

From the President



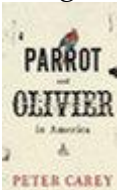
Cleaning out the files

It's the last day of the Easter weekend and I still haven't got to the overflowing paper on my desk – you know, that space where everything gets put until we can think of a better place for it. So now is the time. As I'm going through the paperwork that defines my life, ideas erupt. There's that article I want to write on

[Lombok](#) from our last holiday (so keep that Lombok Guide I picked up in the Beach House restaurant in [Gilli Trawangan](#)).

The last edition of [ASA](#) journal has great article on writing book reviews.

I might write a book review on [Parrot and Olivier in America](#). (NB must update my



[Goodreads](#) entry); and there's the [Walkley magazine](#) (Keep - need to know

what's happening in the journalism world). Don't chuck out that [Bali villa](#)

[brochure](#) (always looking for new places to stay). There's my date schedule for

this semester's writing unit, my notes on branding my image from that [seminar](#) I

went to last week (NB update my website with profile ideas). [UWA's](#) writing

courses brochure, and those writing courses I might consider doing...

again! Must look into that cupcake stand and flowers and bomboniere (8

May is fast approaching). There's those clippings on Italy I need for the



trip (NB think about new perspectives for travel articles),

and the contact list for that editing job I need to start.

Don't throw out the travel and review sections of the [West](#) and the

[Weekend Australian](#) I haven't read yet.



And there's still the bougainvillea that's been attacking the postman for

the last week, plus the ever

present danger of shorting the

electrical wires. There's a job

for today. Or I could just

continue reading about

creating characters in

[Children's Literature](#), or update my

[website](#), or write up my notes for my next story,

or... enjoy a day off with fresh air and family.



Happy editing

Robin

Robin Bower — President

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THIS MONTH'S MEMBERS MEETING

Tuesday 20 April 2010 at 7.30 pm

Editors Showcase

Panel discussion Want to know what other editors are working on? What sorts of projects editors do? How they differ from yours? How they get work and how broad their roles can be?

Venue: Subiaco Community Centre (Activity Room)

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

Parking: street parking and Crossways Shopping Centre car park opposite

RSVP <marisa.wikramanayake@gmail.com>

News of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

In the wake of the Great Storm, the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 23 March 2010 began with unusual intrigue - a game of Find the Venue. Our usual meeting place in the Community Centre had been flooded and members were redirected to the rear of the Subiaco Arts Centre near the goanna mosaic.

A small but dedicated band of people braved the battered streets to attend the meeting to share in the excitement of the Society's achievements during the past year and its vision for the future. The meeting opened with the fanfare befitting an AGM. Apologies were received and the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting acknowledged. There followed the reports from members of the committee: President's report (Robin Bower), Treasurer's (Ursula Shaw), IPed report (Anne Surma), Accreditation report (Amanda Curtin), Bookworm report (Mabel Kaplan), Website report and Membership report (Marisa Wikramanayake). Copies of these reports are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Of course, the big event of the proceedings was the election of officers and I am pleased to announce that for 2010, the positions have been filled as follows:

President: Robin Bower

Vice-President: Cheryl Bettridge

Secretary: Colin Hanbury

Treasurer: Ursula Shaw

IPed Councillor: Anne Surma

IPed Accreditation Board Delegate: Amanda Curtin

Newsletter Editor: Mabel Kaplan

Proofreader: Michèle Drouart

Website Coordinator and Membership Officer: Marisa Wikramanayake

General Committee Representatives: Kerry Coyle and Jan Knight

A special vote of thanks went to Jo Smith, our retiring secretary, who after three years of meticulous and good humoured service has moved to Pemberton. A warm welcome was extended to our new secretary, Colin Hanbury, and to committee member, Kerry Coyle.

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DEADLINE

for copy for the

NEXT ISSUE

of *Bookworm* is

Tuesday, 4 May 2010

The president thanked returning members for their continuing support. Thanks go also to Cheryl for arranging a delicious supper banquet; much more than those in attendance could eat. With official business transacted, the AGM closed and those in attendance rearranged the seating ready to enjoy Amanda Curtin's presentation.

Mabel Kaplan

The publication journey of *The Sinkings*

Colin Hanbury writes:

On 23 March, Amanda Curtin discussed her recently published novel *The Sinkings* and the writing and publication process. Not knowing too much about it, the title brought Joseph Conrad to mind and I half expected a nautical tale. Well...I was quickly disabused, although part of it was set in the nineteenth century.

It is two parallel stories, a woman in the present becomes obsessed with a murder victim, Little Jock, an actual person murdered in 1882 and found at a campsite known as the Sinkings near Albany. Before being identified as Little Jock, the dismembered body was identified as a woman, a point that was never clearly settled historically.

Amanda outlined that site research was integral to her writing and she travelled to Albany and also to Glasgow, Scotland from where Little Jock had left before arriving in Australia as a convict. Though the nineteenth century slums were long gone in 2004, Amanda found she was superimposing the images of the past onto the present, and that she kept seeing Little Jock in the corner of her eye. The research took a full year and her PhD scholarship was necessary to cover this period.

The writing process took eighteen months of fulltime work and editing another six. Due to the two narratives, Amanda started to write both together but then switched and wrote the historical part. Little Jock was kept within what was known of his life, but inevitably with an historical novel there were huge gaps that had to be filled for narrative purposes. Being an editor, Amanda found an internal struggle to concentrate on writing and to resist the compulsion to edit.

Time management was not as important as it is for the current novel she is working on, since she had a PhD scholarship which imposed a timeframe and a supervisor's pressure.

Finding a publisher was anxiety producing and frustrating. Amanda had always hoped to be published, and her industry knowledge made the anxiety worse. Following advice, she hunted for an agent but found the process slow, particularly after waiting eight months for one to say no.

However, University of Western Australia Press expressed interest, and gave a quick positive reply after reading the manuscript – so, no agent. Since the manuscript had been extensively worked on, only copyediting was needed and the interaction with the editor was a wonderful experience (being an editor, what did she expect?). Unsurprisingly, Amanda didn't want to stop proofreading and had difficulty handing her baby over to the publisher. Apparently there is one error, but the author was tight-lipped on details.

University of Western Australia Press arranged publicity, including the Radio National Book Show and Regional ABC. Amanda also did the circuit of book clubs, libraries and workshops discussing and promoting. She said on reflection that a blog would have been useful to have from the beginning to aid promotion. As book trailers are the fashion of the moment, Amanda learnt to use iMovie, created her own trailer and did the voiceover – it was very professional; a multimedia event, not only writing and publishing a book. You can see the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE8tHdt9b0g

I knew more about the publishing and publicity process when I left than when I arrived, and the promotion worked as I now want to read the book.■

Copies of reports presented at the 2010 AGM

President's report

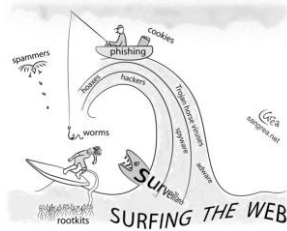
As a newly elected president in 2009, I found myself charged with chairing the meetings and having the responsibility of driving the committee. Not that they needed driving – but with the title comes that commitment to try to lead and direct into new areas. My personal main areas of interest have been:

- to promote the Society and its aim of raising the profile of editors
- to give editors networking and training opportunities
- to develop our technological capabilities with the systems available.

It's not something that just can be achieved and then you sit back and say, next issue. It's an ongoing process in all these areas.

What do I think we achieved over the last year?

- We have promoted ourselves using social media such as Facebook, Twitter and a Forum – we are the first search result on Google which is quite an achievement! The results will continue to be seen as we work with this media.
- We increased our membership overall even though we've lost a few members.
- We've held some valuable talks on the industry including: freelance editing, defamation, editing academic work, creating websites, graphic design for editors, self-publishing.
- We hosted an editing skills and accreditation preparation workshop.



- We hosted a 'Marketing your skills as an editor' workshop eliciting the services of Renee Otmar from Melbourne.
- Our website has undergone a revamp, which is not totally complete yet. Behind the scenes we are trying to make it flexible and easy to update. We've come up with a website and blog mix which will continue to develop further. Marisa has spent many hours working out the technical aspects of getting this right with more to come!
- Bookworm is looking better than ever with Mabel at the helm.
- Position descriptions for committee members were updated and finalized.
- We chose a slogan for our brand and website: 'Say what you mean – hire an editor'

Editing Indigenous writing committee

Sharon Flindell (WritingWA) has invited me to a meeting to discuss the issue of editing Indigenous writing in an effort to increase the number of indigenous people in the industry and to provide training in this area. She has also requested information on editing training that I have provided her. A meeting time will be organized soon.

Members:

Sharon Flindell (WritingWA), Suzie (Magabala Books), Sally Morgan (writer), Delys Bird (UWA), Kim Scott (writer)

Writing Program Consultative Committee at Edith Cowan University Meets once per semester to advise the writing course coordinators of industry concerns, issues, developments and best practice.

Members:

Jacqui Allen (Dept for Culture and the Arts), Robin Bower (Society of Editors WA), Reg Cribb (playwright), Trevor Cullen (ECU Journalism), Lucy Dougan (poet), Dennis Haskell (Literature Board, Australia Council for the Arts), Roland Leach (Sunline Press), Ffion Murphy (ECU Writing), Marcella Polain (ECU Writing), John Rapsey (ECU Screen Academy), Georgia Richter (Fremantle Press), Donna Ward (Indigo), Terri-Ann White (UWA Publishing), Donna Mazza (ECU Bunbury)

2013 National editors conference in Perth - proposed

We created a committee to first make the decision about whether or not to host this conference. We have spoken to Perth Convention Bureau and a conference organizer to get their input as to budget. Figures have been circulated to the committee so we will be meeting again soon to make the final decision.

Committee:

Jan Knight, Anne Surma, Cheryl Bettridge, Ursula Shaw, Marisa Wikramanayake, Robin Bower Michèle Drouart, Carla Morris, Bruce Tuffin, Bruce Robins, Amanda Ellis James Hansen, John Hall

- I'd like to thank Amanda, Anne, Cheryl, Jo, Jan, Ursula, Marisa, Mabel, Katie and Michèle for their hard work and support over the year.

Robin Bower

March 2010 ■

Treasurer's Report

Early bird campaign continues this year. The competition drawn is tonight. A cheque (\$50



for concessional or \$60 for full members) to be presented to the winner. To be eligible renewing members need to include a complete renewal form with their payment.

The *mystery depositor* remains a mystery and the bank can't help. So, if anyone thinks it might be them could you let me know, otherwise, I can't record you as paid for the year and the \$60 will become a welcomed donation.

Door fees: To continue.

Accounts

The accounts are up to date. Thirty copies of the auditor's report are available for members.

The Society started the year with a balance of **\$11353** and closed the books on the 31 January 2010 with **\$12320**, recording a profit of **\$966**.

Contributing to the income were two workshops - the Saturday workshop made \$617, Reneé Otmar Workshop \$128 - and a 3% increase in membership.

The term deposit of **\$3310** was rolled over for another full year and matures August, 2010.

The committee continued with its contribution to the Christmas function, known as the December Networking meeting.

There was an issue with the ATO last year due to the Society not lodging an income tax return since 2001. In particular, they wanted us to review of the last 5 (July to June) years. This took some time to sort out and resulted in the auditor resigning. As yet, the full amount owing to the ATO is unknown.

Audit

This year's audit was completed by a new accountant at PSZ/Tax Pty Ltd who agreed to match last year's fee, but will want to re-negotiation for next year. The other option is to source another accountant.

Ursula Shaw ■

A warm welcome to new members



Philippa Freegard of Subiaco
Karina Leonardt of Beverley
Sue Aguero of Kardinya
Lynne Mitchell of Calista



IPEd.

To advance the
profession of editing

IPEd Accreditation Board Report

Last year was another busy one for the accreditation Board. We administered the development, trialling and conduct of the second IPed accreditation exam; began preliminary research into the possibility of offering the next exam onscreen or with an onscreen component, and embarked on strategic planning for the coming years, to ensure the continued viability of the accreditation process.

Teleconferences were held nearly every second week, and the board met in person once in January at a weekend meeting in Adelaide, and again in Adelaide at the IPed conference in October.

The IPed accreditation exam was held in seven centres across Australia on 12 September, and 44 new Accredited Editors were added to the list on the IPed website. Because of the time required for conducting further research into the onscreen option, there will not be an accreditation exam in 2010; the board is aiming to run the next one in mid 2011.

On a personal note, I would like to say that I've been WA's delegate on the AB for close to five years now, and I think it would be good for the society, and for me, if someone else steps into that role soon. So this is an invitation, if not a plea, to accredited SOEWA members to consider making a contribution to the future of accreditation and representing our society in this important national arena.

Amanda Curtin



To advance the
profession of editing

IPEd Report

The last year has seen Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) consolidate and extend its activities on behalf of the profession and members societies around Australia. Highlights include the following:

- ***Overseeing the development, running and administering of the second national accreditation exam in September 2009:*** Over many months, the Accreditation Board members dedicated themselves to the preparation and successful execution of the exam. Another four members from WA gained the status of Accredited Editor (AE).
- ***Supporting the 4th National Editors Conference, held in Adelaide in October 2009:*** The SA society hosted a brilliant conference, with the theme 'Getting the message across' engaging the interest and participation of over 200 interstate and international delegates. Keynote speakers at the conference were human rights and refugee advocate Julian Burnside AO QC; mentor Wendy McCarthy AO; US editor and publisher of prize-winning children's books Neal Porter; and former senator and now University of Adelaide research fellow, Natasha Stott Despoja. A solid contingent of SOEWA members flew over for the event, as attendees at as well as chairs and presenters of various sessions.

Apart from these highlights, IPEd subcommittees have been busy, particularly in the area of communication, professional development and policies and procedures. For example, in an effort to promote a coherent and unified identity for IPEd, its website is being redesigned and updated. As well, a brochure defining and describing the work of editing has been developed and is being prepared for distribution to Members, for their circulation to potential clients and other interested individuals and organisations. In relation to professional development, efforts to streamline the process for gathering timely information on and publicising training and professional development workshops across states are continuing, and a feasibility study investigating the setting up of a national training register is currently being undertaken. As far as policies and procedures are concerned, a policy outlining eligibility criteria for prospective members of IPED has been devised. And finally, the policy on editing academic theses, first implemented in 2001, is being revised and updated (with significant input from SOEWA).

Anne Surma

IPEd Councillor ■

"Would you convey my compliments to the purist who reads your proofs and tell him or her that I write in a sort of broken-down patois which is something like the way a Swiss waiter talks, and that when I split an infinitive, God damn it, I split it so it will stay split, and when I interrupt the velvety smoothness of my more or less literate syntax with a few sudden words of bar-room vernacular, that is done with the eyes wide open and the mind relaxed but attentive." ~Raymond Chandler

Marisa wears two hats: one as website coordinator and the other as membership officer.



Website report:

I didn't expect to take on the position of website coordinator, I was dropped into it. Despite this odd and unexpected beginning though, I've enjoyed it. The sleepless nights, the wrestling with the code - no, I kid.

We realised early on that the old website was doing us no favours. In the world of web 2.0, it wasn't very inviting or very functional. The way people use the internet has changed greatly from when the website was built especially in terms of how people now find information. Making it work for the society and our clients without upgrading and redoing its entire skeletal structure was not going to happen. It got pushed to one corner of our server space and we uploaded the new system based on Wordpress.



Everything was fine until your website coordinator realised that she had got a) a great system in place to build the website on and b) not much thought as to how to organise all the bits and pieces onto it. The freelance register lived in its own little box away from the rest of the website as it had always done, making it nigh impossible for the clients to find and use and the newly installed forum seemed to be following suit when it wasn't being attacked by spam.

The one thing that was well protected on the server was the website itself. Bringing everything inside the website itself made sense for security purposes and just general peace of mind for everyone. No more extra accounts and passwords to remember for the members, no more spam and clients would be able to find everything easily. Such plans however are best

made before setting anything up at all but that not being the case, everything was backward engineered so to speak. As a result, while the forum and register are now functional within the safety of the website, there are still some kinks being slowly ironed out.

More interesting than the teething troubles of the website were the reactions to it. The internet seemed to love it - the website is regularly the number one Google result, which means basically anyone who searches for an editor in Western Australia finds the website. We receive on average 1,800 hits per month. Even assuming that half of those are Society members and perhaps a bit of that is down to me and other committee members checking out the website for errors, that's a lot of attention that we attract. The old website attracted anywhere from 30 to 300 hits per month. There were some of you who embraced ideas enthusiastically, some of the members feared that the mailing list would be dropped with no regard for the membership in favour of the forum (we're keeping both), and some of the members (understandably) wept for the time they had spent on the old website. No doubt, in a couple of years' time, another bright young whippersnapper will show up, jabbering about web 3.0 and I will gnash my teeth in rage.



In the meantime, I am happy to stay on as website coordinator for the next year. I feel I must - else most of you would never remember your usernames and passwords.

Marisa Wikramanayake ■



Membership report

Picture this. It's the Dome cafe in Subiaco, sometime in April 2009. The place is full of people and to calm my nerves, I am sipping on a Coke with a slice of lemon. I walked in at the tail end of the last AGM for the Society of Editors (WA) Inc and

the outgoing president convinced me to join the committee despite only having met me once before. Hence, I am in Dome waiting for the new committee members to show up. I have no idea what any of them look like. I needn't have worried - there's only one petite South Asian with a leather jacket in the room - and they soon find me.

I can't hear a damn thing. The coffee machine is too loud, Amanda Curtin is being very nice to me though at that point, I have no idea who she is and Robin Bower, newly elected as President, is doing a very good job of being so enthusiastic that she is scaring me. Everyone keeps smiling at me and I have no idea why. I wonder if I look silly. I wonder if maybe I am



mishearing them and that therefore my responses to their questions are not quite what they expected. When we get out of that meeting, all I am aware of is that Robin will take on the website updating duties and I offered my aid should she need it. We all know how that ended.

A few emails later and it's obvious that I somehow got nominated to be the membership officer. Clearly I did not hear this part of the conversation during the meeting at Dome and I, possibly, was not part of it even then. I have no idea what this position means and I keep expecting someone to give me a folder with some information in it or, at least, send me an email. At first, it seems easy - add people to the mailing list. It soon becomes more than that. Suddenly I am the first point of contact with the membership, half of whom still don't seem to know that I have descended down upon them thus.

I'm not complaining here - a couple of months later, I found myself knowing members by their email addresses. Membership officer and web coordinator seem to come together

nicely. For the membership, it's easy. Is there a problem, any problem? Email me. If it's non-tech related, it's for the membership officer so I deal with it. If it's tech related, again it's for me. I get up to fifty emails a day from the membership which is good because I am insecure and need the reassurance. Also, I have gmail and therefore I am organised with my email in a way that I will never be in real life. I like the mailing list and I like worrying about the members - does the committee do enough? How can we make it better? That sort of thing.



Ursula and I still have not got a perfect system of making sure we are totally up to date on who's still a member and who isn't. Mostly that's because Ursula makes pretty spreadsheets and then I invariably lose them or by the time I do anything with them, she's got a new version. At the end of the 2009-2010 year, we had 123 members. I know because I had to create accounts for all of you on the new website. We had 28 new members join the often pedantic but nevertheless amusing mailing list shenanigans. Twenty-four members sadly did not renew. Ninety-eight members were full members.



including one living in Austria, which proves our point that if you have a link to WA you can join the society and work for anyone, anywhere. Twenty-three were concessional members and, of course, we had our two honorary life members, James Hansen and Betty Durston.

The upshot of all this is that I will still be around to nag (or to gently remind) you via email about attending meetings and renewing membership. In that spirit, here's my first reminder for all of you: 69 members have renewed so far, which leaves 52 of you who still have to do so by the end of May.

Marisa Wikramanayake ■



Editor's Report

It is just a year ago that I accepted the role as editor of the Society's newsletter: Bookworm. Has it been easy? No! Has it been fun? Most of the time.

I actually enjoy the process of creating the newsletter and, in particular, have greatly valued the mentoring I've received from Michèle Drouart - my most patient and gracious proof reader. Thank you, Michèle.

That I've learned heaps along the way, I hope is shown in the month by month issues of the newsletter itself. Bookworm has given me plenty of opportunity to experiment with layout, colour, cartoons and material. Its content is limited only by what sent to me. I work with whatever material is to hand by the copy deadline. If that's not enough, I supplement it, with filler items I found elsewhere or make something up.

I ask one thing of you all. Please don't be shy. I need a volunteer each month to write a brief report on the monthly meeting of the previous month. I would like members to offer to star in the Spotlight feature. I want to encourage anyone who want to contribute, to send in something – be it wise words on grammar, a book review or anything else that takes your fancy. The newsletter can only be as good as its contributors.

Thank you!

Mabel Kaplan ■



April's Eve

I love the still, utter-quietude that hangs about the house--just before the sun comes up and life suddenly turns to busy nonsense. It's a time to pause and reflect, and be thankful for a brief breathe of time.

And, now, it's the dawn of a new month: April. The days have flown by this year; and so many have already faced utter chaos and personal devastation. Our shared experiences are self-evident. We are the stories we tell. We face challenges--the pain and fears; and then we try to laugh and move on. And, so, we share in the triumphs. We know that others have walked in these steps; and together we can gather strength. That's part of what reading is to me: a reminder that I'm not alone. It's a passionate outpouring of another heart and soul--in the joint experimentation with reality (being, knowing, and belonging). How can we not feel safe when wrapped in the clutches of a wonderful full-fledged tome by one of the great literary masters?

from Esther's Classical Literature Blog at <http://classclit.about.com/>

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances Michele has not been able to proofread this issue of the newsletter. Therefore, any misdemeanours found herein are mine and only mine. Enjoy them!