2005 Annual Report issue

Treasurer's report

Once again I begin by letting you know that I am writing this report ahead of the auditor's preparation of his. We will be distributing the auditor's report when it is available so that you can assess our official financial state. However, I don't believe the two reports will differ by more than minor rearrangements.

We expect that establishing the accreditation system will be expensive so it is reassuring that the society's activities for 2005 have resulted in financial gain. Our cash supply has improved by $7444 to $37,980. We have a fixed asset in the form of a laptop computer, bought last year, and the auditor will list that, with an allowance for depreciation, in our total assets.

Our total income for 2005 was $51,916 and came mainly from membership ($21,605, up $605 from last year), the directory ($7500, up $1140), the workshops ($15,469, down $12,151), and meetings ($4417, down $2534). Interest from our two bank accounts amounted to $1801. Additional to the figures I've given here, we have banked $565 in advance for 2006 memberships and directory listings.

Income from the directory included $640 from sales, a category I haven't even had listed in the previous two years. Sales of the directory can all be attributed to the commitment of our vice president, Terry Johnston. Of course, income is not profit. Allowing for expenses, our benefit from the directory for 2005 was $3681.

Allowing for expenses, our financial gain from the workshops was $20.24. This compares a little disappointingly with last year's surplus of more than $9000. However, it is not the society's intention to make money from the workshops. President Pauline heads the workshop team and always aims to provide members with maximum value for their investment. There are many variables to juggle with judgement.

We increased the charge for attendance at our regular meetings with the aim of reducing the gap between meetings income and expenses. However, we did not anticipate that the cost of hiring rooms for the monthly meetings would triple. It did. In the year's summary the cost of meetings exceeded income from them by $2631, but this was an improvement by $877 on the excess meeting costs of last year. Unfortunately this 'improvement' is partly a reflection of lower attendance figures. The figure for meeting costs takes into account most of the expenses attached to our Christmas party although an estimated $450 of those will only appear in the financial statements for 2006.

The expenses for 2005 meetings include a subsidy of $868 for the Christmas party. The expenses figure of $5089 for administration includes $1761 for stationery (down $134 from last year), $701 for general postage (down $340), $1373 for the website and telephone, (up $191) and $780 for insurance (up $166). One of our workshop venues obliged us to increase our insurance cover although the increased cover is probably standard for these times. We paid the auditor $968 (up $33), committee meetings

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Annual general meeting

Tuesday, 7 March 2006

No charge—food and drinks provided

Come along to discuss issues relating to joining a national body, the *2005 Annual Report* and to elect a new committee.

All are welcome, but only financial members may vote. If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, you can do so at the meeting (please bring your renewal form with you). You can also join on the night if you'd like to.

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. Drinks and light refreshments provided.
Please RSVP to (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail) or <brhed@pnc.com.au> (email) by Friday, 3 March. NO CHARGE.
April meeting: Tuesday, 4 April 2006

Unresolved issues with IPEd

In the rush to start up an accreditation scheme for editors, many fundamental issues have been glossed over, argues Pam Peters. Pam outlines the main issues relating to the proposed structure of a national editors' organisation and offers a suitable plan of action for the State societies.

The National Editors conference last October in Melbourne generated optimism about the proposed federal institute of professional editors, and a sense of common purpose in moving towards the accreditation of individual editors. But on issues such as the structure of the federal body, its relationship to the State societies, and especially its budget, rather less was achieved, and many issues remain unresolved. They need urgent attention. Otherwise, as one New South Wales member has observed, the accreditation tail seems to be wagging the dog—and in danger of sweeping it off its feet!

Issue 1: Budget. There is still no answer to the fundamental question as to how much it will cost to maintain the federal body, and what financial impact it will have on individual State societies. For them to sign up to the federal body without clear budgetary indications would indeed be signing a blank cheque. Already indications are that the legal costs alone associated with a federal body would be of the order of $15000 per annum. To defray these costs, it has been estimated that membership fees for the NSW Society would have rise to $300 p.a., that is more than four times the present fee. If a fee hike like that deters some of the less affluent members from renewing their membership, those who remain members of the Society would have to pay an even higher membership fee. Don't those short- and longer-term financial issues have to be carefully examined?

Issue 2: Decision-making and autonomy. At this stage it is still unclear how much of the decision-making carried out at the State level will be taken over by the proposed federal body. The shortage of consultation with the State societies over matters such as the conduct of the 2004 accreditation vote is a warning sign. What guarantees are there that the federal body will engage in full consultation on other crucial professional matters, such as modes of promotion, control and expenditure of funds and so on?

Issue 3: Support for State iniatives. The terms of reference for IPEd are rather elusive in terms of whether the needs of individual societies will be recognised and addressed by the federal body. At present it is the State societies with their limited budgets that provide services and support for editors. If IPEd siphons off most of the financial resources of the State societies, as well as the volunteer labour that the state executive officers provide, what will it offer by way of compensatory support?

Issue 4: Constitutional issues. For the NSW Society, and presumably others, there are unresolved constitutional issues. The present constitution is not written in terms of affiliation to a national body, let alone of providing it with financial resources. If these are to be added to the constitution, then special resolutions have to be passed at a general meeting of members, with a specified quorum attending and voting. This is not merely required by our present constitution, but by the terms of the NSW Office of Fair Trading, which sets standards for the management of incorporated societies. So far the constitutional implications of State societies joining a new federal body (and merging with it?) have not been explored. Are the same or different for each State society?

> **'The State societies, with their relatively small and constantly changing memberships, need to take extra care in embracing changes…'**

It would be disastrous for the New South Wales society—and any other—if these fundamental issues are glossed over in the rush to set up an accreditation scheme for editors. The structures of the house need to be designed and put in place or the roof will fall in. The State societies, with their relatively small and constantly changing memberships, need to take extra care in embracing changes as significant as those involved in IPEd. They need to ensure that this affiliation will strengthen the membership and foster its expansion—rather than erecting a costly and rather disengaged federal body, which could discourage people from belonging to the State societies, from contributing to them and making the most of them.

Action:

1. Seek precise estimates (per annum) for maintaining IPED, including legal, auditing and administrative costs, for the different models presented

2. Estimate likely rise in fees for individual members of each society, based on (a) present membership, and (b) reduced membership

3. Discuss acceptability of (a) and (b) with members of all State societies…

If acceptable:

4. Consider matters of financial and decision-making autonomy: what we might cede to a federal body, and what decisions and matters must remain under State control.

5. Discuss what kinds of support the States might wish for from the federal body…

If consensus is reached:

6. Identify which items of existing constitutions need to be modified.

7. Draft and discuss modifications at a special meeting.

8. Put changes to all members

If ratified by a sufficient proportion of the membership:

9. Endorse affiliation with federal body

Let's discuss items 1 to 8 now. Not assume that it's all okay, and head straight for 9!

Professor Pam Peters can be contacted via email at <pam.peters@mq.edu.au>. She is Director of the Macquarie University Postgraduate Program in Editing and Publishing.

cost us $836 and, as we have done for several years, we donated a $250 prize to the outstanding student in the editing units of the Macquarie University program in Editing and Publishing.

Blue Pencil cost us $6621, including postage of $1669. We are supplying more members with electronic copies and our newsletter costs were $811 less than in the previous year.

I still have a category for CASE in the book-keeping program so the auditor will report an expense under that heading too. Please read 'CASE' and think 'IPEd'. Not unexpectedly, our expenditure for this item increased, by $1052 to $3209. There were airfares and accommodation costs involved in having representation at a Melbourne meeting, catering costs involved when a meeting was in Sydney and we shared in the costs of teleconferencing.

The convenience for members of the credit card facility cost the society $1599 in 2005, an increase of $95 on the 2004 expense. Very roughly, it averages $4 per member. It is an item the society now has to take into account when pricing things like the membership rates and workshop fees and that is something for members to keep in mind.

Janice Beavan

Janice Beavan

Agenda

The agenda for the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. is as follows:

1. Opening and apologies

2. Correspondence

3. Minutes of the ninth AGM of the incorporated society (printed in *Blue Pencil*, April 2005)

4. Discussion of the 2005 annual report, including the financial report

5. Special resolutions

6. Election of the 2006 committee

7. Any other business including honorary life membership.

Committee positions

2006 committee nominations

All committee positions (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and five general committee members) are open to nomination, providing plenty of opportunities for you to help the society better serve your needs.

The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer constitute the executive, while the five general committee members undertake a variety of jobs. In addition, they may also undertake one of the specific jobs detailed below. However, if you want to do one of the general jobs listed below, you do not have to be on the committee.

Some positions require a greater time commitment but you can offset this by co-opting helpers and tapping into the experience of past committee members.

A nomination form is included in this edition of *Blue Pencil*. You may nominate yourself for any position and/or job, but if someone else nominates you, you must sign the form to indicate your acceptance. You can give the form to the secretary on the night, before the start of the meeting.

Executive positions

President
You oversee the management of the society in accordance with the constitution and committee decisions, chair meetings and represent and act on behalf of the society and its members.

Vice president
In the president's absence, you will chair meetings and assume the various duties of the president.

Secretary
You maintain the society's records, take meeting minutes and distribute them to committee members; draft, send and receive society postal correspondence and answer voicemail.

Treasurer
You manage all monies, accounts, receipts, and book-keeping for the society and prepare a financial statement for the auditor and the annual general meeting.

General jobs

Catering officer
You order the food and wine each month and then attend the meeting to make sure all goes well.

Meetings coordinator
You arrange appropriate speakers for the society's monthly meetings.

Membership secretary
You receive and process membership applications and renewals; maintain the database of members' names and addresses; and print labels for mailings.

Newsletter editor/team
You produce the monthly society newsletter, organising and editing copy, type-setting the document, liaising with the printer, and arranging packaging and posting of each issue. Assistants may help with proofreading, mailing and so on.

Publicity officer
You promote the society; publicise its activities and the editing services offered by members; and liaise with the media.

Editorial Services Directory coordinator
You produce the online and print versions of the *Editorial Services Directory*.

Training coordinator
You convene a working group to develop and implement the society's training activities.

Website coordinator
The website coordinator maintains and improves the society's website and provides initial responses to emails to the website.

Workshop report: Design for non-designers

The Design for non-Designers workshop presented by David Whitbread was held by the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. on Friday, 19 August 2005.

The 'Design for non-Designers' workshop was especially relevant to those of us who deal with designers and need to know enough about design matters to function fully as editors.

Since his presentation of the workshop the previous year, David has factored in many of the comments made by the society's editors and tailored the day accordingly. One participant who was attending the workshop for the second time was again positive about the course content. David obligingly catered for requests and advised on specific interest areas (such as newsletter layout) throughout the workshop.

The four components of the day were: an introduction to design and layout; typography; working with colour, photographs and illustrations; and the web and print.

In the first session David tackled the tricky subject of what constitutes 'appropriate' design. He also mentioned the rising generation of children brought up with television, videos and computers and our need to take their high standard of visual literacy into consideration. Using his own book, *The Design Manual* (UNSW Press, Sydney 2001), David explained the principles behind the 'Eye flow' of a person reading Western text and the implications of this for positioning text and graphics on the page. He also gave some examples of different approaches, from even-length columns to 'washing on a line' layouts, and discussed flat plans, multiple columns and the crucial issue of 'space and pace'.

The second session dealt with readability and type selection and included interesting asides on the assumptions about geography, history and gender that we associate with certain fonts. The workshop became more interactive—and more challenging—as we faced an exercise that involved the type specification of a sample report.

After lunch we started a different activity that highlighted those two (not necessarily opposing) demands of publishing—displaying creativity and working within a tight budget. This session was of particular use to editors whose tasks include picture selection and sourcing or commissioning images. It was also fun to focus on some of the creative aspects of design and look at samples featuring texture, effects that can only be achieved in print and subliminal images. Very conscientiously, we discussed designing-on-a-shoestring essentials, such as copyright-free images and neat design tricks involving scanning everyday objects.

The final session on the web and print covered how magazine design conventions have become part of (formerly very traditional) book design conventions. We then moved on to the development of website design conventions and the requirements for smooth navigation and retaining readability. Handy tips for developing a design brief and a question-and-answer session concluded the workshop.

In conjunction with David Whitbread's *Design Manual*, a copy of which was included in the price of the workshop, this one-day session had a lot to offer editors. As well as being an entertaining speaker, David's willingness to tailor the course to editors, incorporate feedback and offer participants advice on individual projects made this a very functional and inspiring workshop.

Thanks also go to Pauline Waugh for organising the day. Many of the editors who attended were sent by their company, so publishers and other employers should take note that, if enough participants are interested, this workshop could be offered again.

Catherine Etteridge
Editor

IPED notes February 2006

News from the Institute of Professional Editors (formerly CASE)

IPEd delegates have maintained momentum despite the national torpor that sets in over summer. The Interim Council has taken an important step for IPEd's future by seeking funds from the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL). If the submission is successful the grant will make substantial contribution to our costs over the next three years.

CAL is an Australian copyright management company which links creators and users of copyright material, balancing fair payment to copyright owners with community access to information. Through CAL's Cultural Fund it distributes a small percentage of licence fees to support research, education and cultural development projects that improve conditions for copyright creators and benefit the Australian cultural community.

We believe that IPEd's plans to set up a national organisation and accreditation scheme for editors fit the guidelines of CAL's Cultural Fund, and you'll be hearing more about this submission if it succeeds. Our thanks to Shelley Kenigsberg (NSW), Susan Rintoul (SA) and Katya Johanson (Vic.) for their hard work on this.

The Accreditation Board has also been busy preparing its program of workshops to be held in each State and Territory. The workshops have the twin aims of informing members about accreditation and identifying their concerns. Although the basic structure of the accreditation scheme has been agreed, the details are still being explored. Assessors, administrators and potential candidates need to work together on this, so go along to your local workshop and have a say on these plans that are crucial for the profession.

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

At the typeface

At the Typeface: selections from the newsletter of the Victorian Society of Editors. Edited by Janet Mackenzie; published by Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc., 2005; 356 + xii pages; paperback; ISBN:0-646-45165-0; RRP $30.00 + $10 postage. Order from the website: <www.socedvic.org>.

BOOK REVIEW

At the October 2005 Editors' Conference in Melbourne, the Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc. marked their thirty-fifth anniversary with the launch of *At the Typeface*. Rather than offer a simple history of the society, the Victorians have chosen to reflect their history with a selection of articles from past newsletters.

In making that decision they have given us a wide-ranging view of Australian publishing over that period, created an ideal introduction to the industry for newcomers, and given the rest of us a good read. Articles range from short reports on meetings and workshops to longer, more formal papers. The text is divided into 20 chapters, not only on editors and editing, but also on subjects that include the role of the publisher, the business of publishing, the literary scene, production, sales and marketing, and the digital revolution. Pullout quotes throughout provide an extra dimension and also sometimes a commentary on the main story. In the chapter on the digital revolution, for instance, editors are urged to embrace the new technology—but a 1983 quote from John Bangsund points out: 'Computers for editors? Ha! I know publishers who don't provide typewriters for editors' (page 301).

> ## 'It was a serious article that gave me the biggest laugh.'

When Janet Mackenzie spoke to the New South Wales society in 2004, she told us that she 'learnt editorial skills from jokes and anecdotes and awful warnings', and you will find plenty of those in here. This is also a book with much helpful advice—whether it's about working with authors, proofreading or setting up as a freelance.

(It would have been good to know who everyone is—including a line or two on the background of speakers at the time would have added to the book's value for present and future readers, and current beginners.)

The editor tells us in her preface that she has chosen 'articles that have an enduring interest for editing and publishing' (page viii), but some have also been chosen for their humour. Nonetheless, it was a serious article that gave me the biggest laugh: in 1987 'Neil also commented that editors no longer concentrate on detail. He suggested that the rise of feminism was the reason for this' (page 71). (It seems we just became too uppity to be bothered with the detail and actually wanted a broader knowledge of publishing and to advance in the industry. Elsewhere, editors are criticised for being too narrowly focused on the detail.)

Some articles give us a strong sense of being at a meeting, like the one in 1988, where we are told there was 'much muttering and dissension at some tables' and the speaker got 'a subdued sitting ovation' (page 72).

In responses to this report in a later issue of the *Newsletter* (page 73), members were taken to task for not being able to take criticism—though one said: 'what I would welcome are concrete suggestions for training editors, for improving the publishing process to reduce the mistakes that go to press: anything rather than vague complaints' (page 73).

While all of this makes *At the Typeface* a useful reference, it is also a book to read from cover to cover—or at least to dip in and out of until you have read it all. There are hidden gems throughout, and simply reading the chapters with 'editor' in the title will not give you the full picture of the place of editors in the industry (the index is sometimes unreliable—it includes 'criticism of' under the main heading 'editors', but does not include

a subentry

that brings together praise

for editors, which appears in all sorts of surprising places).

A strong theme throughout, not surprisingly, is how we view ourselves as editors and how others see us. Everyone seems to have a view of what we can and cannot do, what we ought to do and ought not to do, and how we should be trained or educated. In 1982 editors were described as 'undervalued, underpaid, and overworked' (page 289) —which sounds regrettably familiar.

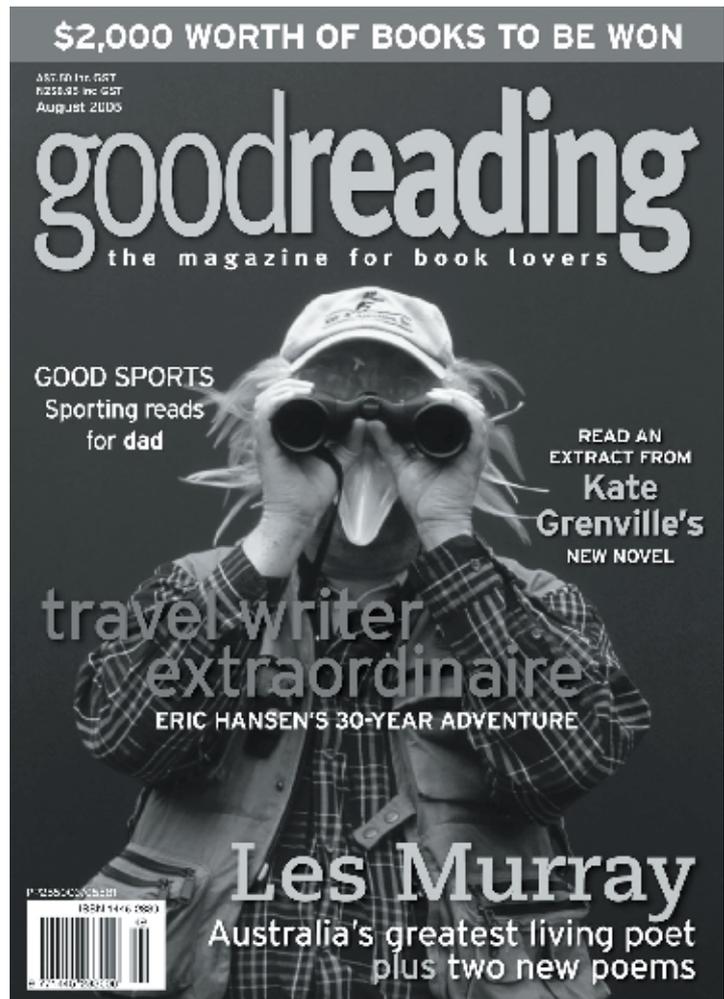> ## 'I'm surprised that after another 18 years of declining standards we haven't slipped right off the page.'

In 1987 we hear: 'In his fifteen years in the field… he has observed a general decline in the standards of editing' (page 70). We are still hearing the same thing—I'm surprised that after another 18 years of declining standards we haven't slipped right off the page.

Some speakers said that there was no training for editors in 1970 (page 96), but there are also wonderful stories of 'rigorous training' with those publishing legends Barbara Ramsden and Beatrice Davis. We also get some wonderfully varied advice on how editors should be trained. In 1979 Nick Hudson said 'Give me a graduate who can type and in six months I will give you an editor' (page 108), but by 1994 Steve Roney is quoted as saying: 'If I were designing a curriculum for editors of the twenty-first century, I would like to include the study of poetic theory, classical rhetoric, and drama, to give a feel for spoken language; film; graphic design; database design; the theory

if not the practice of hypertext and object-oriented programming; interface design; and game theory. Photography and art appreciation might also be a good idea,' (page 112). (All I can say is save me from both, please!)

In 1994 Wendy Sutherland, with 36 years experience at Oxford and Melbourne university presses at the time, said that 'Being a good editor is a mindset, a personality, an imponderable' (page 163). No mention of typing or the study of rhetoric there.

The most surprising statement of all comes from 1990, when a report from the executive committee of the ABPA claimed there was a shortage of editors in the country (page 118). In 1995 one editor pleads: 'Stop training more editors and indexers! How is everyone going to earn a living with more and more people entering the field?' (page 111).

As you can see, there is much in this book to entertain, inform and infuriate you—you should definitely buy it.

Meryl Potter is a freelance editor who has been a member of The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. from its earliest days. She also teaches editing at Macleay College.

Members of the NSW Society can buy a copy of At the Typeface *at the special discounted price of $25 plus postage and handling—see order form below.*

Processing your membership

Have you ever wondered what happens to your membership renewal after you post it? I thought members might be interested in some of the details.

First, your letter goes to the society's PO box at Broadway (1–2 days), where it's redirected to my house (1–2 days). I update your record in the membership database, usually that day, but sometimes later. I then post the forms to the treasurer, Janice (1–2 days), who writes out a receipt, processes the credit card debit if necessary, and posts your renewal package, including the meeting voucher, back to you.

The round trip can take a week or more, especially if weekends get in the way, or if either of us is tied up on other things for a day or two.

This year, I asked people to tell me what title they would like on letters, etc. I did this for two reasons: first because I am old-fashioned enough to like putting titles in addresses, and second because I thought there was a fairly high proportion of members who could claim 'Dr' as a title, and so it has proved. So far, I have collected 20 doctors out of about 200 renewals.

The membership database was built using Microsoft Access, but is not at all complicated. The database has one table, and the membership number you may have noticed on the renewal form is the primary key. I inherited the database

from Michael Wyatt, who inherited it from Bob Pearson, who seems to have originated it in its current form. Of course, it gets changed occasionally, for instance by adding titles.

Access is not the world's best database platform, but it suffices. The big advantage of keeping the database in this form is that it's quite easy to query the database, whether it is to find an individual record because the member has changed address (and you do remember to tell us, don't you?) or create a list of email addresses of current members.

It is important that the membership database is quite separate from the *Editorial Services Directory*. I am also very sensitive to members' privacy, and do not release information to people I do not know. Occasionally I get an email from someone wanting to contact an editor. If the editor is a member, I pass the request to them, rather than responding with details to the inquirer.

The 200 renewals I mentioned mean that about 170 members from 2005 have not renewed yet. If you are one of them and you plan to renew, please do so soon, otherwise your database entry will be marked 'not current' and Blue Pencil will stop coming to your place.

Bruce Howarth
Secretary and Membership Secretary

Special offer!
Save $5 off the retail price of *At the Typeface* by using this order form to buy your copies.

Please send me:..................
copies of *At the Typeface*
@ $25 each $ ....
Postage and handling (within Australia $10; elsewhere please enquire)$ ....
Total amount$.....................

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□ I enclose a cheque for

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                    or

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$ ....
to my credit card:
□ Bankcard
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Number:

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Signature:

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Expiry date:

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Name on card

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Address:
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Postcode:
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Telephone:
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Email:
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All prices are in Australian dollars and include GST. Please return this form with payment to:
The Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc.
PO Box 176
Carlton South VIC 3053
<www.socedvic.org>.

Freelancers do lunch, 16 February 2006

The next freelancers' lunch will be held at Dick's Hotel, 89 Beattie Street, Balmain at noon on Thursday, 16 February 2006. Meals are available in the beer garden, under the dome. Mains are about $10 to $14.

Buses to Balmain leave stand B, behind the QVB, every 10 to 15 minutes. Hop on a 441 or 442 then alight at the intersection of Beattie and Mullens streets, right near the hotel.

There is no need to RSVP. See you there!

CAL applications for professional development fund, closing date 17 February 2006

A total of $50,000 from the cultural fund of the Copyright Agency Limited is allocated annually to a separate funding pool known as the Professional Development Fund.

The Professional Development Fund offers a maximum of $5,000 to each successful applicant, to support professional development through attendance at a Conference, Writers' Festival, Summer School or Course, within Australia or overseas.

Allocations are competitive and in two separate rounds. The application deadlines are:
• First round: Friday, 17 February 2006 for projects beginning after 1 June 2006.
• Second round: Friday, 25 August 2006 for projects beginning after 1 January 2007.

Applications are open to the individual writer, editor, publisher or small organisation wanting to broaden their knowledge base, skills or expertise.

Application should be by letter and not exceed three A4 pages. Your letter should include:
• personal contact details;
• details of the event/course to be attended (with a website reference wherever possible);
• an outline describing how this event/course will contribute to your professional development;
• an outline describing how your attendance at this event/course will contribute to the creative community;
• a detailed budget, to include travel, accommodation expenses and registration fees only
• a brief curriculum vitae.

Applicants will be considered by a selection panel and a shortlist will be recommended to the CAL Board for final approval.

The 2006 Selection Panel will be chaired by CAL's Cultural Fund Coordinator, Susan Hayes, and comprise: José Borghino (editor and lecturer); Christopher Cyrill (author, academic and fiction editor); and Irene Stevens (arts administrator, NSW Ministry of the Arts).

For more information see the website <www.copyright.com.au> or contact CAL's Cultural Fund Coordinator Susan Hayes by email <research@copyright.com.au>, phone (02) 9394 7600.

Perth Writers' Week, 23 February to 1 March 2006

Perth Writers' Week events will be held at the Festival Village, Perth Concert Hall, as part of the Perth International Arts Festival. Local and international authors appearing at the festival include Charmaine Solomon, Hsu-Ming Teo and Frank Moorhouse.

For more details visit the website <www.perthfestival.com.au>.

London Book Fair, 5 to 7 March 2006

The annual spring trading exhibition and seminar forum for UK and overseas booksellers, librarians and publishers is on again in March.

London Book Fair attracts people buying books, rights or non-book products or services from around the globe. It provides a concentrated three-day trading and educational platform that offers access to the world's books, real business contacts and shared knowledge.

Visit the website for more details: <www.lbf-virtual.com>.

Adelaide Writers' Week, 5 to 10 March 2006

As part of the Adelaide Festival, the Adelaide Writers' Week will feature more than 25 overseas guests.

The festival includes a series of stimulating readings, debates and exchanges with panel discussions and meet-the-author sessions.

This year there will be a focus on Dutch writing, acknowledging the 400-year process of European discovery and (un)settling. Indian writers and writing will be highlighted, explaining the enduring and dynamic contact between India and Australia.

Some of the guests speakers at the festival will include Margaret Drabble, Robert Fisk, Tim Krabbe, Suketa Mehta, Vikram Seth, Sarah Waters, Geoffrey Blainey, Robert Drew and Helen Garner.

The Writers' Week events will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens. See the website for details: <www.adelaidefestival.com.au>.

Notes from the National Editors Conference

The Society of Editors (Victoria) has prepared a collection of papers presented at the National Editors Conference held in Melbourne in October 2005. The notes have been transferred onto CDs and conference participants should receive their copy within the next few weeks.

For those who were unable to go, the next conference is not far away. Start planning to attend 'From Inspiration to Publication', the 2007 National Editors Conference on 9 to 12 May in Tasmania. The conference will be held at the Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart.

Vikram Seth at Gleebooks

Born in India and educated there and in England, California and China, Vikram Seth has written many acclaimed books including a travel book, *From Heaven Lake*, and the novels, *A Suitable Boy* and *An Equal Music*. On 9 March he will talk about his latest book, *Two Lives,* at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. The cost is $9/$6 concession. To book, phone (02) 9660 2333.

Other fascinating talks, discussions and launches will be held throughout February and March. See the website <www.gleebooks.com.au> for more details. A few highlights follow:
• Gideon Haigh, in conversation with Bob Carr, discusses *Asbestos House: The Secret History of James Hardie Industries* (27 February)
• *Are Men Necessary?* Maureen Dowd reveals the answer. The venue for this event is the York Theatre, Seymour Centre (28 February)
• The launch of *A History of Modern Indonesia* by Adrian Vickers (7 March)
• Margaret Drabble talks about her new book, *The Red Queen* (16 March).

NSW Writers' Centre workshops

The NSW Writers' Centre offers many worthwhile workshops throughout February and March. These include:
• A Decent Proposal—Pitching To A Publisher, with Rhonda Whitton (Saturday, 4 March, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
• Masterclass: Investigative Journalism, with Peter Manning (four Saturdays)
For costs and other details visit <www.nswwriterscentre.org.au>. Society members may attend at members' rates.

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

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

Advertising rates

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

Membership

Membership of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. is open to anyone working as an editor for publication (print or electronic documents) and anyone who supports the society's aims.
Membership runs for a calendar year. 2006 fees are $75 for new members ($45 if joining after 31 May) and $70 for renewals.
To obtain a membership application form, phone (02) 9294 4999 or write to PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007. You can also download an application form from the society's website at <www.editorsnsw.com>.

Listing in the *Editorial Services Directory*

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

Committee meetings

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

SOCIETY OF EDITORS (NSW) INC.

2005 COMMITTEE

President: Pauline Waugh
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   Email: <cgray@mpx.com.au>

Catering officer: Jennie Begg
   Email: snowcat@iprimus.com.au
   Phone: (02) 9818 6416

Professional development

InDesign
Date: Friday, 17 February [Please note the new date]
Presenter: Alpha Computer Consultants
Venue: Level 3, 123 Clarence Street, Sydney
Cost: $300, lunch not included
Courses include: course notes, certificate, 12 months help desk (via email to reinforce the learning) and repeat any public course within six months for free (conditions apply).

Professional Proofreading
Date: Friday, 7 April
Presenter: Tim Learner

Advanced Editing with MS Word
Date: TBA (tentatively, May or June)
Presenter: Bruce Howarth

Writing for the Creative Industries
Date: Saturday and Sunday, 29 and 30 July
Presenter: Ginny Lowndes

Writing and Editing Memoir
Date: Saturday, 19 August
Presenter: Rae Luckie

Typography for editors
Date: Saturday, 16 September
Presenter: Bruce Howarth

Effective Writing: structure, style, and plain English
Date: Saturday, 25 November

Presenter: Pauline Waugh

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 wokshops).

For more information about the society's workshops, please email Pauline Waugh at

> ### Copy deadline for April issue:
> Tuesday, 14 March 2006

Membership renewal

Membership of the Society of Editors runs from

January to December. Only paid-up members can vote in

the AGM. Please return your renewal forms with payment

as soon as possible. Forms can be downloaded from the

society's website: <www.editorsnsw.com>.

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

NOMINATION FORM

For the Annual General Meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday, 7 March 2006

Nine committee positions and several other positions are open to nomination. The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer constitute the executive; the five general committee members serve on the committee and undertake a variety of tasks related to managing the society's business. Anyone, including committee nominees, may nominate for or be appointed to the specific jobs detailed in the March issue of *Blue Pencil*.

You do not have to be on the committee to undertake any of the following jobs:

Catering officer, meetings coordinator, membership secretary, newsletter editor, *Editorial Services Directory* coordinator, publicity officer, professional development coordinator, website coordinator.

I hereby nominate...

for the committee position of..

or for the job of..

Signed...

Name...

Address...
....
....

I accept nomination...

(Nominee must sign if not the nominator)