

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of
The Society
of Editors
(NSW) Inc.

ISSN 1030-2557

PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007

April 2009

Those were the days

In this thirtieth year since the founding of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc., long-time member Robin Appleton reflects on changes to editing practices over the decades.

1960s to 1970s

Ah, the 'old' days when bank tellers used fountain pens and could calculate the bank balances in their heads. Those were the days of Angus & Robertson offices on George Street and its store opposite David Jones on Castlereagh Street, and of publishers, now lost—Whitcombe and Tombs, Ure Smith and William Collins were still publishing in Sydney then.

Those were the days when editors shared small, untidy spaces with reference books; with piles of manuscripts from hopeful writers and already published ones; with returned remainders awaiting decisions from on high to sell on to pulp; and with well-used Remington typewriters with worn ribbons.

In those days the manuscripts might arrive, typed single-space and on both sides of the sheet with almost no margins. This was before the advent of Tipp-Ex and White-Out, and pre-photocopiers. Running your fingers over the typed page the ribbon ink

might smudge, but the feeling was akin to braille if the typing had been done with speed and purpose. Xerox was the modern copier, having almost superseded the Gestetner.

Enter the editor after the decision to publish had been made. Difficulties with space and clarity ensued as the manuscripts were often not editor-friendly. That was a time when some editors in some publishing houses were granted the luxury of long meetings with writers and the leisure of working and reworking the manuscript three or four times. Copyright letters might be worded by the editor and typed by a secretary who could type and understood how to change typewriter

ribbons without becoming covered in smudges of blue, black or red ink.

SILIAC was the only computer in Australia and it occupied the space of a large three-bedroom house and garden. Telephones were operated by switchboard operators manipulating cords into sockets to connect callers. Telegrams, and much later faxes, were the means of urgent communication between writer and editor or publisher. Answering machines were yet to become commonplace.

Proofreading—1950s to 1980s

Blue pencils for this, red pencils for that, green pens for proofs—each had

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Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 April 2009

Salaries, Superannuation and Insurance

Our recently released salary survey has put the spotlight on concerns that affect every professional editor. The issue of superannuation is particularly pertinent and John Myers from Media Super, which covers editors, journalists and writers, will be on hand to talk about superannuation.

A representative from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, which includes the Book Editors Award, will also outline pay issues affecting both freelancers and in-house editors. There will be an opportunity to ask questions arising from the salary survey and also to discuss issues relating to salaries and insurance for professional editors.

John Myers is Relationship Manager at Media Super Limited, the industry super fund for print, media, entertainment and arts professionals. John has a mixed background extending beyond superannuation into other more creative fields such as acting, producing and even puzzle-making. John's presentations attempt to decipher the jargon of the superannuation industry to help 'those who prefer words over numbers' also understand the basics of super.

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. Drinks and light refreshments provided. \$15 for members and students; \$20 for non-members and those who do not RSVP; \$7 for holders of a current concession card or student card. Non-members who book and do not attend must still pay.

Please RSVP to (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail) or the email address <editorbruce@optusnet.com.au> by Friday, 3 April 2009.

May meeting: The editor's position in a publishing company; Tuesday, 5 May 2009.

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its place and before biros the pens were fountain pens. To make a mistake on a galley proof (one-metre long) by using the wrong colour when proofreading could be a cost against the compositor (using hot metal), the editor or the writer. Each colour had its purpose. The writer also had a set of galley proofs.

Copyholders, holding the marked manuscript, would interpret editor's amendments and read aloud every capital, punctuation mark, paragraph opening, and so on, to the checker, who was usually the editor responsible for the work.

Then and now

Negotiating with inexperienced writers could be difficult because their expectations did not include the realities of the publishing process, such as the editor, designer, publicist,

and a budget. When challenged by the 'interference' of so many strangers and not understanding the purpose of much of the in-house procedures, writers—then and now—become bewildered and feel that they are not in control of their own work.

Moving from a typewriter with individual typebars for each letter on the QWERTY keyboard (which could become jammed) to that with a rotating ball changed the speed with which a secretary could provide copy for me. Typewriters were used until the late 1980s. Classic and Apricot computers set a new goal with writers but few knew how to use their new equipment to the full, and printing the material was often a problem.

Editors come and go. Some house styles are set in concrete, others not.

The following house style is no longer used, for some reason.

- 'z' for words with ancient Greek roots and 's' for words with Latin roots in 'ise' or 'ize' endings
- 'connexion', 'coördinate' and 'coöperation'

The technology used in the past was the most up to date for its time and yet might seem 'primitive' to younger readers. Editors work with various computer programs and many may be 'whiz-kids' in that field. What is disturbing is that for all the competence younger editors might display senior editors still have to correct the grammar and spelling, as these were neglected in recent decades of education. Editors need to keep learning.

Robin Appleton

Honorary Life Member

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 3 March 2009

Present

About 28 members and 3 visitors were present.

Apologies

Janice Beavan, Julie Ganner, Elena Guarracino, Saul Lockhart.

Welcome

The meeting opened at 7.10 pm. The acting president, Pam Peters, welcomed members.

Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM of 4 March 2008, as reported in the April 2008 edition of *Blue Pencil*, were accepted.

President's report

The president's report, as published in the March 2009 edition of *Blue Pencil*, was accepted.

Financial report

The auditor's report for the year ended 31 December 2008 was accepted. The acting president thanked the treasurer for her efforts through the year.

Election of committee

The acting 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 proxies had been submitted by the following people:

Bruce Champion, Hillary Goldsmith, Lachlan Jobbins, Terry Johnston, Gerry Kirshenbaum, Meryl Potter, Evelyn Roberts, Narayanan Sampath, Kerrie Tarrant, Gilbert Teague, Nadia Toppler

Executive committee

President: One nomination was received, so Pam Peters was declared president unopposed.

Vice presidents: Two nominations were received, so Catherine Etteridge and Terry Johnston were declared vice presidents unopposed.

Secretary: One nomination was received, so Michael Lewis was declared secretary unopposed.

Treasurer: One nomination was received, so Hillary Goldsmith was declared treasurer unopposed.

General committee members: Nominations were received from Robin Appleton, Julie Harders, Susie Pilkington, Shelley Reid and Narayanan Sampath, and these were declared committee members.

Public officer: John Fleming

Other positions

Catering officer: Nancy Shearer

Meetings coordinator: Catherine Etteridge

Membership secretary: Bruce Howarth

Newsletter editor: Denise Holden

Publicity officer: Terry Johnston

Editorial Services Directory coordinator: Cathy Gray

Professional Development coordinator: Meryl Potter

Website coordinator: Abigail Nathan

As no elections were required, John declared all the above office bearers elected.

Pam Peters resumed 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.

Close of business

The new president thanked members and offered some closing remarks for the AGM. The president then presented accreditation certificates to 7 of the 22 NSW members who passed IPED's first accreditation exam.

Salary survey results are in

We are delighted to present highlights from the results of the Society of Editors (NSW) Member Survey conducted in 2007.

A very big ‘thank you’ to everyone who completed the survey as the feedback was overwhelming. We received 98 responses, representing approximately one quarter of our membership, so we are aware that you valued the opportunity to have your voice heard.

While the time people took to respond to the survey is much appreciated, we’re sure all respondents will join in thanking those individuals who took the time to devise the survey and process all 98 responses. The survey was conducted by Meryl Potter, who many of you would know as the lead writer of the recent Accreditation Exam. Meryl’s attention to detail and wide knowledge of the publishing industry in NSW is reflected in the survey’s scope. We are very fortunate that she volunteered her skills to create and steer the survey. Denise Holden came on board the project to help process the responses. As well as generously providing her skills and time to edit *Blue Pencil* every month, Denise is a professional market research analyst. We were thrilled when she volunteered her expertise—the results speak for themselves. The survey was a massive undertaking so thank you Meryl and Denise.

In this issue we have enclosed highlights from the survey results. As the survey was very detailed we will present more data over the coming months, focusing on particular areas such as in-house and freelance rates.

One of the hot topics raised by the survey responses was superannuation

and we will have a representative from Media Super speak at the society’s next meeting (7 April).

The enclosed ‘Survey Highlights’ document provides a good picture of the editors of New South Wales. Around 80 per cent of respondents were female. Generally, respondents were very experienced professional editors with the majority (69 per cent) having more than 6 years’ paid editing experience and some more than 20 years’ experience (18 per cent). About three-quarters of respondents (74 per

‘Many respondents ... expect to rely on the age pension.’

cent) live in Sydney.

The editors who responded represented a wide range of areas and roles. Currently they work in education book, academic, government, corporate, trade book, magazine and custom book/magazine publishing. The majority of respondents were freelance editors (69 per cent) but 30 per cent work in-house.

Some survey results were very encouraging. The good news is that the workshop program provided by the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. is held in high regard. It was the most popular form of professional development, with 70 per cent of respondents participating in our workshops.

Some results were quite alarming. Of those editors who answered the

superannuation question, the majority do not put aside 9 per cent of their income for superannuation, with 63 per cent saying that they cannot afford to do so. Many respondents to this question (43 per cent) expect to rely on the age pension.

As anticipated, the results reflect the reality of life as a freelance or in-house editor in New South Wales. Salaries are low. This may be due to the high proportion of book publishers based in Sydney; the survey confirms book industry rates and wages are low. In-house salaries ranged from \$41,000 p.a. (Managing Editor—Books) to around \$70,000 p.a. (Editor/Managing Editor—Books). In the freelance world the median rate range for proofreading books was \$25 to \$40 per hour and for copy editing \$35 to \$45 per hour. Magazine freelance rates were also low—a median range of \$20 to \$33 per hour for proofreading and \$28 to \$40 for copy editing.

Most interesting was the response to our question: ‘Do you want the society to publish recommended fees as a guide to editors and their clients?’ An overwhelming majority (81 respondents) answered ‘Yes’. The most preferred option was to publish a fee range that varies according to editor’s experience or the task. The great freelance rate debate is a burning issue and it will be covered in depth in later issues of *Blue Pencil*.

**The Committee
Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.**

Congratulations to accredited editors

There were 22 successful candidates from NSW for the Accreditation Exam held last October. The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. congratulates the following members for their success in the first national Accreditation Exam for editors. All are now entitled to call themselves ‘Accredited Editor’ and to use the postnominal ‘AE’.

Monique Choy
Rebecca Crannaford

Anne Cullinan
Lisa D’Cruz
Paul Fitzgerald
Julie Ganner
Catherine Heath
Pamela Hewitt
Claire Linsdell
Suzanne Longstaff
Tara Mathey
Mark McLean

Jennifer Mosher
Graeme Prince
Evelyn Roberts
Louise Scahill
Jennifer Scepanovic
Frans Timmerman
Lilla Wendoloski
Robyn Wilkie
Theresa Willstead
Isabel Workman

IPed notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors Limited

Happy New Year to all our Members and their members.

This will be a big year for the profession in many ways, not the least because it's the year of our 4th national conference, to be held in Adelaide on 8–10 October. Planning of the conference, which will take the theme 'Getting the message across', is proceeding apace. A call for papers has been made, with the following strands or topic areas identified: corporate communication; the editor–author relationship; education and mentoring of editors; emerging media; food and wine; 'green' editing; poetry; science communication; writing and editing for younger readers; young and emerging editors. The organisers note, however, that submissions need not be restricted to these.

All national conference details can be accessed online, either directly at <www.editors-sa.org.au> or indirectly via <www.iped-editors.org>.

At its meeting (a teleconference) on 30 November 2008, the IPed Council agreed to a new 'Policy and procedure on expenditure', noting that it should be read in conjunction with the existing 'Policy and procedures on costs of meetings'. Both policy documents are available on the website, as will be the minutes of the meeting following their confirmation at the next council meeting.

At a meeting held in Adelaide on 17–18 January, IPed's Accreditation Board comprehensively reviewed the planning, procedures and outcomes of the first accreditation examination, held on 18 October 2008. Planning for the second exam, to be held later this year, probably in September, has begun. The Accreditation Board has a new chair: Larissa Joseph, from the Canberra Society of Editors. The board and the IPed Council have paid tribute to the retiring chair, Karen Disney, for her commitment and achievement over

the past 18 months. One of Karen's last tasks as chair was to write a detailed report on the 2008 exam. This can be read on the IPed website.

The IPed Council met in Adelaide on 14–15 February. The next IPed Notes will contain a report on that meeting.

Ed Highley
Secretary
www.iped-editors.org

Note from Chair

Following the November council meeting, a small subcommittee considered the gratifyingly large number of applications received for the position of Secretary. The choice of the subcommittee was unanimous: to confirm Ed Highley in the position where he has so ably performed for some time.

Virginia Wilton

Tiered membership

The society's tiered membership system will work as follows:

Categories

This membership year (2009) the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. will offer members the option of three categories:

1. Existing members (as at 31 December 2006) can remain an ordinary member at the current fee (\$70/75) with the current entitlements; or
2. Existing and new members can become a professional editor member at the current ordinary fee with the current ordinary entitlements, provided you have two years' experience in a paid editing role and can supply two letters confirming your experience; or
3. Existing and new members can become an associate member at a reduced fee (\$50) with reduced entitlements (an associate member cannot vote at an election, cannot become an office bearer and cannot be listed in the *Editorial Services Directory*).

Phasing in a new system

Before January 2011 all ordinary members will be asked to choose either:

1. Professional editor member status; or
2. Associate member status.

Four years should be sufficient time for those seeking professional status to gain professional experience if they do not already have it.

Experience

Professional editor members must have at least two years' in-house experience as an editor or the equivalent freelance or part-time experience. For example, if you worked half-time as an editor for four years (part-time or freelance) then that would be an acceptable equivalent to two years full-time work as an in-house editor. Professional experience must be in a paid editing role. As professional members may have had career breaks, there is no limit on how long ago the professional editing experience was obtained. Professional editor members will be asked to provide details of their experience and two letters (in English) that can be checked by a subcommittee appointed for this purpose. The subcommittee will simply confirm the statements supplied by the third parties. The letters can just be a statement of the years of experience in an editorial role. See the essential **Professional Editor Membership form** for more details about requirements.

Corporate Associates

A new category of Corporate Associates is also available. Publishing companies and other businesses and organisations that support the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.'s aims can become Corporate Associates. For an annual fee of \$400, Corporate Associates of the society will receive five copies of *Blue Pencil* each month and two copies of the *Editorial Services Directory*, five free admissions to each monthly meeting and two free admissions to special events, such as the Christmas dinner. The usual member rates on professional development courses and workshops will apply to Corporate Associates for up to five attendees.

The Committee
Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

Workshop report: Grammar Essentials

The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. held a Grammar Essentials workshop in February, presented by Pam Peters, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, Macquarie University.

Grammar is always a popular topic with writers and editors, and this workshop was booked out early from the waiting list. Twenty-two people came along on Thursday, 19 February to hear from Pam Peters, president of the society and author of the *Cambridge Guide to Australian English Usage* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

The purpose of the workshop was to give participants an overview of the landscape of grammar, some detail in specific areas, and the confidence and resources to seek out further answers for themselves. To paraphrase Pam's introduction, grammar should be something you can explore and feel comfortable with, rather than something you should feel bound by.

Participants had a variety of backgrounds and levels of confidence with terminology, but Pam geared the discussion to our needs and was careful to provide clear and practical explanations at all times. She began with a brief overview of twentieth century grammatical theories and then focussed on the two essential aspects of grammar: *morphology* (the form/structure of words) and *syntax* (the conjoining of words into phrases, clauses and sentences).

Next we surveyed the English word classes (or 'parts of speech'), which describe the use of words in context. Most people know *noun*, *verb*, *adjective*, *pronoun* and *adverb*, but some classes are less familiar (*determiner*, *conjunction*, *interjection*).

After morning tea we explored grammatical variation: the idea that not all grammar is fixed, but imbued with points of variability. Pam discussed the mobility of words from one class to another (for example, nouns like *impact* and *stretcher* being used as verbs), alternative formulations of clauses and sentences (for example, active or passive) and different kinds of number agreement (formal, notional or by proximity). She outlined the structural challenges to agreement: coordination of subjects, fixed phrases

(such are *there's* as opposed to *there is/there are*) and quantitative phrases.

There was a lively Q&A session after lunch, and participants chewed over questions of regional spelling (for example, *-ise* and *-ize*), hyphen usage, possessive apostrophes after names ending in *s*, and restrictive versus non-restrictive relative clauses. Pam then took us beyond the clause to look at the grammar of cohesion: how meaning is created by *lexical cohesion* (content words) and *grammatical cohesion* (function words such as determiners, pronouns, conjunctions and conjuncts and enumerators).

'Grammar should be something you can explore and feel comfortable with, rather than something to feel bound by.'

The day finished with an interesting session on the grammar of style: how grammar underpins stylistic expression and provides resources for adapting it. As Pam said, 'Grammar has everything to do with style, but it's not to do with right and wrong: more to do with appropriateness'.

As editors, we are reminded always to think of the audience when making choices. Just as there are variations in spelling in different countries (and within), there are also variations in form depending on the age of the user. Examples from *Australian Style* demonstrated that our language is more flexible than we often think.

For those of us who didn't learn grammar at school, or were taught that certain things were simply right or wrong, it was a relief to hear a perspective that encompassed flexibility. As someone lucky enough to have studied Latin at school and university, and who has taught grammar to non-native English speakers, I felt I had a pretty good grasp of the basics,

but it's always good to be reminded that there are many grey areas, and that style is a matter of making the best choice (rather than the *right* or *wrong* choice).

One participant wrote, 'I always like learning about alternatives depending on context, rather than hard and fast rules'. The general feedback was that the topics and content were just what we wanted. People had opportunities to ask questions throughout the day, and everyone left with lots of useful references to follow up.

Along with a list of helpful resources, Pam gave us a good tip for getting to grips with grammar: buy a dictionary designed for non-native English speakers. ESL dictionaries like the *Collins Cobuild Dictionary*, the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* or the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English* usually say more about the grammar of words than dictionaries written for native speakers.

Far from a dry discussion, Grammar Essentials was a fascinating and useful workshop for all involved. We learned that there's a lot more to grammar than rigid guidelines, and despite what you might expect, there's plenty of fun to be had discussing the nuts and bolts of language. I believe Pam's next workshop already has a waiting list! If you think you need to brush up on your grammar, it's well worth the day.

Thanks to Pam Peters, and to our Professional Development coordinator, Meryl Potter, for organising it.

Lachlan Jobbins
Outgoing Committee Member

Pam is presenting the Grammar Essentials course again on Thursday, 16 April. See the back page for details.

Freelancers do lunch, 28 April

The next freelancers' lunch will be held upstairs at the Exchange Hotel, corner of Beattie and Mullens streets, Balmain, at noon on Tuesday, 28 April 2009. Mains cost about \$10 to \$15. Buses to Balmain leave stand A, behind the QVB, every 10 to 15 minutes. Hop on a 441 or 442 then alight outside the hotel.

The society organises these informal freelancers' lunches every second month or so. The invitation is cordially extended to other freelancers who work in the publishing industry. There is no need to RSVP. See you there!

London Book Fair, 20 to 22 April

The London Book Fair brings together over 23,000 members of the publishing industry from around the world for three days of exhibitions, seminars and events. For details see the website <www.londonbookfair.co.uk>.

Galley Club free membership

The Galley Club has relaunched its website and now offers free membership to those who register online. Members are entitled to discounts on entry fees to Galley Club events. The new website provides a connection to the community of publishers, printers, editors, designers and illustrators at <www.galleyclub.com.au>.

Guide to making a digital living

The Australia Council for the Arts has launched a guide to the craft and business of writing in the digital era. A copy of *The writer's guide to making a digital living* can be downloaded from <www.australiacouncil.gov.au/writersguide>.

NT Writers' Festival, Alice Springs, 1 to 4 May

The second 'Eye of the Storm' festival, held in a regional location (in alternate years to the Darwin based 'WordStorm' festival), will be held in Alice Springs. Details from <www.ntwriters.com.au>

Books Alive moved to September in 2009

This year the book industry initiative, Books Alive, will take place in September, not August as it has done for the past seven years. Organisers claim the campaign has 'directly resulted in the sale of an extra 1.4 million books, valued at over \$12 million.'

Google class action settlement for scanning publications

Google has advertised extensively to advise anyone who could be affected about the impending settlement. Copyright owners have the option of remaining in the settlement; objecting to it or opting out by 5 May 2009; or filing a claim for cash payment by 5 January 2010. Full details available at <www.googlebooksettlement.com>.

Kindle 2 unveiled

Amazon revealed its new electronic book, Kindle 2, in February. Whereas the original version of the electronic book was the size of a paperback and could hold 200 books, its successor is as thin as an HB pencil and holds more than 1500 books. It costs US\$359. Details at <www.amazon.com/>.

Australian Educational Publishing Awards, closing 16 April

Established in 1994, these awards recognise and honour the best educational materials published during the year. In 2009 the awards celebrate excellence across all areas of education publishing—primary, secondary, TAFE, vocational and tertiary. Details are available at <www.publishers.asn.au>.

Edit Encyclopaedia Britannica anyone?

In a move to challenge the success of the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, which contains information submitted by volunteers, the online version of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Britannica.com, will now allow approved users to edit its listings. All entries will need to be from registered users and will be vetted before the changes are reflected on the

live site. However, unlike Wikipedia, contributors need to be subscribers (at a cost of around \$6 a month). The Australian site for Encyclopaedia Britannica is <www.britannica.com.au>.

Contemporary Fiction Festival, 5 April

A festival celebrating and exploring contemporary Australian fiction will be held on Sunday, 5 April at the NSW Writers' Centre from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Panels will discuss everything from crime to fantasy, the short story, creating desperate characters, turning real life into fiction, and next generation media. Speakers include Frank Moorhouse, Delia Falconer, James Bradley and more. For details visit <www.nswwriterscentre.org.au>.

National Editors Conference, 8 to 10 October 2009

Planning for the 4th IPEd National Editors Conference is well underway. The organisers are grateful to the generous support of sponsors Seaview Press, Wakefield Press, Coriole Vineyards, Salmat and She Creative. Early bird registrations will open mid-April. Registrations of interest can be registered now at <www.sapro.com.au/editors/roi.htm>. The theme of the conference is 'Getting the message across' and topics will include corporate communication, the editor-author relationship, 'green' editing and emerging media.

National Biography Award shortlist announced

The shortlisted authors for the National Biography Award 2009:

The Bone Man of Kokoda (Charles Happell, Macmillan)

The Flower Hunter: the Remarkable Life of Ellis Rowan (Christine & Michael Morton-Evans, Simon&Schuster)

Desert Queen: The Many Lives and Loves of Daisy Bates (Susanna De Vries, HarperCollins)

Tom Wills: His Spectacular Rise and Fall (Greg de Moore, Allen&Unwin).

CONFERENCE DIARY



ALS Gold Medal

The shortlist for Australia's oldest literary award is:

Her Father's Daughter, John Clancy, UQP

The Spare Room, Helen Garner, Text

House of Exile, Evelyn Juers, Giramondo

Divine Comedy: Journeys through a Regional Geography, John Kinsella, UQP

The Slap, Christos Tsiolkas, Allen&Unwin

Telling a Hawk from a Handsaw, Chris Wallace Crabbe, Carcanet

NEW MEMBERS

Jenny Edney

Eugene Gramelis

Heather Cam

Jeanette McKay

Toni Carroll

Nicole Alexander

Devika de Silva Wijeratne

Joyce Vasta

Bruce Sutherland

Fiona Howie

Katrina Fox

Sarah Fitzherbert

Robyn Smith

Susie Pilkington

Copy deadline for the May issue of

Blue Pencil

Tuesday, 14 April 2009

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Blue Pencil

Editor: Denise Holden

Assistants: Moira Elliott, Catherine Etteridge, Lachlan Jobbins, Julie Harders, Nicky Shortridge

Printer: Complete Design, Marrickville

Published: 11 issues a year (including combined January/February issue)

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 the Editor at <bluepencil@editorsnsw.com>.

Copy deadline for the May issue is Tuesday, 14 April 2009.

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 400. 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 is available in different categories.

Membership runs for a calendar year. The 2009 fees are \$70 for ordinary member or professional member renewals; \$75 for new professional members (\$45 if joining after 30 June); \$50 for associate member renewals or \$55 for new associate members. Interested organisations can become corporate associates for \$400 per year.

To obtain a membership application form go to the Society of Editors (NSW) website <www.editorsnsw.com>, phone 02 9294 4999 or write to PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007.

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 <esd@editorsnsw.com>.

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.

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Catering officer: Nancy Shearer

Email: <catering@editorsnsw.com>

2009 Workshops

Some of the workshops planned for this year are:

- Manuscript assessment and writing readers reports (adult fiction and children's books)
- Copy editing
- Proofreading
- Thesis editing

Professional development

Grammar Essentials

Date: Thursday, 16 April 2009

Time: 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Presenter: Pam Peters, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, Macquarie University

Venue: City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

Cost: \$195 for Society members, \$290 for non-members

Editors often feel that they need more grammar, but how much is enough? The major grammars of contemporary English consist of more than 1,000 pages, with vast networks of grammatical terms. Editors probably do not need to know all of them—unless they are aiming for a career change. What they do need for the purposes of professional editing is enough grammar to:

- make the most of dictionaries, style manuals and other language references
- understand and explain the variable points of current English usage
- capitalise on language resources for cohesive writing
- enlarge their repertoire for managing stylistic change.

Let's bridge the grammatical gaps and find grammatical resources for enhancing all aspects of writing and editing. The workshop is designed to be interactive and to allow for discussion of the ins and outs of usage as they arise. Feel free to email questions and examples before the workshop to <education@editorsnsw.com>.

Please register by Thursday, 2 April 2009. Cost includes lunch and refreshments.

Producing Annual Reports

Date: Friday, 29 May 2009

Time: 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Presenters: Irene Wong, Meryl Potter, Renee Carter

Venue: City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

Cost: \$195 for Society members, \$290 for non-members

Government departments, corporations and agencies increasingly recognise the value professional editors can bring to the process of annual report production. This practical, interactive workshop explores the skills needed to plan, manage, write, edit and proof an annual report. Topics will include:

- planning an annual report—an information development planning approach
- producing an annual report for a government department
- what to look for and where you can intervene in editing and proofing
- managing an annual report for a listed corporation
- beyond the PDF: the new demands of online reporting—including a demonstration of online annual reports.

Please register by Wednesday, 13 May 2009. Cost includes lunch and refreshments.

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).

To register for workshops use the enclosed form or download one from the website. Please note that workshops require a minimum of 10 registrations by the closing date to go ahead.

For more information about the workshops, email Meryl Potter at <education@editorsnsw.com>.

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