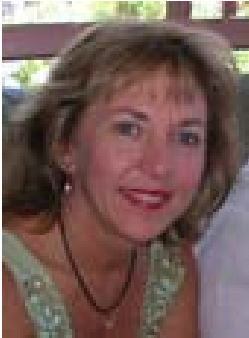


President's message



Reading single-handed

Even if Spring is only two weeks away, I still think of August as the dead of winter, hibernation time, time to contemplate, meditate and cogitate. The death of the fiscal year is a time when we are forced to look back on what we've done with our year, how much money we made, but particularly how much we spent (and what we can grab back from the government which so cruelly takes it from us).

I've spent a bit of money on books this year, I'll admit. However, I've also spent a very little money on some books, that is, eBooks. I've cautiously paddled into the shallow end by getting books I can read on Kindle for iPhone (one of the books was *The Sun Also Rises*, which I found sexist, racist, kind of outdated – but very well written! Anyway, that's another story ... apologies to fans of Hemingway).

It's so easy. I can read in bed. Kindle is not heavy like a book and you only need one hand with an energetic thumb. The ebook is always with me (or I should say they are always with me – I can get about 28,000 free ones). If I have a few minutes to spare waiting for a friend or a meeting (but not at traffic lights), I can click in and read a few pages. Entertainment and knowledge is always at hand. This is strangely comforting. I like the fact that I can take 28,000 books away with me on holiday. I probably won't even finish one, but it's pleasing to know they are there, in the background, supporting me.

The Australian Society of Authors is currently working on the complexities of contracts for authors to include provision for eBooks. The ramifications also spread to editors whose work will only increase due to the dismissal of a large chunk of the production process, and the continuance of rigid content standards by respectable publishers. The eBooks are our friends. Embrace them, give them a try. You just might like them!

Happy editing

Robin

Robin Bower — President

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Members Meeting 17 August 2010



Wolfgang Byslma
of Gestalt Comics

editing and graphic novels

Come along for a fun look into this literary form
and to find out where the future lies for graphic novels in
publishing.

Venue: Subiaco Community Centre
203 Bagot Road Subiaco WA

\$2 for members; \$5 for guests/ non-members.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

RSVP: <secretary@editorswa.com>

A TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Redact – professional development for working editors

[redact, *v.* To put (matter) into proper literary form; to work up,
arrange, or edit.]

A residential weekend training intensive for experienced
editors hosted by the Society of Editors Victoria.

**Mercure Hotel in Geelong, Victoria
on the weekend of 16-17 October 2010**

Participants will join a small group of experienced editors
for in-depth training in a specialist stream of their choice.
Plenary sessions and meal breaks will present opportunities
to hear about participants' experiences in the other groups,
as well as provide the setting for socialising and networking.

Trainers for this event:

- fiction editing – Mandy Brett
- e-publishing – Tim Coronel and Tamsin Wagner
- corporate/ government editing – Janel Salisbury

Early-bird registration – a saving of \$100 – close on 13
August. Go to www.socedvic.org/training/redact.html
to register.

Course summaries and the current weekend timetable are
available on the Society's website and detailed curriculum
outlines will be available soon. ■

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DEADLINE
for copy for the
NEXT ISSUE
of *Bookworm* is
Tuesday, 7 Sept. 2010



Bookworm is prepared as a
Word document.
Text submitted should be
in a Word compatible
format and images in jpg
or similar.



Tools of Trade

with Carla

Last month I sent out a call for opinions on the word 'gotten'. One hundred per cent of respondents

condemned its use. However, we probably need a larger sample for reliable statistics as only one person wrote in. 'Got' was also frowned on as a 'lazy' verb.

This month I thought I would look at those pesky modifiers. We had a bit of email traffic on the subject, so I thought it might be relevant.

The three most common problems with modifiers are misplaced modifiers, dangling modifiers and squinting modifiers. Sometimes these problems can be hard to detect as our brains seem to be able to make the leap from what is actually written to what we suspect is meant. Other times they result in delightfully hilarious ambiguity or are just plain confusing.

A misplaced modifier is, as its name suggests, a modifying clause, phrase or word that is placed somewhere in the sentence where it should not be.

Lying flat on his back and snoring, he chuckled as the dog twitched in its sleep.

The woman carefully walked through the mud to her front door wearing red shoes.

Obviously, the intended meaning is that the dog is snoring and the human is chuckling. The woman is wearing the shoes, not the door. Simply moving the modifying phrase next to its noun or pronoun will usually solve the problem.

He chuckled as the dog, lying flat on his back and snoring, twitched in its sleep.

The woman wearing red shoes carefully walked through the mud to her front door.

A dangling modifier is one that has nothing to modify. The noun it relates to has been left out of the sentence.

Picking up my backpack, the winding road beckoned.

Having neither hands nor opposable thumbs, a winding road is unable to pick up a backpack. The noun or pronoun indicating who actually picked up the backpack is missing. The following might be another of my dodgy examples that will never win a literary prize, but at least it is grammatically correct.

Picking up my backpack, I felt the winding road beckon.

A squinting modifier is one that looks both ways. Readers are unsure to which part of the sentence the modifier is linked. It could be interpreted in more than one way, with resulting changes in meaning.

The dog that had the sore paw last week went missing.

I told my kids in the summer holidays we would go to Rottnest.

Drinking gin quickly makes you drunk.

Did the dog have a sore paw last week or did it go missing last week? Did I break the news to the kids during the summer holidays or was the plan to go to Rottnest during the summer holiday? Will you not become drunk if you drink gin slowly? Oh goodness! On that note, I think I will pour myself a glass of wine, which I will drink slowly.

Do you have a topic you would like discussed? Email me at carlamorris@ozemail.com.au.

Carla Morris, AE



More snippets from Grantley Morris <http://net-burst.net/hot/cope.htm>

► Max Raffler loved to paint. As his paintings piled ever higher, his sisters burnt them to make room for more. Finally, when Raffler was an old man, his artistic ability was recognized. His well-meaning sisters had destroyed paintings that would have sold for tens of millions of dollars.

In Memory of Elizabeth Tuettemann

by Jan Knight

Members will be saddened to learn of the death on 15 July 2010 of our distinguished and long-standing SoE (WA) member, Elizabeth Tuettemann. All who knew her will agree with member Ian Nowak who paid tribute to Elizabeth as a fine editor, and a sound author, linguist and mathematician. 'For me', said Ian, 'she was one of the few women to whom the adjective "gracious" was never misapplied.'

The following brief glimpse of Elizabeth's life can only hint at her courage, her discipline and her true-as-a bell integrity.

Elizabeth was born in Benalla, Victoria, on 17 August 1940, the eldest of three sisters. She won a scholarship to a top girls high school in Melbourne and went on to do a BSc DipEd from Melbourne University. After graduating, she taught high school science and mathematics including a year with Australian Volunteers Abroad in Tonga.

She became a CSIRO editor of scientific journals and publications and then went to Germany for five years with husband Willi Tuettemann. In 1974 they settled in Western Australia with son Christoph and daughter Karin. Then followed 11 years of home making, part-time editing work, teaching English as a second language and tertiary studies. Willi died in 1988 of lung cancer.

1991 was a big year for Elizabeth. Her controversial history *Between River and Sea: A History of Mosman Park* was published and she met farmer Roger Andrews. They were married in 1993.

Further achievements followed. In 1998, Elizabeth's UWA PhD 'The psychology of couple relationships' won the faculty prize. In 2007 *The Road to Bulong*, a history of the Jones family. was published.

Elizabeth was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2004. She credited Dr Ian Gawler and the Cancer Support Association with helping her to take control of her life, with an anti-cancer diet and a mind-body-spirit approach to disease. After six very productive and special years, Elizabeth died on 15 July 2010.



Eulogy for Elizabeth

by Roslyn Snyder

Life is a series of moments: lessons, insights, joy. I was privileged to share these moments of life with Elizabeth Tuettemann over the past 10 years. She was my friend, mentor and colleague.

Our first meeting was at a Women in Publishing seminar. Elizabeth had been writing and editing for many years, freelance and in Government departments. I was just beginning to write. We shared a love for science and a keen interest in the arts and spirituality.

Elizabeth rarely talked of her own achievements. Eventually I found she had several formal qualifications including psychology and mathematics degrees, a Masters of Education and a PhD on the psychology of married couples. She won awards for three of her degrees. Her supervisors said she was one of the most gifted students they had ever had, not an intellectual, not an academic, but a true scholar. She loved learning.

Her mind was phenomenal. She could complete cryptic crosswords quicker than it takes most people to read them. I'd ring her about some topic and she would say, 'I read something on that, let me check'. Within 24 hours she would have an academic paper, an article or a reference for me. She worked best at night; her emails often showed 2 am. Once we were working on a publication and she was sure there was a single word that explained an entire sentence. It took her a day-and-a-half to find that word, and it made the article sing. This tenacity and push for excellence was characteristic of her.

Elizabeth's research into couple relationships changed her focus. She decided that making relationships stronger was more important than anything else. She loved spending time with her grandchildren.

She distilled her PhD into 45 pages in *'The little book of insights into couple relationships'*. I had the honour of introducing her book at a national marriage educators conference where she was treated like royalty. Many international speakers, researchers and government heads of department sought her advice. Elizabeth was always gracious and focussed on the person speaking. She never rushed them because someone more important was queued behind them.

Elizabeth had the rare quality of challenging her own thinking when she came across something new. Elizabeth faced her cancer diagnosis as she had all her previous journeys. She started with scientific research, looking at alternatives and using this knowledge to improve the quality of her life. She began to feel that she was no longer in control of her life – the medical profession and the demand for urgent decisions were doing away with her choices.

She realised that she needed to write, that writing fed her soul. Most days during her six and half year battle, she did write: articles, the Jones book, stories for her grandchildren and poems about her cancer journey. Our last conversation was about her poems: she hoped that somehow, some way, they could be used to inspire others.

What I will miss most is our laughter. Elizabeth had a loud, throw-your-head-back laugh that you couldn't ignore. We laughed together and often, and over the most obscure things. We found laughter throughout her cancer battle, over the side effects of chemotherapy, hospital stays and the like.

The closer you are to life, the more joy you have. Elizabeth was filled with life and with joy.

Professional Development Workshop: advanced editing skills

A report on the July workshop

by Marisa Wikramanayake

The advanced editing skills workshop was fully booked and I was thrilled to walk in and find that most of the people there were our own members. I feel we sometimes get unintentionally trapped in this mindset of 'I have this qualification' or 'I have this experience' and forget that life moves on and things change, yours truly included. We have to keep up – not because we have to move with the current fashions and fads – but because it is a matter of duty – we owe it to our clients to do the best job by the current standards.

Case in point: my knowledge of grammar and spelling and all things editing comes primarily from what I was taught by my mother and others as a child. My education was a very British English based one and now I am constantly caught out because style, grammar, and lots of other things pertaining to it have moved on. It was at the workshop on 24 July that I found out, from Carla Morris, much to my consternation, that I shouldn't be placing semicolons after phrases in a list format anymore. Funny as it may sound, I really loved doing that, but I have to move on. That's not what the accepted style is any more.

I'm a writer as well. I like playing with words and I like informing others. I have to be accurate, however, so the sessions on copyright and referencing were very relevant and much needed. As a journalist, I have to ensure the accuracy and relevance of every source and often I do have to refer back to it in the final piece. As a writer, I think I might owe Bon Jovi some money in licensing fees.

The defamation session was extremely fun, at least for me, because I think that's when my competitive streak kicked in (so I humbly apologise to those at my table). After that, I raced everyone else to complete the exercises, simply because the material grabbed my attention. The conversations I had were fun too, ranging from the nature of freelancing through the perils of working the website to the complexities of drilling for oil in the sea bed.

Those who attended the workshop probably got a lot of different things out of it. The best part for me was not that I had my brain engaged for the greater part of a day, and not necessarily the wonderful, important information I learnt, but the fact that I got to play (and I mean 'play') with words and ideas with a group of thirty people who, at least to some degree, share that passion. For giving me such a good day out, I'd like to thank: Amanda Curtin who organised it, Jan Knight who assisted, Ursula Shaw who ran the financial side of things, Carla Morris and Mar Bucknell who were great presenters and the members (and non-members) who showed up and made it work.

I think we need more workshops. I, for one, would like to see more of the members because I find you all a fantastically fascinating bunch of people and it's a shame we don't get to see most of you that often. More importantly from a professional point of view, we get to help you improve your skills, your business, and your knowledge of the industry. By all means, let us know what you think you need and we might be able to set up a few more workshops in the future. I'd like to learn more, not just from those who present, but also from the others around me. ■

IPEd Notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited
www.iped-editors.org
June–July 2010



The IPed Council met three times during the period covered by these notes, discussing a wide range of matters bearing on activities and progress in the new financial year. Readers are reminded that the minutes of council meetings, once confirmed by all participants, are placed on the website.

Proposal for a new *Style manual*

The council meeting on 16 June was devoted to just one item: discussion of a proposal to respond to a request for expressions of interest (REOI) for the ‘Exploration of Solutions for the Australian Government’s *Style Manual*’.

The REOI was released on 12 May by AusTender on behalf of the Department of Finance and Deregulation, with the closing date for submissions being 29 June. Unfortunately, the council did not become aware of the request until some time after its release, so decisions and actions were needed within an even tighter time frame than that allowed by the department. We were in time to register for an industry briefing scheduled for 27 May but were surprised to be told that it had been cancelled ‘due to lack of public interest’.

At the 16 June meeting, councillors agreed that IPed, through the societies and their members, had the expertise and experience to make a strong contribution to the development of a new edition of the *Style manual*. Also at the meeting was Steven Smith, chief executive of Adelaide-based company Website Criteria. Steven is the author of the *Website Writing Guide* and *Living Websites*, and has built several Australian Government websites. Given the strong focus of the REOI on the need for extensive coverage of online writing and editing, a field that has changed almost beyond recognition since publication of the 6th edition of the *Style manual* in 2002, it seemed clear that a joint bid involving both ‘traditional’ editors and the ‘new breed’ of online workers would benefit all stakeholders.

The response to the REOI delivered on 29 June was under the IPed banner but framed on the understanding that, if the matter proceeds, the work would be done under an alliance of IPed and Website Criteria, with design input from members of the Australian Graphic Design Association (AGDA) managed by Brenton Murray, its current national president and principal of BMD, a design studio with offices in South Australia and Queensland. A ten-member advisory committee has been established, comprising accredited and distinguished editors, Website Criteria and BMD representatives, and the IPed Secretary.

It needs to be understood and stressed that the members of the advisory group would not necessarily be involved in the hands-on activities if the alliance’s submission were successful: some might be, some not. It is the council’s objective that the bulk of the work would be devolved, on a fee-for-service basis, to as many as possible of the highly skilled and experienced editors who are the members of the seven Australian societies of editors. This is high-level work for our members that would, we believe, bring them professional and personal rewards over and above any fee received.

Because our bid is commercial in confidence, council cannot divulge more detailed information at present. Perhaps it suffices to say that the council believes that, with our

partners, we have made a very strong case for involvement in some, if not all, aspects of the creation of a new *Style manual* for the internet age. I personally believe that it is little short of amazing that a national organisation not much more than two years' old has the capacity to make such a submission – but then editors are amazing people.

What happens next? If our EOI is successful, we will, along with other successful bidders, be asked to submit a firm tender. We do not know as yet when that might be, but the department's timetable gave 16 July as the date by which it would have completed assessment of the expressions of interest. Your IPed councillor can keep you informed of developments.

Exam Lead Writer and Assessors appointed

The Accreditation Board (AB) has appointed Heather Jamieson DE (NSW) as the Lead Writer for the next accreditation exam, to be held in 2011. She will be assisted in this role by Renée Otmar DE (Vic.). Also appointed during June, following an invitation to all Accredited Editors, were 11 IPed Assessors: Sofie Bird (Vic.), Helena Bond (Qld), Christopher Brennan (Tas.), Phil Bryan (Vic.), Julie Ganner (NSW), Rosemary Luke (SA), Liz Steele (Vic.), Tina Thornton (Tas.), Susan Wales (Canberra), Lan Wang (Vic.) and Penny Wheeler (Canberra). The IPed Assessors take over the work of the now dissolved AB Assessors Forum comprising distinguished editors nominated by their societies.

As well as 2011 exam development, the AB is currently researching the requirements for re-accreditation which IPed Accredited Editors must seek every 5 years to retain their status. Two potential models are being assessed.

Website renewal

Following an exhaustive tender process, Adelaide design studio BMD (also, coincidentally, a partner in IPed's *Style manual* REOI) has been awarded the contract to design IPed's new website.

Work is now proceeding apace, directed by Rowena Austin and Rosemary Luke of the IPed Communications Committee. Council and AB members are busy writing new copy for the site, for which a launch date of 1 September has been set. To minimise costs, as much as possible of the construction of the new site is being done by our skilled and reliable band of volunteer workers.

The website team seeks your immediate help in building a cache of snappy word or punctuation plays for use as teasers on the home page. 'Commas They save lives!', which recently did the rounds, is an example of the type of item they are looking for. Did you see it? It contrasted 'Let's eat, Grandpa!' with 'Let's eat Grandpa!'. Please send your witty and incisive contributions to Rowena Austin austinr@austinwilliams.com.au.

IPed Occasional Papers series

A reminder about IPed's earlier call for papers in the first of its Occasional Papers series, 'Insights into editing'. This series aims to encourage editors and those working in editing-related fields to share their ideas, views and reflections on editing as theory, as practice and as a profession. The closing date for entries to the first round is 30 September. Full details can be found on the institute's website.

Ed Highley

Secretary



Welcome to New Members

Louise Love – Heathridge
Mary Elgar – Leederville
Josephine Rollinson – Floreat
Camilla Brokking-Maltas – Belgium

An Editor's lot

Christina Houen: I have a grant from DCA to write a collective biography of Fairbridge single parents and their children (news about this will be posted in the next month or so in the writingWA newsletter and via the Agenda section of the Saturday West Australian). To supplement this, I also have quite a bit of editorial/research assistance work lined up for academic staff in the department I've been working in at Curtin.

Mabel Kaplan: A soon to be released local history of a mining town occupied much of my time in the first half of this year. I was invited to edit the manuscript. It was hard work. Much of it contained very technical terms associated with mining and machines. But most difficult of all were the hundreds of names of people associated with both the town and mine over a thirty-year period that had to be checked and rechecked. I never dreamed that one person's name could be spelt in so many different ways. It taught me much about editing and proofreading!

Have you a story to tell? Please share it.



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