

ffpress

November 2007

Newsletter of the Society of Editors (Queensland) Inc. www.editorsqld.com

On the green and in the pink

Eighteen members and a few guests took their shoes off (or otherwise managed to wiggle their toes in a relaxed manner) at the New Farm Bowls Club on Saturday evening, 10 November, for the final SocEdsQ gathering for 2007.

Those who barefoot bowled (and those who were embarrassed by the state of their toenail polish and wore socks) got into the spirit of things and completed quite a few ends between 6 and 8 pm. An intriguing variety of bowling techniques were displayed, and skill levels fluctuated positively and somewhat less so throughout the session, to the amusement of those present.

This also seemed to tickle the funny bones of some intoxicated non-SocEdsQ patrons, as well as offend the sensibilities of others; advice, commentary and offers to 'bowl the next one for ya' were all rejected.

Scores were sort of kept but the author has no wish to detail them here; suffice it to say that the winners were gracious and the non-winners were even more so. It was a very enjoyable outing.



Our part of the green was ... surprisingly spacious.



The queen of the green making a stand as far away from the jack as possible.

inside out

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A Queensland branch of ANZSI?

Hello fellow indexers or anyone interested in supporting indexing — perhaps you are an editor, a librarian or an archivist, an author or a technical communicator, a doctor or a scientist, an historian or a poet. That's right, *people who use indexes!*

Here is a challenge: I am writing to ask for a show of interest/enthusiasm to form a branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) in Queensland.

Do indexers in Queensland *want* a branch in ANZSI? Do we *need* it? Will it benefit us?

To my knowledge, the Society of Editors (Queensland) meeting on the first Wednesday of each month is the only forum where editors and indexers can congregate. I know that I have joined the Society of Editors to find some camaraderie, to network and to build friendships with experienced professionals who are working in the publishing industry. This meeting is an outing that I look forward to each month.

I would love to meet fellow indexers, or anyone interested in the field, on a regular basis.

- ★ Ten persons only are required to form a branch.
- ★ Guest speakers could entertain us.
- ★ We could have our own training sessions. (Out-of-towners, please note that I have three beds with ensuite to accommodate you.)

Please contact me by telephone on 07 3893 1252, mobile 0416 097 629, or by email at brown5moira@yahoo.com.au to express your interest (or to give reasons for your lack of enthusiasm) regarding this idea of a Queensland branch of ANZSI.

I would also like to hear from all those professionals who have done an indexing course. This is your chance to be heard and to experience regular contact with like-minded professionals.

Let's make 2008 our first big year in Queensland!

Moira Brown

2007 newsletter award winners

I'm pleased to announce the winners of the two awards the Society of Editors (Queensland) can bestow for original contributions to *Offpress*. The Management Committee agreed with the Editor's recommendations for 2007 as follows:

- ★ *Offpress Editor's Prize*: Dr Sue Turner for her excellent two-part article entitled 'Great editors' (June and August)
- ★ *John Kerr Award for Book Reviews* to Tim Bugler for his exploration of a new scientific style resource, *Subtleties of scientific style* (August issue).

The idea behind these awards is to encourage original articles, reviews, drawings and so on from members, as well as to honour the memory of John Kerr, a former president of the society. The *Offpress Editor's Prize* takes no account of the slaving regularly done by the editor and regular contributors who write up meeting minutes, reports on speakers and so on. The prize is not to reward hard work, but to encourage new blood (*thanks to Paul Bennett for those last few words*). Sue and Tim will each receive \$100 plus certificates, our admiration and hearty applause.

Life members *

Barbara Ker Wilson (2002)
Jan Whelan (2000)
Mary-Jane Bosch (2000)
John Collins (1993)
Laurie Muller (1993)

* year of award in brackets

Attention thesis proofreaders

The Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) provides a fact sheet to PhD candidates seeking proofreading services for their thesis.

If you are experienced in proofreading theses and would like to be added to their list, please contact kim.smith@adm.monash.edu.au. For more information, or call Kim on 03 9905 1084.

Be a keyword editor

We want to add some new content to the Freelance Register on our website that will *attract more people through search engines*.

If you've got something to say to the world about the type of services that freelance editors can offer (e.g. corporate, fiction or academic editing) or around questions that you think people might ask when seeking editing services (e.g. how much do editors charge) our Website Officer, David Hill, would love to hear from you.

David's keen to get articles of 150–300 words on the above topics, and is happy to talk to anyone who is interested in finding out about incorporating keywords in articles, as well as how search engines use keywords from web pages.

Contact David by email at website@editorsqld.com.

Odd book titles compete again

The UK's *The Bookseller* magazine has again released its shortlist of oddest book titles in the run up to the announcement of the winner at the next London Book Fair. Last year's winner was the impressively titled *The people who don't know they're dead: How they attach themselves to unsuspecting bystanders and what to do about it* by Gary Leon Hill, a spiritualist. This title narrowly edged out (by two votes) *Rhino horn stockpile management: Minimum standards and best practices from East and Southern Africa* by Simon Milledge.

The search for peculiar book titles has been going on since 1978. The Bookseller/Diagram Prize (otherwise known as 'infamy and a bottle of champagne') celebrates 'the bizarre, the strange and the simply odd', according to Joel Rickett, deputy editor of *The Bookseller*. 'This year's shortlist shows that despite publishers cutting back their lists, literary diversity continues to flourish.'

Current contenders for this annual prize include:

- ★ *Better never to have been: The harm of coming into existence* (David Benatar).
- ★ *Tattooed mountain women and spoon boxes of Dagestan* (Robert Chenciner, Gabib Ismailov, Magomedkhan Magomedkhanov and Alex Binnie).
- ★ *Ancient starch research* (Robin Torrence and Huw J. Barton).
- ★ *How green were the Nazis?* (Franz-Josef Bruggemeir, Marc Cloc and Thomas Zeller (Eds)).

And my personal favourite:

- ★ *The stray shopping carts of Eastern North America: A guide to field identification* (Julian Montague).

The winner is decided by public vote.

Source: Adapted from BBC entertainment news, <http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk>

2008: what will the next year bring?

Well ... the Management Committee held a planning meeting recently in order to firm up some of the ideas that had been floating around regarding meetings, speakers, training, mentoring, the national organisation and promoting the profession.

Our President, Robin Bennett, will have a full report for members in the February issue of *Offpress*, but until then, here are some teasers:

- ★ Several well-known authors are being pursued as speakers.
- ★ Meetings are planned on professional issues such as copyright.
- ★ Workshops in the areas of children's lit editing and pagination program knowledge are proposed.
- ★ Support for a mentoring scheme is being gathered.
- ★ Efforts re the nurturing of the fledgling national body are continuing.
- ★ Promotional activities in Queensland are set to be boosted by the arrival of three volunteer marketing/pr people.

Humour for lexophiles

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulted in linoleum blown apart.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'taint yours, and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

[Thanks to Helena Bond for this lot. Ed.]

Committee members 2007–2008

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NB: This month it's mostly Georgia regular 11pt on 12pt leading, with smatterings of Lucida Sans, 10pt on 11pt.

Note: Copy deadline for the February 2008 issue of *Offpress* is Wednesday, 13 February 2008 (how scary is that?!).

APA and Literature Board launch the 2007 Residential Editorial Program

The Australian Publishers Association and the Literature Board of the Australia Council, today announced their continued commitment to Australian literary editing, calling for applications to attend the fifth biennial *Residential Editorial Program* (REP), to take place at Varuna, the Writers' House in Katoomba, NSW, between 26–31 May 2008.

Mid-career editors will take part in an intensive five-day program to develop literary editing skills with highly respected industry practitioners, including Judith Lukin-Amundsen, Bruce Sims and Jo Jarrah. Having acknowledged the importance of her editors — Bruce Sims and Ivor Indyk — in the success of her book *Carpentaria*, Alexis Wright, 2007 Miles Franklin Award winner, will speak at this elite editorial mentoring program. Other speakers will address topics such as editing young people's literature, Indigenous publishing issues, and story structure.

Chair of the 2008 REP Committee, Linda Funnell, said: 'Nurturing a strong editorial culture is vital for writing and publishing, and since its inception in 1999 the REP has consistently provided high-level development for mid-career editors, focusing on the particular demands of editing creative work'. Chair of the Literature Board, Imre Salusinszky, confirmed that 'Literary editors deserve such support and nourishment'. And one past participant in REP called it 'the most beneficial professional development program I have ever taken part in'.

In 2008, the REP will again offer editors a unique opportunity to refine their talents, with Robyn Sheahan-Bright managing the program.

There will be a limited number of scholarships available for freelance and Indigenous editors. It is an important initiative that we should all be aware of, so please read all the details that can be found on our website: <http://www.publishers.asn.au/>

web wanderings

Investigations continue into whether or not there really is a Da Vinci code:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2007/11/09/last-supper-da-vinci.html>

Ordering a pizza in the not too distant future could become an exercise in privacy invasion:

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/grandmafaith2/orderingpizza.htm>

If you'd like to explore the web for more bizarre book titles, a good place to start would be:

<http://www.RussellAsh.com>

Amusement park physics: what are the forces behind the fun?

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/parkphysics/>

What it took to get an 8th grade education in 1895...

Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education? Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895?

This is the 8th grade final exam [extracts thereof] from 1895 in Salina, Kansas, USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, and reprinted by the *Salina Journal*.

8th grade final exam: Salina, KS — 1895

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
 2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
 3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
- ... plus 7 other questions.

Arithmetic (Time, 1 hour 15 minutes)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
 2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 ft. long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
 3. If a load of wheat weighs 3,942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1,050 lbs. for tare?
- ... plus 7 other questions.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
 2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
 3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
- ... plus 5 other questions.

Orthography (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
 2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
 3. What are the following, and give examples of each: trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
- ... plus 7 other questions.

Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
 2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
 3. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
- ... plus 7 other questions.

Notice that the exam took *five hours* to complete. Gives the saying 'he only had an 8th grade education' a whole new meaning, doesn't it?

[Thanks to Josephine Brown for this; wider source unknown. Ed]

Calling all Central Queensland members!

Marianne Hayward is a new SocEdsQ member who would like to meet fellow members in the Central Queensland area. Marianne is based in Gladstone. If you would like to get in touch with Marianne (or if there is already a network of like-minded professionals in or near Gladstone) please contact her via email: haywardmarianne@yahoo.com.au. Go go go!



Oh, for the love of punctuation

An English professor wrote the following words on the board and asked his students to punctuate them correctly.

A woman without her man is nothing.

All of the males in the class wrote:

A woman, without her man, is nothing.

All of the females in the class wrote:

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Punctuation is *powerful*.

PEEPS!

(Episode 5)

Toby's idea of night bowling had galvanised the PEEPS! committee (even the initially reluctant Sophie) into feverish action. The venue was booked, the canapés were confirmed and the guest list was satisfyingly varied. As a profile raiser for their fledgling society, it was shaping up to a stellar debut for PEEPS! The committee held a lounge bar drinks meeting the night before the event to make sure everything — and everyone — was in order.

'So', said Shirley, 'is everyone clear about the order of play?'

'I'll be chatting to the politicians with John,' stated Ellie.

'Shirley and Sophie will be backing me up while I talk to the business and publishing people', said Rodg, absentmindedly agitating the olive in his martini. He didn't see Sophie poke her tongue out at him.

'And Anita and I will be focusing on drawing out the miscellaneous education folk', said Toby. He continued: 'The key to all the chit chat is the promotion of plain English. Are we sorted with conversational starters, mains and desserts?'

They were indeed sorted. Anita enquired:

'Have the prize vouchers been printed yet Sophie?'

'They have; the proofs looked fabulous! I'll pick them up tomorrow on my lunch break. I got an extra one done ...' she looked at the PEEPS! people lounging around the low table, pausing to ensure she had everyone's attention, and then went on: 'I'm giving the shakiest guy there the ---'.

Next time: 'Oh Sophie!'

Signs of our times

As sighted by Paul Bennett



Above: Get it wrong, get it right

Left: Expensive shirts not catered for

Letter to the editor

Dear Kim,

It was good to hear Ian Rankin give accolades to his editor in the interview with Kerry O'Brien on Thursday eve ABC 7.30 Report. I wonder if anyone got to the special event he gave in Brisbane to learn more. It would be good to know who the editors of such famous writers are, following up on our 'Great editors' and 'history of editing' theme.

As ever,

Dr Sue Turner

[Thanks Sue; SocEdsQ folks — if anyone has any info about this as per Sue's query, let me know. If you need to refresh your minds re the aforementioned 'theme', refer back to the June and August issues of Offpress. Ed]

Quotable quotes

I take the view, and always have done, that if you cannot say what you have to say in twenty minutes, you should go away and write a book about it.

Lord Brabazon of Tara (1910–74) British businessman and Conservative politician

When you say that you agree to a thing in principle you mean that you have not the slightest intention of carrying it out in practice.

Bismarck (1815–98) German statesman

History ... records the names of royal bastards, but cannot tell us the origin of wheat.

Jean Henri Fabre (1823–1915) French entomologist

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors: November 2007

Editors recently had the opportunity to review the plans for establishing the profession's national peak body as a legal entity. The draft constitution of IPEd, the result of many hours of thought and discussion as well as paid legal advice, was available on the IPEd website for members to read and comment on. [The closing date for comments was 15 November.]

All the feedback on the draft constitution from individuals and committees will be collated and incorporated by the interim council into a final version, which will be reviewed by the lawyers. The next step is to register IPEd with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Law. This process should be complete early in 2008.

The Accreditation Board is also busy with collection and collation. Administering the accreditation scheme is a large task, and the board is preparing a procedures manual to ensure that the scheme operates efficiently and consistently.

The workshops held in each state on the sample accreditation examination produced lively discussion and constructive comments. Many editors were concerned that the exam will be too difficult or rigorous, but we hope that as they come to understand the process these fears will dissipate. The feedback from the workshops is very valuable and the Assessors Forum will use it to refine the exam to match our members' requirements.

As Australian editors take steps to formalise professional recognition and develop the profession's profile, parallel moves are taking place on the other side of the world. It is instructive to look at the efforts of the Editors Association of Canada — go to <www.editors.ca> and follow the links to 'Certification'.

This will be the last IPEd notes for 2007. Until we resume publication in February, you can keep up with the latest IPEd news on the website.

Janet Mackenzie
IPEd Liaison Officer



Queensland editors, indexers, librarians, archivists, teachers, authors, technical communicators are invited to a ...

NUTS and BOLTS of INDEXING session

Come chat with Max McMaster and ask any questions you might have — from the general to the specific — about indexing.

≈ Entry is free.

≈ Date: Monday, 10 March 2008, at 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start

≈ Join Max for dinner afterwards at the venue following the session

≈ Venue: Brisbane (to be advised in February 2008 *Offpress*)

≈ RSVP by 16 February 2008

≈ Contact: Moira Brown: brown5moira@yahoo.com.au;
T: 07 3893 1252; Mobile: 0416 097 629.

**Seasons
greetings!**



Festive best wishes to all
SocEdsQ members.

Training report, October 2007

Editing for the web workshop

Sixteen participants attended the 'Editing for the web' workshop conducted by David Hill for the Society of Editors (Qld) Inc. on Saturday, 13 October 2007.

The workshop was designed to introduce editors to the topics, jargon and extras they need to consider when producing or re-working content to be published online. The participants were mostly experienced editors looking to develop or enhance web editing skills. The day went extremely well; participants were pleased with the workshop and felt that the content was relevant to their needs.

Evaluation forms summary

Eight questions were put to workshop participants for feedback purposes. On a rating scale ranging from 'fair' to 'excellent' responses were mostly in the 'very good' and 'excellent' categories. The questions asked included:

1. Was the content of the workshop what you expected?

Yes (13) No () Sort of (1)

2. How would you rate the presenter?

Poor () Fair () Satisfactory (1) Good (1) Very good (6) Excellent (6)

3. How much do you feel you have learnt today?

Not much () A fair amount (6) A lot (7)

Comments from participants:

- ★ I enjoyed the activities. I particularly liked that David designed a good structure and then followed it but without being trapped by it.
- ★ Thank you for taking the initiative to broaden our awareness in a field where such knowledge is becoming essential.
- ★ Informative, relaxing, put a lot of things in perspective/ provided very useful revision. Useful and relevant print and ppt resources.



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Your news and views

We welcome any contributions to our monthly newsletter. Copy deadline is one week after the general meeting. Please send articles, letters, book reviews, details of interesting web sites, anecdotes, snippets and quotes to the editor at offpress@editorsqld.com.

Treasurer's report

(July to October 2007 inclusive)

Income	\$
Bank interest	855.83
Membership fees	3856.00
Freelance Register	1980.00
Member meeting fees	320.00
Total income	<u>7,011.83</u>
Expenditure	
Website	125.10
Postage, printing and stationery	125.10
Speaker expenses	329.90
Seminar/workshop expenses	220.00
Member meeting expenses	340.00
Sundry	986.40
Total expenditure	<u>2,126.50</u>
Surplus for period (Income over Expenditure)	<u>4,885.33</u>

Rebecca Campny, Treasurer

Membership information

The Society of Editors (Queensland) Inc. came into being in 1990 with the object of promoting the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of information on matters of professional interest in the publishing industry, and to help in establishing and maintaining high standards of editing and publishing. Since that time, the Society has grown from a gleam in the collective eye of a few editors to a professional association of some standing. It has been involved in the development of the Diploma of Editing (Publishing) at TAFE, and the former Graduate Diploma of Publishing and Editing at Griffith University.

The Society holds training workshops and seminars for its members, and is responsible for producing the Register of Freelance Publishing Services (updated every few years, and containing entries for editors, designers, illustrators, layout experts and so on).

There are three levels of membership:

- Full membership: open only to people professionally engaged in editing and publishing; the membership

application must contain details of the applicant's experience and the names of publishing companies and organisations worked for. Annual fee: \$45

- Associate membership: open to anyone interested in the activities of the Society; there are no voting rights, and associate members are not eligible for election to Management Committee positions. Annual fee: \$35
- Student membership: open only to full-time students who cite their student ID number; there are no voting rights, and student members are not eligible for election to Management Committee positions. Annual fee: \$20

People who live more than 50 km from the Brisbane GPO pay half-fees. Application for membership is assessed by the Management Committee.

Visit the website or contact the Membership Secretary for an application form.

website: www.editorsqld.com; email: membership@editorsqld.com (please also include your postal address).