

March information exchange

‘Come to Hobart!’ Jennifer Beale entreated. And with good reason: there’s an excellent program planned on editing in ‘streams’ (think expertise, not water), some big name speakers, a BELS (Board for Editors in the Life Sciences) exam, Saturday morning workshops and Saturday afternoon Style Council.

The Beatrice Davis Fellowship is on offer again and Robin Bennett gave us some details about that. Rosie Fitzgibbon, the inaugural winner, also spoke about the benefits of the fellowship. Applications for this year close on 12 April. You might also wish to investigate the John Curtin Fellowship for editors by going to the APA’s website (you can link from our site).

Robin also mentioned the evolving relationship the Society has with the QWC: the upcoming workshop we are offering for them is titled ‘Grappling with the grammar beastie’, and there is also talk of seeking funding from the Arts Council to provide a paid ‘manuscript assessment service’ to QWC members. In further collaborative news the Brisbane Writers Festival has invited the Society to join their planning team later this month.

On the accreditation front, the exam looks like being a 3-hour ‘Saturday in October’ event with a focus on Standards A3, D and E. Candidates will be able to bring a few reference works (such as the *Style Manual*). More information will be given about IPEd and accreditation at the Society’s EGM on 2 May.

Kim Manning spoke about the two prizes that are available to creative *Offpress* contributors: the *Editor’s Prize* and the *John Kerr Memorial Prize*. Both of these prizes are for original contributions to the newsletter (not speaker reports/meeting notes); the focus of the former is quite broad and could be awarded for a letter or an article or a cartoon or ... (you get the idea), but the latter is for the best book review published in *Offpress* in a year. Both prizes come with a congratulatory \$100 and the Management Committee would love to award them later this year, so get writing!

Moira Brown, the Queensland contact for ANZSI (the professional body for indexers) reminded us of the link between our two professions and highlighted that there are now 23 ANZSI members in this state. If you require any details about indexing services Moira is happy to help: brown5moira@yahoo.com.au.

Thanks to those members who came along on the night for our information exchange. Check our website for details on all of the topics that were covered, as well as a few URLs to help you find more.

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors
March 2007

Both the Interim Council and the Accreditation Board held very productive face-to-face meetings during February.

Interim Council

The Interim Council unanimously agreed on the wording of a proposal to put to the members of Australian editors societies by 1 May for endorsement. This document will form the basis of IPEd's constitution when it becomes a legal entity as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, which should be accomplished by 30 June. The Interim Council reviewed its financial position and methods. It has drafted a policy and streamlined the procedure for one of its main costs, reimbursement of expenditure on meetings, such as airfares, accommodation and catering. An indicative budget is on the website, <iped-editors.org>, under Meeting Minutes, 08/10/06, Attachment 7, and an update will be attached to the minutes of the February meeting when they are posted on the site.

The development of the website is slower than expected. The reason is the pressure of preliminary tasks, such as making the edwiki feature of the website accessible to Macintosh browsers. Macintosh users can now edit edwiki documents if they use the 'Firefox' browser, but not Macintosh's own 'Safari' browser.

The Interim Council received a progress report on the national conference, to be held on 9–11 May at Wrest Point, Hobart. Several high-profile guests will introduce a broad and enticing program on three types of editing: science and education; the public sector and corporate publications; and creative writing and fiction. National conferences are always stimulating and enjoyable (perhaps the IPEd Singers will reprise their unforgettable performance) and members who miss out on this one will have to wait for Adelaide in 2009. Registration is easy through the conference website at <tas-editors.org.au/conference2007.htm>, or follow the link from the IPEd site. Associated events include a BELS examination to certify editors in the life sciences; a reception at Government House; a book launch, *Editors in Conversation*; and workshops on the day following the conference.

Accreditation Board

The Accreditation Board is exploring the effects of the recommendation to introduce a copyediting examination as a first level of accreditation. Since this is a major alteration to the scheme accepted by the membership, a proposal will be put to the members through their societies. Having achieved agreement in principle, the Board will circulate a sample examination paper so that prospective candidates understand what is required. It is hoped that the first examination will be held simultaneously in all capital cities on a Saturday in October this year.

Janet Mackenzie
IPEd Liaison Officer

Newsletter prizes

The *Offpress* Editor's Prize

Background: This prize was initiated by Paul Bennett in 2003. The \$100 prize, to be presented at the June meeting, is awarded to the best article sent to *Offpress* in a year.

Rules:

- 'Best' will be judged by a panel comprising the incumbent newsletter editor and one other member who has minimal or no *Offpress* involvement (for impartiality).
- Articles should be around a page, not much more or less.
- A cartoon, on its own, may be judged as an article.
- Cartoons may feature as part of an article but they must be original, and by the author.
- If the panel thinks that no article was good enough to win the prize, it will be rolled over to the next year of *Offpress*.
- Only paid-up members of the Society are eligible.
- The newsletter editor and the other judge cannot enter.
- The panel's criteria are: originality, humour, usefulness, elegance.
- There will be no appeals.

The John Kerr Memorial Award

Background: This prize (\$100, a certificate and a bottle of wine) was initiated in early 2004 as a tribute to the late John Kerr, a well-known historian, much-valued member, and former President of the Society. John was instrumental in guiding the Society through the complex procedures leading to incorporation in early 1998. After his period in office he remained active in the Society and was frequently to be encountered at its meetings.

Rules:

- The award is to be given for the best book review published in *Offpress* for the year.
- 'Best' will be judged by the Management Committee.
- Only paid-up members of the Society are eligible.
- The newsletter editor cannot enter.