

# Blue Pencil

Newsletter of  
The Society  
of Editors  
(NSW) Inc.

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PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007

January/February 2009

## Forty years of books and memories

*At our November meeting Eve Abbey from the iconic Sydney store, Abbey's Bookshop, delighted the gathering with her recollections and anecdotes about selling books during the past 40 years.*

To celebrate the 21st, 25th and 30th birthdays of Abbey's Bookshop we gave our customers 21, 25 and 30 per cent discount off all books. We couldn't quite manage to repeat that for our 40th birthday! Instead we decided to publish a collection of anecdotes and historical memories to celebrate 40 years of bookselling in Sydney, which I was hoping to have with me tonight. It is at the printers right now but the Christmas catalogue, which is to go in *The Australian* in a few weeks, had to take precedence. So I'm hoping that if you are not on the mailing list you may come into the shop and pick one up—free of course. It's called *40 Memories* and is compiled from the recollections of customers, ex-staff and me so I shall try now and tell you some of those memories.

It's a surprise for me that we have been in business for forty years—just as it is a surprise to me that I am 77! Although this past week I think I did accept that, as we are in the process of installing a new computer software program for our sales and receiving department which, of course, does not seem as good as the one we are leaving. I hope you will sympathise with me when I say I

am not going to learn the new system, just now. Maybe after Christmas when everyone else is familiar with it they will be able to spare the time to retrain me. Because I only go in on Sundays it is hard to remember my training from Sunday to Sunday. I still go in each week—to see what is happening and to do some shelving and to get some books to read.

I am assuming I am in friendly territory here so I don't need to go into earnest talk about how important the book is. We are all agreed on that I hope. I do have to say what fun it has been to be a good bookseller—to feel connected with what is going on in the city and to be able to find just the right

book for the right person. I do want to emphasise how important it is to have friendly and well-stocked bookshops. I know you can get all sorts of things on the internet but it is much more enjoyable to browse, uninterrupted, along the shelves of a good bookshop. And bookshops need your custom. A good bookshop is part of the cultural life of a city. It is a good place to meet and, while browsing, you might even find something you didn't even know you wanted.

I also assume you know where Abbey's is. I recall the court case in which the lawyer was trying to describe how his client was looking for Alliance

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### **Next meeting: Tuesday, 3 February 2009**

#### **How I learned to stop worrying and love the paper...or... The A-Z of putting out a paper: the challenges and importance of being a small, independent publisher**

**Chris Peken** is the Group Manager and Music Editor of the Alternative Media Group. AMG publishes three publications: the weekly inner-city local newspaper *The City News*, the monthly local newspaper *The Bondi View*, and the monthly Sydney street paper *The Sydney City Hub*. As such, AMG is the only independently owned and run Sydney publisher of multiple local news and arts-based papers in a market dominated by News Limited and Fairfax.

With the *City Hub* being well established for over 13 years, Chris, alongside publisher Lawrence Gibbons, has grown Alternative Media Group from producing a single monthly title to the current stable of two monthly papers and one weekly. These publications represent the lone independent local news voice in inner Sydney, and now also present the most comprehensive weekly arts and entertainment listings and reviews in the city. Chris previously spent ten years working in radio with 3RRR, FBi and freelance at the ABC.

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 show up must still pay.

Please RSVP to (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail) or the email address <editorbruce@optusnet.com.au> by Friday, 30 January 2009.

**March meeting: Society of Editors (NSW) Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 March 2009—FREE to all members.**

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Française. The judge remarked, 'For heaven's sake, you go down that lane next to Abbey's. Surely you know where Abbey's is?'

Sometimes people look up a title on Amazon and then come to the shop and ask us to 'special order' it for them. Sometimes we even have it in stock. We have taken thousands of special orders for books from Europe, England and America, and nowadays we have excellent databases.

Before I tell you about these I want to sing the praises of Australian booksellers. We not only deal with books published locally but also those from both England and America, all the time. If you are shopping for books in England you will seldom see a Dover paperback and in America very few shops stock editions published in England but Australian booksellers buy from both these sources as a matter of course.

I recall one particular occasion when a customer was at the counter placing a special order. I heard the assistant taking the order ask the customer's name. I rushed over to where Gough Whitlam stood and said, 'She's too young, Mr Whitlam.'

Abbey's has come full circle. When we began selling books at 115 Pitt Street we were regarded as mavericks because we sold remainders up front. Now, I know that authors are not keen on remainders but readers like them and booksellers like them as we get a nice profit on them. Nowadays Abbey's is regarded as an institution. We are expected to have not only the latest and best but also the oldest. For example we stock all of the *Loeb Classical Library* and have sections on classical Greek and Latin and carry an enormous backlist. How this came about is part of our story. I think we always liked to be different.

## NEW MEMBERS

Grant Butler

Christine Howard

Jen Pope

Margaret-Rose Stringer

Elisabeth Thomas

Marianna Thomson

Ron Abbey started our first bookshop in 1968 in temporary quarters in what had been the Rural Bank Building but within a year we had moved to the Queen Victoria Building. Ron saw the Sydney County Council was moving out and asked me to ring them to see what was happening with the space. We took out another temporary lease at a very good rental that lasted for 14 years. Here we bought our first subscription to *British Books in Print*—two huge red volumes listing both author and title. We even

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### **'We expect the new website will list more than 800,000 titles.'**

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had a special lectern made to support these heavy books so we could read them more easily.

Later on we moved to receiving the information on microfiche. We would get both *British Books in Print* and an American listing from Baker & Taylor as well as stock lists from local publishers such as Penguin, Oxford University Press or Cambridge University Press. It took about five minutes to remove the old fiche from a ring binder and put the new ones in every month.

Nowadays we have on computer, available at all our four information terminals:

- BookData's *BookFind* which covers the whole English language but is best for Australian and British books
  - Bowker's *Global Books in Print* which is better for American titles
  - bibliographic information from three wholesalers: Baker & Taylor and Ingrams in America and Gardiners in England
  - *Title Page* which is run by the Australian Publishers Association and shows the stockholding in Australia.
- And of course we pay plenty to have this constantly updated information.

Our new website, which is due to go up in January, will incorporate some of this information. Originally our website showed only books that we either had in stock or on order, plus anything which had been sold during the previous twelve months. That is why we have the reputation of being able to supply internet orders so quickly.

The new website will also show titles that are either in stock or on order at Baker & Taylor or Gardiners

warehouses—titles which we can usually obtain within a week as we have a special airfreight arrangement from America. We expect the new website will list over 800,000 titles. We now probably take more than 2,000 special orders each month. It's a far cry from the days when we made out a special order on a triplicate form and filed our copies in two places.

In 1973, full of enthusiasm we not only opened Henry Lawson's Bookshop but also Centrepoint Bookshop. Henry Lawson's was a lovely shop full of memorabilia in what had been the Royal Arcade but is now the Hilton Arcade.

In 1975 we opened the first Galaxy Bookshop, specialising in science fiction and fantasy, in Bathurst Street. Over the years Galaxy has moved from there to Castlereagh Street, Clarence Street and is now at 143 York Street, just five doors away from Abbey's.

In 1982 we held our first Zonta Meet the Author Evening at Henry Lawson's Bookshop as part of the Women Writers Week. This year will be our 25th annual event.

At one time we had 'Abbey's Specialist Bookshops' printed on all our paper bags. We had ten shops. Some of them have gone the way of the world such as Bargain Bookshop, City Lights Bookshop, Paddington Penguin Bookshop and of course Centrepoint Bookshop.

The '70s were a giddy time. In those days Ron Abbey would often come back from a long lunch saying 'I've found a terrific place for another bookshop' and my heart would sink. Of course we didn't really have enough capital to open yet another bookshop and Abbey's didn't have a good reputation with the publishers then for paying our accounts on time. It wasn't until Jack Winning, Peter Milne and I bought out Ron's shares in 1994 that we were able to control expansion and now Abbey's is very good at paying on time. And we don't go 'on stop' and miss out on the new titles which used to happen to us 15 years ago.

In 1977 with the QVB listed for refurbishment we took out a lease at 66 King Street, in yet another site vacated by a bank. It was here that we expanded on our model of carrying all titles from a particular publisher. We felt we could leave the task of promoting a book to

the publisher and we would hitch on to this. It wasn't much use promoting a particular book in our advertisements when people could buy the book in lots of other places. We used to have a nice little earpiece advertisement on the top right of the *Sydney Morning Herald* that read 'Every title from Penguin, Picador, Dover, Everyman's Library, Virago, Loeb Classical Library'. We did indeed carry every available title which made reordering easy. We used to tap the ISBN into an adding machine and tear off the strip at the end of the day which we then pasted onto our official order form. If we had too many of a title we simply put a little red spot over the ISBN and it didn't get rung up. Quite a simple system, eh?

It was there, at 66 King Street, that we began the first Oxford & Cambridge Bookshop which offered an amazing range of serious books. We had a special arrangement whereby we received a sample or consignment copy of every book they held in their warehouse. We did not pay for these books until they were sold. This meant we had, on offer, very expensive and esoteric books which would not usually get on the shelves of a city retailer. It was an asset for the publisher, who, in effect, had a free display room in the centre of town; an asset for us as we certainly could not afford to buy such books; and an asset for the readers who could browse all of these fascinating books. This arrangement no longer applies to Oxford University Press but it does still operate with Cambridge University Press which is why you will see, for example, all of the Needham's *Science and Civilisation* on our shelves.

We took this idea with us when, in 1983, we moved from King Street to 131 York Street, a brand new building where we took the ground and first floors. Initially we sublet half of the first floor to an insurance company while the office and Language Book Centre occupied the other half. It wasn't too long before the Language Book Centre needed the entire floor.

We did eventually find that this display by publishers became too unwieldy and perhaps also the 'image' of individual publishers diminished. So we rearranged the sections in 1988 leaving only Oxford & Cambridge titles as a separate area but by 1992 we also amalgamated these books into the

main shop. Some people, especially academics, regretted this. They had liked to come into the shop and quickly scan the new titles area of the Oxford & Cambridge Bookshop. However, I think they got over that, especially since today we have more than 200 metres of shelves showing new titles in separate subject areas. Books stay on these areas for up to three months, then they move on to the section where they belong.

In 1989 we had a nasty shock when the shop was fire-bombed by Muslims protesting about us selling Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*—but to look on the bright side it did mean we had to reorganise the shop yet again and it was at this time we introduced computerisation of the stock holding and point of sale information.

When we first began we didn't even bother with stock cards. We imagined we knew exactly what we had in stock

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**'We didn't bother to return any slow selling stock—we used to reduce it and give our customers a thrill.'**

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and where it was. And perhaps we did. We didn't bother to return any slow selling stock—we used to reduce it and give our customers a thrill.

Later in the QVB shop, we did start doing some returns. We had a colour-coded system for the price labels which told us how long the books had been on the shelf. We then went through a period when we had stock cards where arrivals were recorded—but not sales. This was very labour intensive and we were very glad to move on to computerisation which now can tell us all sorts of information about each title such as:

- how many sold
- how many on order
- dates last received
- location in the shop
- number set aside for special orders or on hold.

Abbey's is rather famous for history books and also now for science and mathematics. The entire back wall of thirteen stands is devoted to science subjects but possibly we are more famous for crime titles. This is Peter Milne's special baby and the area

would, probably, make a good little bookshop on its own. In 1984 he began sending out a monthly *Crime Chronicle* listing all the new crime titles received that month. From a few subscribers originally it is now mailed to more than 1,000 people plus several thousand who receive it by email. I suspect initially that other bookshops signed up for the *Crime Chronicle* to keep themselves up to date, especially with American titles.

When we first moved to King Street we began sending out a chatty newsletter listing interesting new books or backlist titles connected with something which was going on in Sydney. This was the *Abbey's Advocate* and because it was something more than just the blurb about a book it became very popular. In 1986 with the computers now installed we began issuing valued customer cards. This was a loyalty scheme whereby customers received reward dollars each six-monthly period according to how much they had spent. This was nice for the customers but now we could also see how many books each customer had purchased and we came to the conclusion that we had to limit the number of people who received the *Advocate* by mail. Some people didn't buy anything but received the *Advocate* and *Chronicle* every month. So if someone didn't spend \$100 a year they were taken off the list. I think you'd spend more than this on newspapers.

By 2006 we were forced to say that new customers signing up for the valued customer card would receive the *Advocate* or *Chronicle* only by email. We do still send hard copies out to an elite group of surviving old customers. So if you still get a hard copy you are one of the elite!

I'm not sure how much longer the 12-page issues of *Abbey's Advocate* and the *Crime Chronicle* will last. We are working towards sending out the information in smaller batches. To this end we already send alerts, by email only, giving a concise listing of new titles for a special subject. History has the highest number of subscribers now—almost 2,000.

*Eve Abbey has been a judge for the Miles Franklin Award and the National Biography Award. In 1981 she was awarded the Michael Zifcak Medal for promotion of Australian books.*

# Tiered membership

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

## Categories

This membership year (2008) 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.**

## 4th IPEd National Editors Conference 2009: Getting the message across

South Australians are rightfully proud of their high standing in Australian and international winemaking circles so it is fitting that the organising committee for the 4th IPEd National Editors Conference has selected the National Wine Centre as the venue for the conference dinner which will be held on Friday, 9 October 2009.

The selection criteria for choice of dinner venue included a reputation for high quality food, wine and service, as well as ambience and price. The National Wine Centre stood out in all of these respects—and it also provides

a stunning modern architectural setting adjacent to the Adelaide Botanic Garden, a view over the centre's working vineyards and a convenient city-fringe location.

The National Wine Centre is a showcase for Australia's wine industry, with more than 10,000 wines in its open cellar from 60-plus regions. The centre houses the Wine Discovery Journey, a self-guided, interactive exhibition that covers all aspects of winemaking; and a wine-tasting gallery where visitors may choose from featured wines accompanied by a light food selection.

If delegates have additional time in Adelaide, a stroll around the Adelaide Botanic Garden would be time well spent. The Garden's restored 19th century conservatory, the extensive plantings of native Australian species, the drought-resistant garden and the Bicentennial Conservatory's rainforest are all worth a visit.

The 4th IPEd National Editors Conference will be held in Adelaide from 8 to 10 October 2009 at the Adelaide Festival Centre. For more information and to register for updates visit <[www.editors-sa.org.au](http://www.editors-sa.org.au)>.

# Workshop report: InDesign for Editors

*The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. held two one-day workshops on Adobe InDesign CS3 for editors and subeditors in November. Both were presented by Pandi Dimitrios from Alpha Computer Consultants. Two participants—a novice user and an experienced user—provide their views on the workshops.*

## The Novice

Editors are expected to do more and more electronic preparation and on-screen editing of documents nowadays, so it makes sense to have a thorough knowledge of InDesign. Although we may not have to set up a document ourselves, it is useful to know how it is done and to be able to make changes ourselves.

The Society of Editors (NSW) held two workshops in November at Alpha Computer Consultants in the CBD. The course was specifically tailored to the needs of editors and subeditors. As such it covered the basics of desktop publishing and included topics such as preferences, working with and formatting text, creating and applying character and paragraph styles, using text controls, type composition and working with tables.

Participant numbers were limited in order to ensure all participants received enough personal attention and students had a choice of working on either PCs or Macs. We had our own workstations and a detailed folder of reference materials and instructions. With the guidance of an instructor, we worked through the stages of creating several documents, as well as experimenting with existing sample files.

Starting with the fundamentals of the InDesign interface, participants were taken through the different tools and panels, setting and modifying file and application preferences, then setting up a basic document. At each stage, the instructor explained the logic behind the process and showed us how a graphic designer or desktop publisher goes about the tasks.

We worked with text frames and learned the options for formatting text, before moving on to character and paragraph styles. At this point those of us more familiar with Word were feeling like we'd had the scales lifted from our eyes! As someone who has only used InDesign to sub-edit documents created by others (but never created a

file from scratch), I was astonished at the flexibility of the program.

Pandi taught us when, why and how to use layers, the basics of outputting to PDF for prepress and some of the dark arts of type composition, before ending the day with a rundown on creating and working with tables.

Attendees came from a range of backgrounds—in-house publishing assistants, magazine editors, freelance editors and subeditors. Many of us had a basic working knowledge of InDesign before we began but by the end of the day we had a much better understanding of how the program works and how to get the most out of it.

Pandi Dimitrios was an incredibly patient presenter which is really important when you're dealing with difficult technology and new concepts. Most people agreed that the level of the course was perfectly pitched and the course manual has been invaluable ever since.

Thanks to the workshop, I'll be able to communicate with my graphic designer in language we both understand and that's got to make life easier!

Many thanks go to Alpha Computer Consultants and also to the Society's Professional Development Coordinator, Meryl Potter, for organising the workshops.

**Lachlan Jobbins**  
Committee member

## The Experienced User

The one-day course was a valuable refresher for those participants familiar with InDesign. A freelance editor can be catapulted into a variety of work environments and suddenly have to become familiar with a different version of Creative Suite, or switch platforms from a customary Mac to a PC. This course was especially helpful as the trainer was amazingly adept at shifting between the Mac users and the PC users.

Having worked with a much earlier version of InDesign for many years, I enjoyed the chance to use CS3—and not before time—apparently CS4 is waiting in the wings. Quite experienced InDesign users benefited from learning about new shortcuts and nifty tools like Eyedropper (it copies attributes of selected text).

Quark users also found the course useful. The learning curve is a little steeper but with the comprehensive instruction on InDesign's features and a handy course manual to take away, with practice the leap from Quark to InDesign is achievable.

Industry standards vary considerably. Some designers zealously lock text boxes; others fully expect the editor to copy-fit creatively. In some situations, such as editing newsletters and simple documents, editors may need to cross the line and create basic layouts. The trainer addressed the range of needs with a rundown of the features used to create a document. At the very least those who just stick to text editing in InDesign gained a greater appreciation of the designer/typesetter's skills.

There was a lot of information to take in during one day but it ran smoothly and the course manual provided participants with the opportunity to refresh their learning at home. Thanks go to Meryl Potter and to Alpha Computers for arranging the workshop.

**Catherine Etteridge**  
Committee member

The society will organise more InDesign courses during 2009 if interest remains steady. So, if you are interested in participating, keep an eye on the upcoming courses listed under Professional Development on the back page of *Blue Pencil*.

## The APA Book Design Awards, closing date 23 January

The Australian Publishers Association's 2009 Book Design Awards, presented at a dinner in May, recognise excellence and innovation in contemporary Australian book design. Entries for the 57th Book Design Awards close on 23 January 2009.

For details or to download an application form visit the website <[www.publishers.asn.au](http://www.publishers.asn.au)> or email <[dee.read@publishers.asn.au](mailto:dee.read@publishers.asn.au)>.

## Unwin Trust Australia-UK Fellowship, closing date 30 January 2009

Applications are now invited for the 2009 Unwin Trust Fellowship, which enables a member of the Australian book trade to visit the UK for up to three months. All working in Australian bookselling and publishing are eligible. Applicants are asked to put together a proposal to carry out a project which will both enhance their own understanding of the UK book trade and will provide a means to increase understanding of each market by the other.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will have at least three years' experience in the book industry and a clear view as to how the experience gained will be of benefit to their career. They should also expect to participate in a number of seminars/briefings on their return.

The judges will be looking for original and constructive proposals, and applicants should also provide a timetable and approximate budget. It is expected that time spent in the UK will be between two and three months and the Trust will provide funding for travel, accommodation etc up to £10,000.

The Unwin Charitable Trust actively supports book-related projects in the UK. It owns Book House in London which is home to the Publishers Training Centre and Book Trust. The fellowship commenced in 2003. Previous winners and their chosen subjects were:

From Australia

- Lorien Kay - book trade
- Annabel Fleay - children's books
- Faye Sutherland - university bookselling

From the UK

- Rebecka Cohen - art and museum publishing
- Hannah Westland - literary agencies
- Amy Tipping - digital publishing

A detailed career CV should be provided, along with at least two written references. Appropriate confirmation from employers that sufficient leave of absence will be granted should be provided.

Please apply in writing to Maree McCaskill, Director, Australian Publishers Association, Suite 60, 89 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. Completed applications must be received by 30 January 2009.

## Freelancers do lunch, 9 February

The next freelancers' lunch will be held at Cafe Delizia, 148 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Monday, 9 February 2009. Mains start from about \$12. The cafe is near the corner with Liverpool Street, next to the Salvation Army and a few minutes' walk from Museum Station.

The cafe features a wonderful book-lined room so allow time for book browsing too.

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!

## National Editors Conference, 8 to 10 October 2009

The 4th National Editors Conference, 'Getting the message across', will be held in Adelaide from 8 to 10 October at the Adelaide Festival Centre. Details available at <[www.editors-sa.org.au](http://www.editors-sa.org.au)>.

## PLAIN Conference, 15 to 17 October 2009

The Plain Language Association International (PLAIN) is holding its seventh biennial conference in Sydney from 15 to 17 October 2009. The conference 'Raising the Standard', will be hosted by The Plain English Foundation. Details available at <[www.plainenglishfoundation.com](http://www.plainenglishfoundation.com)>.

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## Membership renewals

The end of the year means it is membership renewal time. You will soon receive your membership renewal notice by post. If you have moved make sure you notify the membership secretary, Bruce Howarth, so he can update your postal address details <[editorbruce@optusnet.com.au](mailto:editorbruce@optusnet.com.au)>.

The good news is that the Society of Editors (NSW) committee has decided not to increase membership fees this year, so the rates will stay the same as in 2008.

Don't forget, ordinary members can apply to change their status to

Professional Editor member at any time. See page 4 and the relevant Professional Editor Membership Form for details.

Please return your subscription promptly so that you can continue to receive the benefits of membership.

### Benefits of membership

We will continue to offer our traditional services to members:

- a program of lively monthly meetings with good food and wine, interesting speakers and opportunities for networking

- quality, affordable professional development courses

- the monthly *Blue Pencil* newsletter
- the editor's job market—email notification of editing jobs

- the opportunity to contribute to our national task of improving the professionalism and status of editors in Australia

- member discounts at two quality Sydney book stores: Abbey's Bookshop in the city and Journeys Bookstore & Cafe in Annandale.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2009.



## Christmas Party

Around 60 society members celebrated the end of the year in December with a fabulous Greek banquet at Kafenes Cafe Restaurant in Newtown. Also attending were two life members of the society, founding fathers Gil Teague and Bruce Champion (and Mrs Champion). We look forward to seeing them again later in 2009 when we celebrate the society's 30th anniversary.

Thanks are due to those committee members who gave their time to ensure the successful night:

- Lachlan Jobbins who found the venue, arranged the menu, obtained book vouchers and organised the bottles of wine
- Pam Peters and Terry Johnston who acted as hosts for the evening
- Catherine Etteridge who organised the party poppers and raffle book for the lucky door prizes
- Hillary Goldsmith who took the bookings and managed the money.

Thanks also to Abbey's Bookshop for donating book vouchers and copies of *40 Memories* which were given as lucky door prizes. We greatly appreciate their generosity, as well as the discounts they provide to society members throughout the year.

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

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<[www.editorsnsw.com](http://www.editorsnsw.com)>.

### **Blue Pencil**

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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 the Editor at <[bluepencil@editorsnsw.com](mailto:bluepencil@editorsnsw.com)>.

**Copy deadline for the March issue is Tuesday, 20 January 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 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 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## 2008 COMMITTEE

### Acting Presidents:

**Terry Johnston**

Email: <vp1@editorsnsw.com>

**Pam Peters**

Email: <vp2@editorsnsw.com>

### Secretary: Owen Kavanagh

Email: <secretary@editorsnsw.com>

### Treasurer: Hillary Goldsmith

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### General members:

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Email: <committee1@editorsnsw.com>

**Lachlan Jobbins**

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Email: <president@editorsnsw.com>

**Brenda Mattick**

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### Membership secretary: Bruce Howarth

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### Professional development coordinator: Meryl Potter

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### Website coordinator: Abigail Nathan

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### Editorial Services Directory coordinator: Cathy Gray

Phone: (02) 9331 4731

Email: <esd@editorsnsw.com>

### Catering officer: Nancy Shearer

Email: <catering@editorsnsw.com>

Copy deadline for the March issue of

*Blue Pencil*

Tuesday, 20 January 2009

## Professional development

### Grammar Essentials

**Date:** Thursday, 19 Feb

**Time:** 9.00 a.m. to 4.30

**Presenter:** Pam Peters

Macquarie University

**Venue:** City Tattersalls

**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>.

Bookings close Wednesday, 28 January 2009. Cost includes lunch and refreshments.

**To register for this workshop use the enclosed form or download one from the website. Details of payment options, including direct deposit payments, are on the form. For more information about the workshops, email Meryl Potter at <education@editorsnsw.com>.**

### Editing for Museum Exhibitions and Publications

**Date:** Friday, 6 March 2009

**Time:** 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**Presenter:** Jennifer Blunden

**Venue:** City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

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

Museums and galleries produce vast amounts of text for exhibitions and a diverse range of print and multimedia materials. As such they can offer editors working on staff or as freelancers an unusually varied and stimulating range of projects. This practical, interactive workshop explores in detail the particular features and challenges of editing for museums, with a special focus on exhibition text.

### 2009 Workshops

Some of the workshops planned for early this year are:

- Editing in Plain English
- Annual Reports
- On-screen editing in Microsoft Word

Dates have yet to be finalised.

**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).

**STOP PRESS:**

The Grammar Essentials workshop is now full. No further enrolments can be accepted.