



Hot metal to hot news: July speaker report by Jennifer Beale

Alan Siggs from Queensland School of Printing and Graphic Arts (SBIT, Morningside) led [/'led/] us through a short printing history by recounting briefly his own experience: from apprenticeship in the 1960s as compositor (hot metal) at William Brookes & Co setting textbooks (I remember *Senior Algebra*) to digital pre-press, desktop publishing and multimedia at Southbank.

In Alan's presentation slides (www.editorsqld.meetings.lounge.htm), this printing history is merely a list on page one: his comments and the photos (Print Museum, Morningside: 3244 6358 for visits) showing the many changes in printers and processes during that short period really brought home the rapidity of that change — after all, the Gutenberg Bible was 1455.

Stories of required daily milk drinks (supplied onsite) counteracting lead [/'led/] poisoning, the need for mirror reading (upside down and back to front?) and developing strong leg muscles (one leg only) brought alive

the setting of hot metal (hand or machine typesetting).

We moved through formes, chases, platens and leading [/'ledɪŋ/]; letterpress, offpress and lithograph; and the delights of real cut and paste, punch tape and Bromide, to the first 'pagination systems' (definitely not wysiwyg!) and multicolour printing: 2-, 4- (cmyk), 5- (plus what-you-will — gloss, varnish, gold, silver ...) and now 12-colour (A1 format). And so to the digital age: the hot news is Adobe's Creative Suite.

So much to take in. Of most use to editors: the print debate with testing of serif versus sans serif (Wheildon) and best-practice advertising design (Ogilvie); the potential (but not yet clinically tested) non-serif best fit for onscreen text; and the three 'important considerations' of *appropriateness, readability and legibility* strongly presented in Alan's document.

Alan's own wish list shows through, reflecting good basic typography standards that have stood the test of time to achieve these considerations.

[Thanks for a fabulously succinct report]B! Ed.]

Contact points: SocEdsQ

Please visit our website at www.editorsqld.com for all contact details.

August meeting

At our August meeting Dr Roslyn Petelin will speak about current trends in editing.

Ros is the convenor of the Writing, Editing, and Publishing program at the University of Queensland, and Editor of the *Australian Journal of Communication*. She has recently returned from conferences in both the UK and USA, and will share some insights from these with us.

The meeting will be held in the Members Lounge at the Brisbane German Club (Vulture Street, East Brisbane); entry is \$5. You can arrive from 6 pm for a meal and a chat, with the meeting commencing at 7 pm.

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editors, including their contribution to their societies.

Every step towards creation of a formal Institute of Professional Editors and a national accreditation system has led to detailed questions about present and future aspects of the profession. Further profound thinking about the future of editing, the demands on editors and their relationships with others involved in the publishing industry is necessary.

Editors in Converstaion provides an invaluable contribution to these discussions and an all-too-rare celebration of distinguished editors.

Robin Bennett, reviewer

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panel session featuring five of them.

These highly experienced editors, with a very wide range of combined expertise and backgrounds, discuss how they got into editing, changes in their areas of expertise and client services, professional

relationships, technology, outstanding projects and the advice they would give to potential editors.

The book was launched at the recent national editors conference in Hobart.

I recommend *Editors in Converstaion* to any editor or would-be editor. This is the most thought-provoking text I have read on the role, relationships and challenges facing members of our profession.

It celebrates the achievements and contributions of eight distinguished

During the national editors conference held in 2005, members of the Occasional Series on Australian Editors working group organised conversations/informal interviews with Lee White, Renée Otmar, Beryl Hill, Wendy Sutherland (Victoria), Pamela Ball (South Australia), Loma Snooks (Canberra), Sheila Allison and Robyn Colman (Tasmania).

Editors in Converstaion contains the edited text of these conversations with honorary life members, a biography of each and the text of a

IPEd notes: July 2007

The beginning of July is the deadline for various activities of the Interim Council and its offshoots. If everyone keeps to their promises, by the time you read this not only will the website be transformed, but it will also contain several new items for you to think about.

The Communication Working Group and the Website Working Group are collaborating to finalise the revision of the website. The new version will incorporate several new functions and will be much more appealing and easier to use. We hope it will be the channel for communication between IPEd and the members of the societies of editors, as well as presenting a professional image to the general public.

Following the members' overwhelming endorsement of the proposal to establish IPEd as a company limited by guarantee, the Interim Council expects to have a draft of the constitution available for comment soon. Members will then have one month to send their comments on the draft to their IPEd delegate, and the Interim Council will consider the feedback and make any necessary revisions by the end of August. Work is proceeding on a business plan and an indicative budget for the newly incorporated entity.

The Accreditation Board is considering the reaction to its presentation of a sample editing examination at the national conference in Hobart in May. Many participants were concerned at

the prospect of a handwritten exam and expressed a strong preference for doing it on screen.

The Accreditation Board has prepared an issues paper to explore all the ramifications of moving to an on-screen exam, including an estimate of the extra costs of providing computers and technical assistance. The issues paper will be posted on the IPEd website, and members are encouraged to study it and respond via their Accreditation Board delegate. The Accreditation Board is also collecting information about intentions to sit the exam; so far it seems that most members want to take the first opportunity and hope to sit in 2008.

Meanwhile the Assessors Forum is working on the marking system for the sample editing examination that was presented at the national conference, and both the exam and the answers will be posted on the website. Members are invited to work through the sample exam in their own time. During the second half of the year each society of editors will hold a workshop so members can discuss their impressions of the exam and raise their concerns. The recommendations from these workshops will be taken into account in preparing the actual examination, which is expected to be held in March 2008.

Janet Mackenzie
Liaison Officer
<www.iped-editors.org>



Redact 2007

Following the success of last year's inaugural Redact residential training course, the Society of Editors will be holding a second weekend course in Mansfield from Friday, 12 October to Sunday, 14 October 2007.

The course provides the opportunity for intensive study of editorial processes and is suited to both beginner and experienced editors. Participants will work collaboratively on a specific publishing project, from raw MS to finished product, under the guidance of a senior Victorian editor with extensive experience in that area. The three publishing strands offered this year are:

- fiction, with Sarah Brennan
- biography, with Bryony Cosgrove
- trade, with Paul Watt.

The cost of the course will be \$460 for Society of Editors members and \$510 for non-members. Accommodation is available at the course venue, the Alzburg Inn Resort, at prices ranging from around \$140 to \$325 p.p. (two nights, plus breakfast), or elsewhere in Mansfield.

Full details and a registration form are now available on the Society's website, www.socedvic.org. Early registration is advisable, as places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Exam workshop

Keep your afternoon hours on 22 September free for the accreditation exam workshop!

Email enquiries@editorsqld.com if you have any of those.

Web wandering

A scientific approach to chocolate appreciation? Why not! Go to <http://www.fieldmuseum.org/chocolate/>.

If scientists wrote nursery rhymes, how many could you solve?

* **A human female, extremely captious and given to opposed behaviour, was questioned as to the dynamic state of her cultivated tract of land used for production of various types of flora. The tract components were enumerated as argentous tone-producing agents, a rare species of oceanic growth and pulchritudinous young females situated in a linear orientation.**

* **Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does your garden grow? With silver bells, and cockle shells and pretty maidens, all in a row.**

[Thanks to Helena Bond for this. Ed.]

Modern workplace vocabulary

BLAMESTORMING: Sitting around in a group discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

CUBE FARM: An office filled with cubicles.

XEROX SUBSIDY: Swiping free photocopies from one's workplace.

OHNOSECOND: That miniscule fraction of time in which you realise that you've just made a *big* mistake (for example, you've hit 'reply all').