would have been communication:

Internally, bringing value to our membership through Book Worm, as well as through our meetings, where new members are welcomed and existing members are encouraged to exchange ideas and share information and experiences.

Externally, promoting the impact and image of the Society, and our new look web site has gone some way to doing this for us.

And now, one more appeal to members to please come to your Annual General Meeting, to lend your support and to voice your views about the role of editors in the publishing processes.

Betty Durston

Editorial

Hello again everyone. I have published the February IPed notes from Janet Mackenzie below, as they arrived too late for inclusion in the last *Book Worm*. The March IPed notes are yet to be finalised, so will be included in April's newsletter.

In the last *Book Worm* you may recall that I included the article about Pamela Hewitt's survey of editors? I had one response to this, from Jan Knight, who says she was amazed that the current MEAA hourly freelance rate for editors and proofreaders is \$198. Jan said her hourly rate hasn't gone up since 1997 and even though it's pretty moderate, she finds more clients will balk at that rate now than they did back then. What has happened? Perhaps, as Jan suspects, the field is crowded with "cottage workers", or hobbyists who charge low rates, or perhaps it's a reflection of increasing globalisation in our industry? Is anyone out there interested in doing a follow-up article on this? Maybe we can find out exactly who it is that gets \$198 per hour? Not *moi*, that's for sure!

As part of the Perth International Arts Festival 'Words & Ideas' program, the WA

State Literature Centre is holding the 'Road Map to the Writing Scene in WA' workshop. It's on at Curtin Graduate School of Business, 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, Wednesday 1st March 2006. Our President, Betty Durston, will be presenting a talk about editing and other speakers will include representatives from the Fellowship of Australian Writers, UWA Press and ArtsWA. There will also be a discussion forum. So, get along and find out more about what's going down in our local scene – not every book originates 'over East'!

Tanya Marwood

Forthcoming meetings

Annual General Meeting

Where: CWA House, Boardroom, 3rd Floor, 1174 Hay Street, West Perth

When: Tuesday 7 March 2006 (7.00 pm)

All members and their guests are welcome at no charge

A short meeting will be followed by a selection of fine wines and taste sensations for your enjoyment.

At 8.00 pm a panel of speakers will discuss *Western Australia: The State of Writing*

Panel members:

Sharon Flindell, CEO, State Literature Centre

Janet Blagg, Editor, Member Society of Editors (WA)

Ray Coffey, Publisher, Fremantle Arts Centre Press

(and one other, to be advised – see Chris Walker for further information)

Lots of free parking is available at the rear of the building, entrance off Hay Street.

Please enter the building through the rear door and take the lift to the third floor.

You will by now have received Nomination Forms by e-mail via Yahoogroups. All members are invited to nominate for committee positions for 2006-07 year.

The committee of management consists of:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

General Committee Members (at least four)

Nominations must be in writing (use the form sent to you), signed by both the nominator and nominee (both of whom must be members of the society), and must be posted to the Society of Editors WA, PO Box 99, Subiaco 6904, before the AGM – or you may deliver it to a committee member at the meeting. If you

would like further information, please contact a current committee member (contact details at end of this newsletter).

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors

February 2006

IPEd delegates have maintained momentum despite the national torpor that sets in over summer. The Interim Council has taken an important step for IPEd's future by seeking funds from the Copyright Agency Limited. If the submission is successful the grant will make a substantial contribution to our costs over the next three years.

CAL is an Australian copyright management company which links creators and users of copyright material, balancing fair payment to copyright owners with community access to information. Through its Cultural Fund it distributes a small percentage of licence fees to support research, education and cultural development projects that improve conditions for copyright creators and benefit the Australian cultural community.

We believe that IPEd's plans to set up a national organisation and accreditation scheme for editors fit the guidelines of CAL's Cultural Fund, and you'll be hearing more about this submission if it succeeds. Our thanks to Shelley Kenigsberg (NSW), Susan Rintoul (SA) and Katya Johanson (Vic.) for their hard work on this.

The Accreditation Board has also been busy preparing its program of workshops to be held in each state and territory. The workshops have the twin aims of informing members about accreditation and identifying their concerns. Although the basic structure of the accreditation scheme has been agreed, the details are still being explored. Assessors, administrators and potential candidates need to work together on this, so go along to your local workshop and have a say on these plans that are crucial for the profession.

Janet Mackenzie

Liaison Officer

Accreditation news

We welcome Amanda Curtin to the Accreditation Board as WA's delegate.

Both IPEd and the Board are awaiting a decision on the funding submission recently presented to CAL on behalf of both bodies. The Agency has a cultural fund, which it is keen to use for training purposes. We expect to find out soon whether the application was successful or not.

Board delegates participated in a teleconference on 22 January.

We have been planning a series of workshops to be presented by every society between February and May. The first has already taken place in Victoria, to be followed by Queensland on 1 March and Canberra on 29 March; WA and SA will follow in April. Dates for NSW and Tassie have yet to be confirmed. These workshops will follow up on the workshop presented by the Board in Melbourne. They will focus on the evidence requirements, with more emphasis on Section C of the Accreditation Working Group's Final Report (demonstrating compliance with the Standards), and on identifying our members' concerns and giving them answers, either on the spot or as soon as possible thereafter.

The workshops will use the materials prepared for Melbourne plus additional documents generously provided by Janet Mackenzie. So we will be using the same documents in varying combinations, depending on our members' needs and the number of people who attended the conference.

We are also preparing a full statement on assessors (names, areas of expertise, brief bio details, criteria for selection, method of selection and responsibilities), to be circulated through newsletters and web sites before the workshops take place and also provided to workshop participants. And we will have the comprehensive conference report, *Accreditation: What's going on?* placed on our web sites as soon as possible. Please read it!

The Board intends to organise more workshops as required. Members' questions will be added to a list, which we will use for *Credability*, a monthly newsletter column to begin in March.

We are also finalising significant timelines, such as the preparation of applicants' kits, including forms and guidelines, the revision of the *Australian Standards for Editing Practice*, on which accreditation will be based, orientation for assessors and the call for applicants.

Robin Bennett

Chair, Accreditation Board

Moves towards IPed: how it affects us in WA

As you know, considerable action has been taken to build towards the formation of an Australian national editors' organisation. The Institute of Professional Editors, or IPed, replaces CASE (the Council of Australian Societies of Editors). An Interim Council of IPed, comprising representatives from each State, has been set up and work has been done on how accreditation to set professional standards for members may be achieved. Committee member Anne

Surma represents SOEWA on the interim council.

Creating a national body, and carrying out a process such as accreditation in a fair and acceptable way, is not easy. Editors in other countries, such as Canada, have been working towards it for years (they propose asking editors to sit four exams!). Current thinking is that accreditation in Australia will be by assessment of a portfolio of work.

However it is done, it will cost money; estimates range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 a year. It is hoped that some funding will come from sponsorship. But the seven existing State Societies of Editors in WA, NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Canberra, Queensland and South Australia have agreed to provide start-up funding, by making a one-off levy of \$20 on their members.

SOEWA has included the levy in our 2006 Membership Application Form and Membership Renewal Form. These forms are available from the Treasurer, Society of Editors (WA) Inc, PO Box 99, Subiaco WA 6904 and on our website, <http://www.editorswa.com/> NB. *Please do check that this is the web site address you are now using, not the old one.*

The effect is that Full Membership (February 1 to January 31) this year will cost \$60 and Concessional Membership \$50. This is still a cheap membership for a professional society and is comparable with fees in other Societies of Editors. Please help the cause by paying your subscription promptly. Reminders will be issued, but if you do not pay your fee by the end of April you will be considered to have forfeited membership and will lose your entry in the Register. If you renew membership later, your Register entry and Yahoogroups listing can be reinstated.

We have an event planned for our meeting on April 4, which should shed a lot of light on what will be involved in seeking and achieving accreditation. Amanda Curtin, who attended the national conference in Melbourne last November and has now agreed to represent WA on the Accreditation Board of IPEd, will run a workshop. Those who attended our pre-Christmas meeting in November will remember Amanda's excellent account of the Melbourne

conference.

We expect a steady supply of more information about national issues in a column which will be written in the Eastern States and appear regularly in *Book Worm*. And, of course, the committee is always available to answer questions at any time; just be aware that this is an evolving situation and some questions may lack answers for a time.

Tom Jenkins

New members

Welcome to:

Julianne Jones of PO Box 776, West Perth 6005

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Sally Landman of 36 Wanbrow Way, Duncraig 6023

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Tanya Dewhurst of 17/66 Hastings St, Scarborough 6019

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Deadline for April 2006 *Book Worm* issue:

Tuesday 21 March 2006.

All submissions gratefully accepted.

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