

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of
The Society
of Editors
(NSW) Inc.

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PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007

June 2008

Heading down the straight

In place of our usual meeting report, this issue we highlight developments in the accreditation scheme proposed by the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd). This update on the national exam for editors (CredAbility 8) contains important information for editors planning to sit the exam in the future.

Date and type of exam

The first editing exam has been postponed to a date not yet fixed. The exam will take place simultaneously in venues in all Australian capitals except Darwin.

This will be a hard copy exam. However, the Board has not ruled out alternative forms of delivery for future exams (onscreen or online), and is planning to organise a trial online exam to find out whether this form of delivery would be cost-effective, efficient and secure for future exams.

Accreditation Board members are well aware that a large number of editors work onscreen or online. If you are among their number, it would

'...print out some of your electronic files and start practising hand mark-up on the hard copies.'

be a good idea to print out some of your electronic files and start practising hand mark-up on the hard copies.

Exam fee

The exam fee will be determined when the Accreditation Board's budget has been finalised and approved by the IPEd Council. Because the accreditation scheme is cost-neutral, the fee must cover all expenses incurred in preparing and organising the exam.

Marking revision

CredAbility 7 stated that the weighting of marks in the exam would be

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Next meeting: Tuesday, 3 June 2008

E-books—Where the bloody hell are they?

In *The Book is Dead, Long Live the Book* (UNSW Press 2007), Sherman Young chronicled the decline of book culture and proposed a radical new direction for publishers, readers and writers. Electronic books have the potential to offer cost savings on traditional publishing, to reach millions of new readers, and return books to centre-stage. So what are we waiting for? At the next meeting, Sherman Young will explore some of the reasons why the eBook hasn't really happened yet.

Sherman Young is a senior lecturer in the Media Department at Macquarie University, where he teaches new media theory and production. His research focus is the cultural impact of the new media technologies. In addition to chronicling the death of the (printed) book, his current projects include explorations of the death of television, and the music industry. Before becoming an academic, Sherman owned a new media production company that produced multimedia products for corporate types—and book publishing companies.

Copies of *The Book is Dead, Long Live the Book* will be available on the night at a special price for Society members. Sherman Young's publisher, Phillipa McGuinness from UNSW Press, will also be on hand to give her perspective on the emerging world of ePublishing.

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 May 2008.

July meeting: Winter Dinner—Trovata Mediterranean Restaurant (see enclosed booking form); Tuesday, 1 July 2008.

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25 per cent for Part 1, 35 per cent for Part 2 and 40 per cent for Part 3. However, further deliberation by the assessors and the Accreditation Board on the content, purpose and appropriate weighting of the three parts has led to a revision of this weighting. Marks will now be allocated on a 20/40/40 basis.

As most of you may know, the pass mark has been set at 80 per cent. To pass the exam, candidates will be required to score a minimum of 65 per cent in each section.

Information for candidates

Guidelines for Candidates and an application form are now available on the IPEd website, for downloading by candidates.

NEW MEMBERS

Hannah Cartmel
Lauren Crozier
Elizabeth Thurston
Tessa Copland
Jennifer Cross
Janice Dunn
David Stephens
Philippa Dundon
Neil Bramsen

CORPORATE ASSOCIATES

Plain English Foundation

Making direct deposit payments

Using your own bank's online funds transfer option, you can make your workshop or membership payments direct to our CBA account.

Account name: Society of Editors (NSW)

BSB: 062172

Account number: 00905083

Include your name and abbreviated payment description in the space provided.

You will also find on the website a very comprehensive Q&A document covering all aspects of the exam and an abbreviated version of the Guidelines for Candidates which will be sent out to all candidates with confirmation of their registration.

To locate this information, go to <www.iped-editors.org>.

Closing date for applications

The Accreditation Board and the IPEd Council are determined that there will not be more changes to the schedule, and that the next release of information must be complete. So the closing date for applications, together with the new exam date and the fee, are not yet available but will be announced as soon as possible.

Preparation for the exam

All societies will be organising some activity to help prepare members who have applied to sit for the first exam or plan to do so. This may take the form of a workshop, a general meeting devoted to accreditation, the placement of information on the society's website, or some other activity that will best meet members' needs.

Your society's delegate to the Accreditation Board will advise members what activity has been planned and when it will take place.

The assessors

The markers for accreditation exams are members of the Assessors Forum, distinguished editors nominated by their own societies in 2005 and 2006 for the depth and breadth of their experience and their contribution to the profession. Biographical information on all assessors was supplied in CredAbility 3; these brief biographies testify to their expertise and experience.

You will find this information on the Accreditation page on the IPEd website.

If you have further questions on what's happening with accreditation, contact your society's delegate to the Accreditation Board.

IPEd Accreditation Board

If you are planning to sit for the exam please see page 8 for details about the Accreditation Exam workshop to be held in Sydney on 22 August.

The Editor's Job Market

The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. offers publishers the opportunity 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 or Word document 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>.

IPEd notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors (formerly CASE) May 2008

The inaugural meeting of the IPEd Council, held in Canberra in mid-April, appointed Virginia Wilton of the Canberra society as chair and Janice Bird of Tasmania as honorary treasurer until the annual general meeting later in 2008. Following consideration of a duty statement for the paid part-time position of secretary, Ed Highley, who has done a wonderful job as unpaid secretary since 2005, was appointed temporarily; the position will be advertised before the annual general meeting.

Each councillor has taken responsibility for a particular area: budget, finance and risk management, Virginia Wilton, Ed Highley and Janice Bird; website, communication and PR, Rosemary Luke; professional development and standards, Anne Surma and Robin Bennett, who is also on the Accreditation Board; policy development, Rosemary Noble; dispute resolution and governance, Michael Lewis, who is also Council representative on the Accreditation Board. Councillors will prepare issues papers on their respective areas for discussion at their next meeting in Adelaide at the end of May.

Conscious of their responsibilities under the Corporations Law, the councillors devoted a lot of time to IPEd's finances. They have set the annual levy for 2008–09 at \$20 per society member, and agreed on policy and procedures for the costs of meetings. The Council will obtain advice on budgeting, taxation (particularly GST) and other financial matters from an

accountant with experience in not-for-profit organisations, and seek appropriate suppliers of banking and insurance by the end of May.

The Council commended the Accreditation Board on its remarkable progress in developing the accreditation scheme, particularly in managing the intense activity since the end of 2007. Councillors, having studied the board's budget, were concerned at the likely significant shortfall between revenue and costs for the first exam. They have begun work on a rigorous, revised budget and a broader business model for accreditation so that the examination can be offered at an acceptable fee without jeopardising IPEd's overall objectives and operations. As a result, the Council has reluctantly decided to postpone the first exam until later in 2008. It maintains the commitment to provide members with four months' notice of the date of the exam.

The Accreditation Board and the Assessors Forum have continued to hold teleconferences to discuss preparations for the exam. The board has appointed a team of highly experienced editors to develop the exam paper, with Meryl Potter as lead writer, and Janet Salisbury, Shelley Kenigsberg and Stephanie Holt as reviewers. Alan Ernst as exam coordinator will oversee the conduct of the exam. The first priority is to revise the sample exam and post it on the website so that candidates will know exactly what to expect.

Janet Mackenzie
Liaison Officer

Dear readers,

Regretfully, these will be Janet's last IPEd Notes. At the Canberra meeting, the Council decided to share the Liaison Officer's tasks among the Secretary (who will write the column), a delegated Councillor and the Communication Committee. I would like, on behalf of the Council, to extend our heartfelt thanks to Janet for her tremendous contribution through her liaison role and in a multitude of other ways, in helping to get us to where we are today. I feel sure that members of all the societies that constitute our new institute will share this sentiment. Of course, we are not giving Janet her complete freedom—far from it. She is still working hard for the profession through her participation in the Assessors Forum and has agreed to assist in the Council's first strategic planning session. I have little doubt that other tasks to which she is eminently suited will arise in the future, though we may have to do a little bit of gentle leaning.

Just for the record, Janet's first IPEd Notes appeared (as CASE Notes) in November 2004, and began 'CASE is on the brink of a new phase in its existence...'. Too true, though the brink may have been a little more distant than we thought at the time.

Virginia Wilton
Chair, IPEd Council

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
<bluepencil@editorsnsw.com>.

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 one copy 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.**

Conference volunteers

If you believe that the society adds something worthwhile to your life, think about helping us to run it. We also need you to consider how you can contribute to the 2011 national conference to be held in Sydney. And, do not forget we would especially like to hear from all society members with a proposal for the 2011 conference theme.

**Please forward theme proposals to '2011 conference in Sydney' care of the
Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.**

Winter Dinner!

you are invited to

Trovata Mediterranean Restaurant

Address: 76 Stanley Street, East Sydney

The restaurant is between Crown Street and Riley Street in 'Little Italy'. For drivers, there is a parking station on Riley Street, plus ticketed parking in local streets. The nearest railway station is Museum (cross Hyde Park to College St and then walk down Stanley Street).

Time: 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 1 July 2008

Cost: \$34 a head

including soft drinks and a Mediterranean banquet with: pesto, herb and garlic bread; entrees (barbecued baby octopus & fetta salad and pan-fried calamari & salad); platters of pasta (vegetable penne), risotto (primavera) and stuffed chicken breast with vegetables; dessert; and tea or coffee.

Please inform us if you have special dietary requirements.

This is a BYO event. Please bring your own—wine only.

Trovata is also licensed if you wish to buy extra drinks.

Warm up in the winter months with great food, company and door prizes. We welcome corporate associates and non-members.

Booking is essential. You can pay on the night but you must book beforehand.

Please RSVP by Friday, 27 June 2008.

Later bookings cannot be guaranteed as places are limited. Return the enclosed booking form with payment details.

2008 Whitley Awards, closing date 31 May

Each year the Royal Zoological Society NSW (RZSNSW) hosts the Whitley Awards for outstanding publications (print or electronic) relating to the documentation and conservation of Australasia's fauna. Entries range from the academic to general readership, including children's books.

To enter, submit a copy of the publication together with a covering letter including publication details and post it to Executive Officer, Royal Zoological Society NSW, PO Box 20 MOSMAN 2088. The closing date for entries is Saturday, 31 May 2008.

For more information visit <www.rzsnsw.org.au> or contact Dr Noel Tait, Chairman, Whitley Awards Committee; phone (02) 9427 6747 or email <nntait@bigpond.net.au>.

Walkley Non-fiction Book award, closing date 1 June

The Walkley Foundation is now calling for entries for the 2008 Walkley Award for Best Non-Fiction Book. The Award is open to all Australian journalists and writers whose book is published between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008. Entries can encompass a range of subject matter.

First round entries close 1 June at 5 p.m. For more details see the website <www.walkleys.com> or phone Louisa Graham on 02 9333 0945, or email <louisa.graham@alliance.org.au>.

Freelancers do lunch, 25 June

The next freelancers' lunch will be held upstairs at the Firehouse Hotel at 86 Walker Street, North Sydney, on Wednesday, 25 June 2008. Mains are about \$14. The venue is near the corner of Walker and Spring streets, a short walk from North Sydney station.

The society organises these informal freelancers' lunches every second month or so.

The invitation to lunch is cordially extended to other freelancers who work

in the publishing industry. There is no need to RSVP. See you there!

Kayell Australia 32nd Galley Club Awards night, 27 June

The 32nd annual Galley Club Awards for Excellence in Book and Magazine Production will be held in Sydney on Friday, 27 June 2008.

The Galley Club of Sydney has been celebrating excellence in book and magazine production for 32 years. The 2008 awards will provide an even greater opportunity for publishers, repro houses and printers to showcase their work and honour their peers.

The awards are for books, periodicals and non-standard items published between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007 where the major creative content is of Australian origin, are eligible for consideration. Entries are judged on the function and quality of their design, production, prepress, printing and binding in accordance with established industry guidelines

Visit the Galley Club website <www.galleyclubsydney.org.au> for details about purchasing tickets for the awards night.

Public Lending Right and Educational Lending Right scheme, closing date 30 June

The Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme makes payments to eligible Australian creators and publishers whose books are held in public lending libraries. The Education Lending Right (ELR) scheme makes similar payments for books held in educational libraries.

If you are an Australian book creator (author, editor, illustrator, compiler or translator) or an Australian publisher, you may be eligible for payment under the schemes. Claims may be made for books published in 2007 or earlier. Obtain further information and claim forms from the website <www.arts.gov.au/literature/lending_rights>.

Westfield/Waverley Library Award for Literature, call for entries

Westfield Bondi Junction, Waverley Council and the Friends of Waverley Library are offering a \$15,000 prize for excellence in research in the creation of a literary work of merit, first published in book form between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008. Factors examined by the judges will also include readability, innovation, knowledge, literary merit and value to the community. All kinds of fiction and non-fiction are eligible. The Alex Buzo Shortlist Prize is presented annually to each of the shortlisted authors. The award is strongly supported by the publishing and writing communities.

For closing date, further guidelines and application forms contact Waverley Library phone (02) 9386 7709 or visit <www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/award>. The prize will be presented in November 2008. The winning author will be presented with 'The Nib', a specially commissioned statuette.

Emeritus Professor Pam Peters

Michael Lewis writes:

Professor Pam Peters, one of our vice presidents, retired from Macquarie University's Department of Linguistics at the end of 2007. (Retired officially, at least; Pam continues to participate in many university activities, including supervision of research students.)

In recognition of Pam's long-term contribution to the international standing of the department and the university, Pam has been elevated to Emeritus Professor. Contrary to popular opinion, 'emeritus' is not merely a tag to designate 'retired'; it is awarded in recognition of the most distinguished service. All those who have worked with Pam, whether as students or colleagues at Macquarie, participants in Style Council, users of her invaluable books, or fellow members of this society, will know how well Pam has deserved this honour.



For sale—reference books (for freelancers)

Oxford Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms (pb) (2005)—\$11

The Oxford Dictionary of Abbreviations (hc)—\$12

Make Your Website Work for You (McGraw Hill) (pb)—\$8

Collins Dictionary of Information Technology (pb)—\$3

A Guide to Australian Law for Journalists, Authors, Printers and Publishers 3rd edn, SAWYER (pb)—\$4

Chambers Guide to ENGLISH for IT and the INTERNET (pb)—\$3

The Merriam Webster Thesaurus (pb)—\$4

Chambers Concise Dictionary of Scientists (hc)—\$10

Your Own Business—A Practical Guide to Success, Reynolds, Williams and Savage (pb)—\$12

All in good condition—some as new—postage at cost or delivered free to monthly Society meeting in Pitt Street. For details contact Terry Johnston at <pnayp@ozemail.com.au>.

Workshop bookings

Please note: Due to changes in the booking system this year we will be asking participants to reserve their places at the workshops at least three weeks before they take place.

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007; Voicemail: (02) 9294 4999
<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>.

Copy deadline for the July issue is Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

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 2008 fees are \$70 for ordinary member or professional member renewals; \$75 for new professional members (\$45 if joining after 30 June); or \$50 for associate membership. Interested organisations can become corporate associates for \$400 per year.

To obtain a membership application form, 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 each month. Please contact a committee member for details if you wish to attend the next meeting.

2008 COMMITTEE

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Copy deadline for the July issue of

Blue Pencil

Tuesday, 10 June 2008

Professional development

Editing and publishing children's literature (2-day workshop)

Presenter: Mark Macleod

Date: Friday, 6 June and Friday, 11 July 2008

Cost: (For two days) \$351 members, \$522 non-members

Venue: City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

Aspiring children's editors have an opportunity to learn from one of the best in the field in two days of fun, interactive workshops. Mark will cover the basics—and more—in this popular field, ranging from picture books to young adult fiction.

Day 1

- Publishing and editing for young readers—catalogues, sales figures and reviews; are we publishing for children or adults?
- Deciding what to publish—manuscript assessment and effective reader's reports
- Editing picture books—how to tell the age of the most likely reader
- Structure in fiction—entrance lines, exit lines, segues

Day 2

- Copy editing fiction. Your ear for dialogue.
- Fiction for young adults—teens as drama queens
- The editor, the author and couples counselling (including author visit)
- How are new media changing the publisher's and editor's roles?

Grammar for editors

Presenter: Pam Peters, Professor of Linguistics, Macquarie University

Date: Thursday, 24 July 2008

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

Venue: City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

Editors often feel that they need more grammar, but how much is enough? The major grammars of contemporary English consist of more than 1000 pages, with vast networks of grammatical terms. Editors probably don't 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.

Accreditation exam workshop

Presenters: Heather Jamieson, Sybil Kesteven, Pam Peters, Meryl Potter (New South Wales Assessors)

Date: 22 August 2008

Cost: \$130 members, \$290 non-members

Venue: City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt Street, Sydney

If you are planning to sit for the first Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) accreditation exam this year, or simply thinking about sitting the exam in the future, this workshop is for you. It will be presented by four New South Wales Assessors who have been involved in the development of the accreditation system and exam, and will be part of the team marking the exam papers. The workshop will be divided into four sections, working through the revised sample exam of 2007 and additional exercises.

Payments for attending the workshops can be made by direct deposit. For more information about the workshops, email Meryl Potter at <education@editorsnsw.com>.