Robin Appleton joined the Society of Editors (NSW) in the 1980s. Since then she has been a member of the committee each year bar one and has been a proofreader of the Blue Pencil newsletter (and at one stage contributed a monthly column to it). Robin was president of our society for two years (1994 and 1995).

Robin started editing in the 1960s in the days when people like Beatrice Davis were still working, although overall there were few women editors in the workplace. Robin worked as an assistant editor at Sydney University Press and editor at Hale & Iremonger. She worked on three editions of the Australian Encyclopedia. Through the mid 1970s to mid 1980s Robin trained many people in Australia who are now working as publishers, authors, editors and proofreaders.

Robin has made a great contribution to the profession of editing...

She works freelance today and recently qualified as a horticulturist. Most of you will have met Robin as she pitches in at the front desk at our monthly meetings.

Robin has made a great contribution to the profession of editing across Australia. In 1992 Robin was awarded the Inaugural Editor-in-Residence to an Australian university.

In the 1980s Robin started to teach editing and taught courses at Macleay College, the NSW Writers’ Centre and The Journalists’ Agency. Robin also taught the Publishing Process and Practice of Editing as a Continuing Education course at the University of Sydney and the Fellowship of Australian Writers in Perth; taught an
The following letter is in response to the article ‘Unresolved issues with IPEd’ by Pam Peters, published in the March issue of Blue Pencil. Blue Pencil welcomes further contributions to this debate.

At the national conference in 2005, IPEd explained that ‘the next step in the process is to prepare a detailed, costed proposal, including a draft constitution or set of rules, so everyone can see exactly what the responsibilities and costs will be, and the members will then vote on that proposal.’ So it is not logical for Professor Peters to be concerned that ‘issues such as the structure of the federal body, its relationship to the State societies, and especially its budget … remain unresolved.’

As foreshadowed at the conference, the National Organisation Working Group (NOWG) has begun work on a paper which will propose solutions to all these matters. In due course everyone will see the details of costs and responsibilities, and the proposal will be put to a national vote of members according to IPEd’s usual practice (and exactly as Professor Peters recommends). Many of the matters that need to be dealt with have already been canvassed in a June 2005 paper from the NOWG, which was discussed and commented on by all the societies. The societies know what is happening, and are signing off at each step along the way.

**Budget**

Obviously the financial implications of forming a national body need to be carefully examined, and we have made a start on this task. But until the plans are further advanced, many of the costs are unknowable. For instance, yearly running costs may depend partly on the fundamental decision about legal structure—whether the national body is an incorporated association or a company limited by guarantee—so far as accounting costs might be higher for one than the other.

The proposal put to the members will explain the pros and cons, including the costs, of this choice. We would like to know the basis for the claim that ‘the legal costs alone associated with a federal body would be of the order of $15,000 per annum’ as this seems way beyond other estimates from those with experience in this area.

A budget, of course, includes income as well as expenditure. At the national conference we made it clear that IPEd does not expect members to provide all of its funds. It has in view a range of activities that will produce revenue and is pursuing substantial grants from funding bodies. Thus the claim that ‘membership fees for the NSW Society would have to rise to $300 p.a.’ to cover the costs of a national body has no basis in reality, whatever the operating costs of IPEd.

**The claim that there was insufficient consultation concerning the conduct of the 2004 accreditation vote is unsupportable.**

**Decision making and autonomy**

Professor Peters correctly says ‘At this stage it is still unclear how much of the decision making carried out at the State level will be taken over by the proposed federal body.’ Certainly it is unclear: it is yet to be formulated, let alone decided. The draft constitution that the NOWG is preparing will state IPEd’s powers and its relations with the societies, and members will choose whether to accept or reject these arrangements.

Professor Peters asks for guarantees that the federal body will engage in full consultation on…crucial professional matters’. IPEd (and its predecessor CASE) has a proud record of scrupulous and detailed consultation with members on every significant issue during its seven years of existence, and the pattern of consent to all its proposals shows that IPEd is accurately reflecting members’ aspirations and concerns.

The claim that there was insufficient consultation concerning the conduct of the 2004 accreditation vote is unsupportable. The voting papers that were sent to every eligible member set out the nature and requirements of the vote, and this followed discussion by the members of all the societies of regular progress reports from the Accreditation Working Group (AWG), beginning in 2002. A large majority of the members with an interest in accreditation voted in favour of the scheme proposed by the AWG.

**Support for state initiatives**

The article states ‘The terms of reference for IPEd are rather elusive in terms of whether the needs of individual societies will be recognised and addressed by the federal body.’ The phrase ‘terms of reference’ misconstrues the process that the societies are engaged in, and ‘elusive’ suggests that IPEd is trying to put one over on them. In fact, as IPEd emphasised at the national conference, it ‘is proceeding on the basis of an important recognition—the strength of the profession is in the local societies… We would be mad to interfere with or jeopardise their effectiveness in any way.’

The make-up of the IPEd Interim Council, which consists of a delegate from each society, ensures that every State and Territory has a say at the highest level of the organisation. Since decisions are made by consensus, any one society can exercise a veto. So far, none has done so. The Accreditation Board also has a representative from each society, as do most of the working groups. There is no reason for the new, formal body to alter these arrangements, which have proved their worth.

The NSW society’s participation in IPEd makes great demands on a small number of people. Rather than raising imaginary fears of a federal takeover, Professor Peters should be calling on more NSW members to volunteer in order to increase their State’s representation. We are pleased to report that two new representatives from New South Wales joined NOWG in February.

 Correction: Pam Peters has requested that the word “legal” be changed to “legal and accounting” in paragraph 2 of her article ‘Unresolved issues with IPEd’ that appeared in the March issue of Blue Pencil.

continued on page 4
AGM minutes 2006

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
7 March 2006

Present: About 38 members were present. Apologies: Rebecca Crannaford, Moira Elliott, Pam Peters, Patricia Potts.
Welcome
The meeting opened at 7.15 p.m.
Minutes of previous AGM
The minutes of the AGM of 1 March 2005, as reported in the April 2005 edition of Blue Pencil, were accepted.
Financial report
The treasurer’s report published in the March 2006 edition of Blue Pencil was accepted. The president thanked the treasurer for her efforts through the year.
Motion: Two Vice Presidents
An ordinary motion circulated in the March Blue Pencil proposed that the structure of the committee be changed by allowing one or two vice presidents. It was pointed out that there were some consequential changes to the rules, and an amendment to incorporate these in the motion was accepted. The motion then became:
That Rule 7 (b) of the society be changed from:
“The office bearers shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. There shall be up to five other members of the committee.”
to: “The office bearers shall be a president, one or two vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer. There shall be up to five other members of the committee.”
That Rule 9 (a) be changed from: “The president or, in the absence of the president, the vice-president, shall act as chairperson ...”
to: “The president or, in the absence of the president, a vice president, shall act as chairperson ...”
That Rule 9 (b) be changed from: “If the president and vice president are absent from a meeting or unwilling to act, ...”
to: “If the president and vice presidents are absent from a meeting or unwilling to act, ...”
The president explained that this change would give more flexibility to the committee and would allow recognition of distinguished members. After some discussion, the motion was passed on a show of hands.
National committee
There was a short discussion of progress on formation of the national committee.
Election of committee
The president thanked committee members for their work over the year, and vacated the chair. Mr John Fleming, the society’s public officer, conducted the elections. He announced that the following proxies had been submitted: Pam Peters, Patricia Potts and Lee Samaniego had given proxies to Pauline Waugh. Gillian Hamilton and Deirdre Mowat had given proxies to Janice Beavan.
Executive committee
President: Two nominations were received. In a ballot, Michael Lewis received 22 votes and Pamela Hewitt 20. Michael was therefore declared President.
Vice President: Five nominations were received. The result of the ballot was: Pam Peters 30; Shelley Kenigsberg 18; Terry Johnston 15; Pauline Waugh 14; Isabel Workman 8. Pam Peters and Shelley Kenigsberg were therefore declared Vice Presidents.
Secretary: Bruce Howarth
Treasurer: Janice Beavan
General committee members: Robin Appleton, Catherine Etteridge, Selena Hanet-Hutchins, Terry Johnston, Pauline Waugh.
Public officer: John Fleming
Other positions
Blue Pencil editor: Catherine Etteridge
Membership secretary: Bruce Howarth
Publicity officer and Meetings coordinator: Terry Johnston
Professional development coordinator: Pauline Waugh
Website coordinator and Catering officer: Jennie Begg
As no elections were required, John declared all the above office-bearers elected. He pointed out that the society was in a very strong position, with such a large group of workers.
Pauline Waugh took the chair and thanked all departing committee members for their work, thanked all new committee members for their willingness to support the society, and thanked John Fleming for conducting the election.
Honorary life member
Terry Johnston proposed that Robin Appleton be made an honorary life member. Robin has been a member of the society since the 1980s and has made a very great contribution to the society and the publishing industry by her own work and the training she has provided. John Fleming seconded the motion, which was passed by acclamation.
Close of business
The new president thanked members and offered some closing remarks. The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.
The article is mistaken in claiming that IPEd will siphon off most of the financial resources of the societies; it will have its own sources of funds. Limits to the supply of volunteer labour are a potential concern, but so far members are voting with their feet. As of January 2006, the total active membership of the Interim Council, the Accreditation Board and the working groups numbered more than fifty, in addition to the two dozen distinguished editors who will be the initial assessors for the accreditation scheme.

Professor Peters conceives of the relationship between the national body and the societies in oppositional terms, with the federation obliged to offer ‘compensatory support’ for its depredations. This is unfortunate: in fact the national dimension of the profession has been collaborative from the beginning. Already the societies have been vastly strengthened and broadened by their participation in IPEd and by its initiatives such as the program of biennial national conferences.

Constitutional issues
IPEd is fully aware that all the societies are independent incorporated bodies and has pointed out that they may need to amend their constitutions if they wish to join a national organisation. This is a matter that each society will have to attend to, and some are already drawing up amendments to put to their members in the form prescribed by law. These are not insuperable barriers, merely things that need to be done.

Action plan
Although many issues concerning the nascent national body are necessarily unresolved at present, IPEd has achieved more than Professor Peters apparently realises. All the points she lists as requiring urgent attention are already in progress or in preparation.

Professor Peters reports that ‘one New South Wales member has observed, the accreditation tail seems to be wagging the dog—and in danger of sweeping it off its feet!’ This dog and its tail are well coordinated; the notion implicit in such criticism—that one could contemplate establishing a national professional association without a major objective, such as accreditation of its members—defies reality. And there is no ‘rush to start up an accreditation scheme’, unless one believes that a deliberative process that began in 2001 and will not admit its first member until at least late 2007 is rushing things.

We’re writing the manual—chapter and verse—for our national organisation, for a publication date that is still a fair way off. Professor Peters, through her membership of IPEd’s Education, Training and Mentoring Working Group, is a member of the writing team. We appreciate her positive contribution in this. Anyone else with input is warmly invited to join a working group of interest to them, and contribute to the process.


2. The reports are on the IPEd website, <iped-editors.org>.

The authors of this response are Janet Mackenzie, IPEd liaison officer; Ed Highley, IPEd secretary; and Trischa Mann, convener of the IPEd National Organisation Working Group. It is endorsed by the following IPEd delegates on behalf of their respective societies: Virginia Wilson, Canberra; Christine Atkinson, Northern Territory; Susan Rintoul, South Australia; Sheila Allison, Tasmania; Katya Johanson, Victoria; Ann Surma, Western Australia; and also by Shelley Kenigsberg, convenor of the IPEd Standards Revision Working Group; Rosemary Luke, convenor of the IPEd Education, Training and Mentoring Working Group; and Kathie Stove, convenor of the IPEd Promotions Working Group.

As noted in the disclaimer on page 7 of this newsletter, the above item represents the view of its authors, and its publication here does not imply endorsement by the editor or by the committee of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.
IPEd notes March 2006
News from the Institute of Professional Editors (formerly CASE)

IPEd’s teleconference in mid February was a welcome chance to review progress made during the summer. The Interim Council is improving both its communication and its administration. Plans are well advanced for a new website which will not only offer a national forum for members but will also ease IPEd’s internal communications and improve our record-keeping and archiving. The Canberra society has offered to hold a sub-account for IPEd funds as an interim measure until IPEd becomes a formal body. Most societies have formally agreed to the proposed levy of $20 per member to help with the initial costs of setting up the national organisation and have decided how best to raise the money.

Accreditation
Workshops are being held in each State and Territory to explain the assessment process and hear members’ concerns [the NSW workshop will be held in June]. The Accreditation Board, chaired by Robin Bennett (Qld), will collate and analyse the information gained from these discussions to plan the information kit that will be sent to applicants and the guidelines for assessors. Board members will also select questions that participants have raised and publish a response to them in CredAbility, the Board’s monthly newsletter column to begin in April. The Board has been deciding on timelines for 2006 to 2007 and is planning to make a detailed presentation to the national conference in Hobart in May 2007. Societies have nominated distinguished editors to assess the first round of applications; a list of their names and brief biographical details will be published shortly, and a very impressive list it is.

Working Groups
We welcome the new convenor of the Promotions Working Group, Kathie Stove (SA). Kathie has formal expertise in the area of editing and a background in business administration. She has a history of working with the Australian Standards for Editing Practice, so we look forward to her contribution.

The National Organisation Working Group led by Trischa Mann (Vic.) is developing the content of the proposal for a national organisation. They have reached some preliminary conclusions but there are still many details to be investigated, and they expect to present the proposal to members by mid to late 2006. If members accept the proposal, the new body will be registered soon after.

As if that wasn’t enough, these energetic people are looking into mentoring, so the group’s official name is now the Education, Training and Mentoring Working Group.

The Standards Revision Working Group, with Shelley Kenigsberg (NSW) as convenor, is charged with updating Australian Standards for Editing Practice. The group is considering whether to embark on a more thorough revision to rewrite the document in a form that can be used for competency-based learning and training. This would enable the profession to meet demands from an industrial environment that is insisting on more formal vocational educational qualifications, but it is a large undertaking.

The group is looking into methods of tackling this project, including funding, timing, and coordination with the other working groups. The group would welcome more members, especially if they have expertise in developing Training Packages.

Meanwhile, down in Hobart, the conference committee is making good progress in organising the 2007 national conference, which has the theme ‘From inspiration to publication’. For more information, visit the website <www.tas-editors.org.au/conference2007.htm>.

Janet Mackenzie Liaison officer <www.case-editors.org>

Robin Appleton
Barbara Ker Wilson
Bruce Champion
Gil Teague
Jacqui Kent
Barbara Ker Wilson
Robin Appleton

Robins Robin Appleton

continued from page 1

‘As a result of her work and encouragement...the
Societies of Editors of
ACT, Western Australia
and Northern Territory
were founded.’

Robin has taken editorial training to many parts of Australia and presented her courses in Canberra, Perth, Taree, Orange, Melbourne, Darwin and Alice Springs. As a result of her work and encouragement in Canberra, Perth and Darwin, the Societies of Editors ACT, Western Australia and Northern Territory were founded.

Robin has also presented papers at the Australian Booksellers Conference, at universities in Western Australia and New South Wales and as far afield as Anchorage, USA (for the USA Oral History National conference).

Members of The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. may be interested to learn more about those who have been selected as Honorary Life Members in the past. The society does not confer Honorary Life Membership very often, so candidates who have received this accolade represent the best of our profession. Below is a list of recipients.

HONORARY LIFE
MEMBERS OF THE
SOCIETY OF EDITORS
(NSW) INC.

Bruce Champion
Jacqui Kent
Gil Teague
Barbara Ker Wilson
Robin Appleton

evening course from her home and gave a series of proofreading courses at Petersham Town Hall.
Galley Club visits digital printer, 28 March
Visit the cutting edge of digital printing. The Galley Club of Sydney has organised a visit to Ligare Digital, 115 Bonds Road, Riverwood on Tuesday, 28 March 2006 at 7 p.m.
Fed up with curling digital covers? Wondering about the cost effectiveness of a digital print run? Do you have concerns over paper and print quality from one printing to another? Whatever area of publishing and printing you work in, come and see the sheet-fed and web-fed digital presses in operation, along with in-line saddle-stitching.
The visit is free and refreshments will be available. Visit the website <www.galleyclubsydney.org.au> for more details or contact Samantha at <catering@galleyclubsydney.org.au>.

Bologna Children’s Book Fair, 27 to 30 March
The 43rd annual Children’s Book Fair will be held in Bologna, Italy from 27 to 30 March. The fair will be the meeting place for children’s book publishers from around the world, providing an opportunity to buy and sell rights to children’s titles, establish new contacts and see the latest trends in children’s publishing including educational materials.
Visit the book fair’s official website at <www.bookfair.bolognafi ere.it>.

Ninth Annual Freelance Convention for Journalists, Artists and Photographers, Melbourne, 7 to 9 April
The Ninth Annual Freelance Convention for Journalists, Artists and Photographers will be held at the Medina Grand, 189 Queen Street, Melbourne from 7 to 9 April 2006.
The convention will tackle writing that first book, developing narrative, interviewing techniques, survival tips for the would-be freelancer, global freelancing and negotiating payment and sessions on how to go about wooing the country’s best editors.
Speakers include investigative journalist Phillip Knightley; award-winning documentary maker and author Bob Connolly; writer and author Gideon Haigh; international freelance journalist and author John Martinkus; editorial director of the Australian Women’s Weekly, Deborah Thomas; and more.
For full program and registration visit <http://freelance.alliance.org.au>.

Read The Fine Print
Read the third issue of The Fine Print, an online journal dedicated to editing, which is now available at <www.emendediting.com/ezine>. The journal is published each February and August. Contributions on all aspects of editing are welcomed.

Freelancers do lunch, 10 April
The next freelancers’ lunch will be held at Bar-Italia, 169 Norton Street Leichhardt at noon on Monday, 10 April 2006. Mains at Bar-Italia cost about $10 to $15.
Buses to Leichhardt leave George Street near Town Hall frequently and the journey takes about 25 minutes.
There is no need to RSVP. See you there!

2005 Society of Editors (NSW) prize awarded
The 2005 Society of Editors (NSW) Inc Prize for the outstanding student in the editing subjects of the Macquarie University program in Editing and Publishing was awarded to freelance Ms Deirdre Mowatt.
Deirdre maintained a consistent High Distinction in her university work, and was also awarded a special prize relating to the redesign of the magazine TABS, put out by the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors.

Varuna Residential Editorial Program, participants for 2006 announced
The participants of the 4th biennial Residential Editorial Program (REP) at Varuna—the Writers’ House in Katoomba, New South Wales, have been announced. The REP will take place between 29 May and 3 June 2006.
This year’s participants are Sarah Brennan, Justine Molony, Jessica Dettman, Saskia Adams, Alexandra Nahlous, Catherine McCredie, Nicci Dodanwela, Anna Crago, Michelle Madden and Lydia Papandrea. Two freelance editors, Annabel Blay and Amanda Curtin, will attend.
The program allows mid-career editors to take part in an intensive five-day program to develop literary editing skills with highly respected industry practitioners, including three of Australia’s most accomplished editors as mentors.
Seduction review announced

The Australian Law Reform Commission has announced the terms of reference for its inquiry into sedition clauses that were passed last year as part of the federal government’s anti-terrorism laws. The Attorney General foreshadowed the independent review after media groups and a Senate inquiry said that the sedition laws would impinge on freedom of expression. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance is campaigning for sedition to be removed entirely. Visit the blog <www.alliance.org.au/blog>.

Call for contributions

Have you been to an interesting conference or event? We welcome your contributions to Blue Pencil.

We would like to publish your articles, book reviews or letters. Please email the editor at <cje_editing@hotmail.com>.

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.
PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007; Voicemail: (02) 9294 4999 <www.editorsnsw.com>.

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Assistants: Robin Appleton, Janice Beavan, Moira Elliott, Julie Harders, Meryl Potter
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Your comments and contributions are welcome. Mail them to the Editor, Blue Pencil, Society of Editors (NSW) Inc., PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007, or email Catherine Etteridge at <cje_editing@hotmail.com>.

Copy deadline for the May issue is Tuesday, 11 April 2006

The views expressed in the articles and letters, or the material contained in any advertisement or insert, are those of individual authors, not of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

Advertising rates
Full page, $375; half page, $200 (horizontal only); one-third page, $125 (vertical or horizontal); quarter page $100 (horizontal only); one-sixth page, $75 (half of one column). Inserts: $200 per hundred for DL-sized or A4 pre-folded to DL size. Circulation: approximately 375. Please note that the committee reserves the right to decide whether advertisements are appropriate for this newsletter.

Membership
Membership of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. is open to anyone working as an editor for publication (print or electronic documents) and anyone who supports the society’s aims.

Membership runs for a calendar year. 2006 fees are $75 for new members ($45 if joining after 31 May) and $70 for renewals.
To obtain a membership application form, phone (02) 9294 4999 or write to PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007. You can also download an application form from the society’s website at <www.editorsnsw.com>.

Listing in the Editorial Services Directory
The society’s Editorial Services Directory is available online at <www.editorsnsw.com/esd/>. New listings and updates can be added quarterly as follows:
• online only: July (deadline 30 June); October (deadline 30 September)
• print and online: January (deadline 31 December); April (deadline 31 March).
The cost is $40 per year ($20 for new listings received from April to September) in addition to the fee for membership of the society. New listings should be submitted using a template available from Cathy Gray at <cgray@mpx.com.au>.

Committee meetings
All members are welcome to attend the society’s committee meetings, generally held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact a committee member for details if you wish to attend the next meeting.

Blue Pencil, April 2006
Regional members living more than 200 km from Sydney may receive a 40 per cent discount on the cost of the society’s workshops (excluding computer-based workshops).

For more information about the society’s workshops, please email Pauline Waugh at <pauline.waugh@corporatecommunication.com.au>.

The Editor’s Job Market

The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. offers publishers the chance to advertise Positions Vacant, by email, free of charge. Reach the editors of New South Wales by using this free service to our members.

- Publishers: please send us your ad as a PDF and we will distribute it by email to our members. You are assured of wide distribution among your target audience.

- Members: please supply or update your email address so that the society can email you notices of jobs for editors.

We welcome advertisements for all editorial roles from trainee to publisher, for permanent, temporary or freelance jobs.

Email Bruce Howarth: <editorbruce@optusnet.com.au>