



BOOKWORM

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (WA) INC.

July 2007

From the Chair

I long ago accepted that I wasn't the coolest kitty in the litter, but I thought I was doing okay; a few dubious CDs on the shelf, questionable haircuts from time to time, an unhealthy distress at the continuing abuse of apostrophes by Perth's sign-writers (seriously, are they doing it on purpose?), yet still able to shoot the proverbial enough to pass muster. I have an Xbox, an MP4 player, a slider-tastic mobile phone, even a website. I have opinions on topical issues (oh, do I have opinions) such as global warming, daylight saving, Tony Soprano's loyalties and ... stuff.

But I've been hit with a nasty hit. Shocked by a nasty shock even. I recently entered the huge popularity contest that is Myspace, and I may as well wear anoraks and still live with my parents. I am *that* out of it. I left most of it blank to create some mystique (and by mystique I mean I couldn't think of pithy answers), and as one does when one has too boring a list of other things to do, I went for an electronic recon mission. And found lolcats, o'rly, embeddable players, e-books, and a lot of people who really don't seem to like Tom Cruise very much.

When did this happen? When did everyone else get so techno-savvy? Why didn't I get the memo? I suspect I need a spotty 14-year-old to sit next to me and show me the way.

Which was meant to bring me to an announcement about what's happening with our website: after discussions within the committee over the past couple of months, we have decided that the Society's website is due for rejuvenation. We're going to be looking at everything – how it works, what it looks like, what it says – and hope to speed up the updating too by having some one closer to the Society (my partner Mark and myself) looking after the admin side. This means that if you have any ideas on things you'd like to see included, please let me know.

Hang on; I seem to have inadvertently implied that my partner is an acne-riddled adolescent. Luckily he doesn't read this. I assure you he is a grown-up, and hasn't been ID-ed for ages.

And it doesn't matter anyway – as long as no one wants anything done to the site after ten on a school night, that is.

Emma Pearmain

Editorial

Do you have a book that you would like to review? Perhaps you have a book that you would like to have reviewed?

Last month SOEWA was asked to review a new book about editing. One of our committee members has taken it on, and the review will appear in a future edition of Bookworm. Reviews for books relevant to editing or books by members of SOEWA could be included regularly in Bookworm, so if you would like to become one of a pool of reviewers, or you have written a review you'd like included in Bookworm, please let me know. <rebecca.m.newman@gmail.com>

Rebecca Newman

Forthcoming meeting

July: Microsoft Word – tips, tricks and frustrations

Join us for an informal session where you can ask questions about using MS Word. Members with the answers will demonstrate and explain.

This is not a test – it is about sharing knowledge and supporting each other.

Please bring:

- Your favorite trick/tip (e.g. a shortcut)
- Any questions about using MS Word (e.g. formatting headings)
- Your thoughts on the most irritating/difficult aspect of MS Word

Date: Tuesday 3 July 2007

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: CWA House, Board Room (3rd Floor)

1174 Hay Street, West Perth

Parking at rear of building; enter via door from car park

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

RSVP: Emma Pearmain, 9243 5045, <emma007@amnet.net.au>

Report on June meeting

How good an editor are you?

At the June meeting, Tom Jenkins challenged members to use their editing skills in correcting errors he has collected in his work (*to make it interesting, he included three true statements*). Members were given sheets and some time to work on them,

then there was lively discussion of the answers and what they reveal about the skills an editor needs. Among points that emerged: howlers can destroy the credibility of book and author; *always* check names, dates, quotations and foreign phrases; wide general knowledge is essential; the internet is an excellent reference source.

Now, how good an editor are you?

1. Tchaikovsky wrote the 1812 Concerto.
2. Kobeelya school in Katanning produced a 50th birthday book celebrating the years 1922–82.
3. The big department store in Moscow is Gomm.
4. We flew over the Argyll Diamond Mine.
5. Karratha is on Nicol Bay in the Pilbara.
6. Prince Leonard declared Hut River an independent province.
7. Howard Hughes built a giant seaplane, mostly from birch wood, called the Spruce Goose.
8. The Rajneesh movement was led by Bagwhan and Ma Sheila.
9. In 1826 Major Lockyer in the *Amity* sailed into King George Sound with 52 convicts.
10. The French had visited Western Australia in the 16th century.
11. A 'shadoof' is a donkey-powered waterwheel used in Egypt.
12. Frenchman Jules Dumont D'Urville, commander of the corvette *L'Astrobe* on a voyage of scientific discovery around the world, wrote warmly of the sound and its adjoining waters.
13. Commander George Vancouver of the British Royal Navy, captain of the sloop of war *Discovery*, noted in his 1791 log: 'The weather was delightfully serene and pleasant and the sloop was snug and secure at anchor in the spacious sound we had discovered some 300 kilometres eastwards of Cape Leeuwin, the south-western extremity of the Australian continent, and entered the night before.'
14. The Black Rock Stakes is an unusual relay race run in the Pilbara, where 100kg of iron ore is pushed along by one person at a time in a wheelbarrow.
15. The plain trees in New Zealand were turning their autumn colours.
16. New Zealand features both Mt Cooke and Cooke Strait.
17. The family has since had many descendents.
18. The story appeared in the *West Australian* newspaper.

19. The Australian government's budget for defense is very large.
20. Many village homes in the Cotswolds, England, have 'staddle stones' outside them, looking for all the world like giant mushrooms.
21. It is no mean feat to win the U.S. Masters golf tournament.
22. Some sentences require the use of a dash, like this--between words.
23. Alexander Graeme Bell invented the telephone in 1867.
24. His wife Margaret (nee Halbert) gave him many children. He had a strong sense of déjà vu.
25. Rob Borbidge, former Premier of Queensland, warned: 'We could possibly be looking at the likely annihilation of the National Party.'
26. We crossed the Nullabor Plain.
27. The Frenchman visiting Adelaide said to his wife, 'You must rest, mon cheri.'
28. Because of his heart condition, the doctor proscribed vigorous exercise.
29. Our Sydney offices are in Surrey Hills.
30. In the first week of April, 1939, Charles Cornish received a surprise in a disturbing letter from Italy. Postmarked Torino, Cornish sent it off for translation ...
31. Some West Australian restaurants serve Black Forrest cake.
32. Mary Shelley created a monster called Frankenstein.
33. The Treasurer's speech inferred that there would be tax cuts.
34. He is ambitious to join the hoi polloi.
35. The new innovation will give us temporary respite from the problem.
36. At the end of the day, the reality is ...
37. In a local pharmacy, a notice for diabetes sufferers said, in part; 'If you fill in the form before you come in, it will fasten the process.'
38. Phosphorous is a yellow, wax-like substance.
39. Bridport gets a mention in the Doomsday Book.
40. The Dockers and St Kilda fought a climatic draw.

Answers on Page 10.

New members

Welcome to:

Janine Rakeford
Amanda Ellis c
Margaret Johnson
Kathleen Stewart
Heidi-Jane Coldon

Howler of the Month

Did anyone else spot this schoolboy effort? (I use the term deliberately, given its context.) I actually laughed out loud when I read this, from the sixty-something Editor-at-Large of the national newspaper, the same paper that continually editorialises about the declining literacy standards of da yooof of 2day:

‘This is the key to the huge vote: 90.8 per cent voted yes, a result without precedent before or since.’

Paul Kelly, ‘The Image of a Tragedy’,
Weekend Australian, 26–27 May 2007.

Gotta love those repeatable precedents!

Mar Bucknell

IPEd Notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors June 2007

The third national conference of editors, held in Hobart, was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and a tribute to the capacities of the Society of Editors, Tasmania, which showed that you don’t have to be big to be great. The keynote speeches were of high calibre, and the papers and presentations were both interesting and instructive. Transcripts will be posted on the website of the Tasmanian Society of Editors <<http://www.tas-editors.org.au>> as they become available. Among the associated activities, highlights were the launch of *Editors in Conversation*, the reception at Government House, the conference dinner featuring entertainment by the String Chickens (and their rooster), and the lunchtime musical extravaganza by the Splinter Sisters. Events concluded with a taste of South Australian delights to whet our appetites for the next national conference in October 2009.

IPEd and its associated groups took the opportunity to meet in person, as well as reporting to the conference and seeking feedback. Most pleasing was the report of the national vote on establishing IPEd as a legal entity, which shows editors taking the future of the profession into their own hands by forming a peak body: all societies are overwhelmingly in favour, with an average of 94 per cent. The vote on accreditation, at 84 per cent, is also a resounding mandate to proceed.

The Interim Council has prepared a timeline for incorporating the national organisation:

- mid-June Interim Council finds and briefs a lawyer to draw up constitution
- end June draft constitution provided to the societies and posted on website for comment
- end July comments close
- during Aug. Interim Council considers comments and revises constitution as necessary
- end Aug. constitution finalised
- end Sept. agreement by societies
- end Oct. incorporation of IPed.

Renée Otmar's conference presentation on the accreditation examination showed the painstaking work that has gone into its preparation so far. There was lively discussion about the proposed arrangements and, in response, the Accreditation Board, headed by Shelley Kenigsberg, is looking at modifying them. In particular, those present showed a marked preference for an on-screen examination. The ramifications of this will be explored in an issues paper, which will be available for comment on the IPed website by July. The Accreditation Board expects that the first examination will be held in March 2008; the date and venues will be advertised at least four months in advance.

The website, after much hard work by Mike Purdy, is about to appear in its third iteration: this one is based on the open-source software Drupal, which makes it easy for users to publish, manage and organise a great variety of content. Both appearance and functions will be significantly improved, and the Communication Working Group led by Kathie Stove is engaged in revising and updating the contents.

Janet Mackenzie
IPed Liaison Officer

CredAbility 6: Accreditation milestones

Institute of Professional Editors Proposed Accreditation Scheme

The national editors conference recently held in Hobart marked a significant stage in the introduction of a national accreditation program. All societies have now voted on motions to endorse the amended accreditation proposal, and the results of the vote were announced at the IPed/Accreditation Board plenary session on 11 May. Overall, the vote in favour of the revised accreditation model amounted to 85% – an overwhelming endorsement.

Society	Number of votes	Votes for	%	Votes against	%	Abstentions
CSE	89	72	81	15	17	2
NSW	26	18	69	6	23	2
Qld	31	28	90	1	3	2
SA	48	40	83	8	17	0
Tas	44	39	89	2	5	3
Vic	58	50	86	4	7	4
WA	20	19	95	0	0	1
Total	316	266	85	36	10	14

During the plenary session, Shelley Kenigsberg also reported on developments to date and Renée Otmar presented and discussed the sample exam prepared by the assessors. Vigorous questioning from conference delegates followed, particularly on aspects of the exam, including the range of options in Section 3 and the possibility of taking the exam on-screen. Participants expressed overwhelming support for this option. The problem of confidentiality for some editors at the portfolio stage was also raised.

The Accreditation Board considered these comments during its conference meeting, and also is currently collating other comments received from conference delegates through the comments box.

The on-screen option represents a significant departure from the exam model on which the Assessors Forum and the Accreditation Board have been working since last December. The board has no wish to disadvantage potential applicants who do all or most of their work on-screen or online, and we are well aware that this provision could affect a large number of editors. We are preparing an issues paper on all the ramifications of this option, which will be posted on the IPED website by the end of June. This is an important question for potential applicants; please

be sure to read the issues paper and pass on your views to the Accreditation Board through your society's delegate.

The sample exam is to be placed on the IPEd website and will provide the basis for workshops for potential applicants conducted by societies. If you would like to try 'sitting' the exam, to test your strengths, weaknesses and timing, you are welcome to do so.

The board is currently preparing the text of its Operations Manual, consisting of guidelines for applicants, assessors, the Examination Coordinator, board delegates, societies and invigilators, as well as guidelines for appeals. Board members are investigating the availability and cost of exam venues and invigilators, and the most cost-effective method of organising the exam. Planning for the training of markers has also begun.

Following the incorporation of the Institute of Professional Editors, the first exam will be held in March 2008. This exam will include extra options in Section 3 for maths/science, corporate and generalist editors, as well as other amendments, to meet the needs of potential applicants working in a wide range of areas. The board will give at least four months notice of the actual date.

To help the board's planning, all society members have been asked whether they intend to sit the exam in 2008, 2009, later or not at all. You have also been asked to provide your postcode, so we will know whether there is any demand for holding the exam in regional areas.

The application fee for the exam must cover all costs, including preparation, training of markers, administration, hire of venues and invigilators, backup services, public and professional liability insurance, marking and appeals, printing and postage. Provision of the on-screen option will increase the costs and therefore the fee. The board will provide figures as soon as they are available; we will do all we can to keep the application fee to a minimum. Applicants who are current financial members of an editors society will receive a discount on the fee.

As editors, you know that the devil is in the detail, so board delegates have a crucial job ahead of them this year. The Accreditation Board's primary commitment has always been to deliver a workable accreditation system that meets your needs. Your feedback — on your intentions to take the exam, the substance of the sample exam, and the issues paper — will help us achieve this goal.

Editors in Conversation

Edited by Kerry Biram, Diane Brown & Jenny Craig
 Australian Scholarly Publishing

Australian editors are rising to the challenge of the knock-on effects of massive global shifts in the media and publishing industries.

With the rapid uptake of information and communication technology, editors are playing an increasingly crucial role in managing the transmission of print and online content, from creator to consumer.

But in this context and in the face of the big squeeze, how do publishing companies, government and non-government organisations and the corporate sector perceive the added value of editors?

At the second national editors conference in Melbourne 2005, eight editors came together to discuss various issues and to reflect on their extraordinary working lives:

- Sheila Allison & Pamela Ball
- Beryl Hill & Wendy Sutherland
- Renée Otmar & Loma Snooks
- Robyn Colman & Lee White

From diverse backgrounds in publishing, they have won major awards, and raised the level of knowledge management and knowledge presentation issues at the heart of what editors do.

The conference panel, Some of the Finest: Honorary Life Members, is also published in this collection.

Editors in Conversation is sponsored by the Centre for the Book (Monash University), the Society of Editors (Victoria), the Canberra Society of Editors and the Society of Editors (Tasmania).

Note: Available for direct sale in Australia after the mid-May launch release.

May 2007, Paperback, ISBN 1-7409-7137-X, 202 pages, \$22



Order form

Please send me: _____ copies of *Editors in Conversation* @ \$22 each \$ _____

Postage and handling (within Australia \$6 per copy; for multiple copies please enquire) \$ _____

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ANSWERS

1. The 1812 Overture.
2. Dates are 60 years apart.
3. GUM (acronym for Russian words meaning State Department Store).
4. Argyle Diamond Mine (nearby lake has same spelling).
5. Nickol Bay.
6. Hutt River.
7. TRUE. Spruce Goose is mostly birch wood.
8. Bhagwan (Shree Rajneesh) and Ma Sheela.
9. Only 23 convicts, 18 soldiers.
10. French came in 18th century.
11. Shadoof is a balanced pole.
12. *L'Astrolabe* after the navigation instrument.
13. He could not have said "300 kilometres" in 1791. A quote mishandled.
14. 11kg. of iron ore. 100kg is 220lb!
15. Plane trees.
16. Mt Cook and Cook Strait (after James Cook).
17. Descendants.
18. Newspaper's name is *The West Australian*.
19. Defence.
20. TRUE. They used to support storage buildings.
21. No mean feat.
22. Best dash is — (shift/option/hyphen with spaces each end).
23. Bell invented telephone in 1876.
24. Accents CAN be keyboarded: née and déjà vu.
25. Tautology. "We could be looking at the annihilation . . ." is enough.
26. Nullarbor Plain (from Latin *nullus arbor*: no trees).
27. "You must rest, ma chérie." French nouns have gender. (And note the accent, again.)
28. COULD BE TRUE if it meant doctor advised against exercise.
29. Surry Hills in Sydney (not VIC).
30. This classic dangling participle means Cornish was post-marked. Bad editing.
31. TRUE. Some West Australians misspell Black Forest cake because of the Forrest family.
32. Frankenstein was the scientist.
33. The speech implied, not inferred.
34. *Hoi polloi* is Greek for the masses.
35. *New innovation* and *temporary respite* are both tautologies.
36. Cliché.
37. Should be "quicken" the process.
38. Phosphorus.
39. Domesday Book.
40. A climactic draw, not climatic, which means weather.

Deadline for August 2007 Bookworm issue:

Tuesday 24 July 2007

All submissions gratefully accepted.

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