

Proposed accreditation scheme

Instead of our usual meeting report, this issue we highlight the Institute of Professional Editors' (IPEd) proposed accreditation scheme. The contents of this submission (CredAbility 5) have implications for editors in the future and will be the subject of discussion and voting at the May EGM, specifically motion 1: 'That the national accreditation scheme shall have two levels: Accreditation, achieved by examination, and Advanced Accreditation, achieved by portfolio; provided that this society agrees to the procedures and budget yet to be prepared.' See page 3 for more details on both the EGM motions.

Background

It is proposed to modify the accreditation scheme in which applicants submit a portfolio for assessment by adding a copyediting examination.

The examination does not replace the portfolio; rather, it provides a first level of accreditation. This model will enable the accreditation scheme to be administered efficiently while avoiding the high costs associated with the portfolio-only assessment. It has the additional advantage of enabling IPEd to roll out the accreditation scheme in 2007. It is expected that an editor with two to three years professional experience will pass the examination. Those who wish to demonstrate advanced skills may submit a portfolio at a later date.

The open-book examination, lasting three hours, will be held simultaneously

in all capital cities and other approved locations on a needs basis. It will be held annually (six-monthly in the first year). The examination will test copyediting and other essential skills, such as project definition and the ability to identify defamation, permission and copyright issues, in accordance with the requirements set out in Australian Standards for Editing Practice (ASEP).

The examination content will reflect the variety of work that editors do, with examples from various kinds of publishing (educational, academic, reference, general non-fiction, fiction, government, corporate, science, technology) and choices to allow for candidates' specialisations. The examination will comprise:

- copyediting questions
- a short manuscript for editing
- short-answer questions.

Marking of the examination will be weighted to reflect ASEP and will recognise that there may be more than one correct solution to an editorial problem and more than one way to mark up a manuscript. The examination will be marked 'pass' or 'fail'. Candidates who fail will receive a report on their performance and may re-sit the examination as often as they like. Provisions will be made for appeals and grievances.

Sample questions and answers and an explanation of the marking system will be available on the IPEd website <www.iped-editors.org> well in advance of the first examination; some sample questions are given on the next page.

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Next meeting: Tuesday, 1 May 2007

Extraordinary general meeting to vote on model for IPEd and the accreditation scheme.

No charge—food and drinks provided

All members of the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. are invited to attend a discussion and vote on the proposed accreditation scheme and the establishment of IPEd as a legal entity.

Only financial ordinary or professional members may vote at this EGM. You can renew your subscription before the start of the meeting. For motions and more details on the voting process see page 3. A proxy form is enclosed.

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. Drinks and light refreshments provided. There is no charge for attending this EGM.

Please RSVP to (02) 9294 4999 (voicemail) or the email address <editorbruce@optusnet.com.au> by Friday, 27 April 2007.

June meeting: Tuesday, 5 June 2007—Winter Dinner (see flyer for details)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Part 1 Copyediting questions (worth 25%)

Mark your corrections clearly on the page. If you wish to use conventional copyediting marks to correct errors, follow Appendix C in the *Style manual* (6th edn). You are not expected to check errors of fact in this exercise.

1. While thinking about this catastrophe, the sun sank from view.
2. The average lifetime for a female in Sweden is 75, but there is evidence that in a few years time it will reduce to 74.
3. Social policy today is reminiscent of Swifts A Modest Proposal.

Possible additional type of question:

4. Write a sentence or sentences demonstrating the difference between these pairs of words:
principle/principal;
affect/effect;
alternative/alternate.

Part 2 Manuscript for editing (worth 50%)

[This section is designed to test editorial judgement and management. The manuscript, of about 2500–3000 words, includes inconsistencies of style, heading systems, referencing and ways of presenting information, as well as a realistic number of literals and grammatical infelicities.]

This manuscript is a short special-offer publication to be handed to racegoers as a special promotion at a major racecourse. It requires a light edit with particular emphasis on consistency, accuracy and ease of reading. Mark all corrections and any queries for the author clearly. You will also need to grade the headings, indicate where illustrations should be placed and create a reference list for the footnotes.

The Melbourne Cup turns this on its head. The race is a handicap – where the handicapper gives each horse a different weight according to his assessment of its ability. A different type of level playing field to the classics. A Darwin schoolteacher, like Wendy Green, owner and breeder of Rogan Josh, the 1999 winner- stands as good a chance of winning the race as the wealthiest of Arab princes and indeed one of the world's wealthiest men, Sheik (get name from Internet), through his Godolphin Stable has tried and failed to win the Cup on many occasions – spending thousands of dollars on traveling horses and staff from Europe to Australia. Good horses don't necessarily win the Cup, but champion horses do. Tables 2 and 3 provide interesting comparisons on the strike rates of favourites and breeding costs of recent Cup winners. From a gambler's point of view, landing the winner of our handicap is a much more attractive option than ticking the boxes to come up with a classic winner. ...

Part 3 Short-answer questions (worth 25%)

[This section offers a choice of questions to accommodate candidates' differing specialties and areas of work.]

Choose FIVE of these TEN questions—each answer is worth 5%:

Question 1

You have received a freelance commission for a light copyedit on a new book by a successful fiction writer. As you work through the book you come upon passages that are familiar and you realise they are taken word-for-word from a foreign-language translation you read as a reference for your Masters thesis. You know this book is unavailable in Australia because you had to have it imported specially. Draft a letter to the author explaining your discovery and what you plan to do about it.

Question 2

The Banjo Paterson poem 'The Man from Snowy River' is being reprinted in a special edition and you have been asked to obtain six illustrations to accompany the text. How would you go about choosing, obtaining and getting permission for these illustrations if you had an unlimited budget? How would you go about it if you had a strictly limited budget? Answer both questions.

This is an open-book test and you are welcome to bring hard-copy reference materials.

Resolutions for EGM, 1 May 2007

The following motions are to be put to the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in conjunction with our regular monthly meeting on 1 May 2007. Background information for each motion, including the actual proposal for Motion 2, was provided in the April issue of *Blue Pencil* (copies can be obtained from the newsletter editor).

Motion 1:

That the national accreditation scheme shall have two levels: Accreditation, achieved by examination, and Advanced Accreditation, achieved by portfolio; provided that this society agrees to the procedures and budget yet to be prepared.

Motion 2:

That this society endorses the proposed model for the incorporation of the Institute of Professional Editors Limited, provided that this society is satisfied of the adequacy of constitutional safeguards in relation to budgets, expenditure, liability, and overall protection of this society's interests.

If you are unable to attend the meeting please fill out the enclosed proxy form. All proxy forms must be in the hands of the society's secretary 24 hours before the start of the meeting. Emails with the same information as the proxy form will be accepted.

IPEd budget

Following the agreement of societies to become corporate members of the Institute, it will be possible to establish and refine a budget based on agreed initial and continuing contributions. An indicative five-year budget is given at Attachment B; the detailed spreadsheet that this summarises can be read at <www.iped-editors.org>.

Attachment B: Indicative five-year budget

Note that this budget is already outdated, due to late changes to the details of the proposal, but does represent expenditures of all kinds and anticipated revenues from accreditation and was part of the original draft material approved by the committee.

Income	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Revenues	\$203,800	\$561,750	\$336,575	\$785,850	\$869,200
Direct costs	-\$91,678	-\$266,384	-\$199,876	-\$481,338	-\$686,915
Gross surplus/deficit	\$112,123	\$295,366	\$136,699	\$304,513	\$182,285
Expenditures					
Finance & risk management	\$15,988	\$29,825	\$15,792	\$28,617	\$23,394
Marketing	\$12,958	\$27,463	\$11,892	\$28,389	\$15,972
Staff & governance	\$47,675	\$68,420	\$45,895	\$69,500	\$48,985
Web services, IT & telephones	\$16,698	\$38,082	\$3,209	-\$1,146	-\$60,184
Premises	\$9,600	\$8,640	\$8,640	\$8,640	\$8,640
Total expenses	-\$102,918	-\$172,429	-\$85,428	-\$134,000	-\$36,807
Provisionings/contingencies	-\$6,365	-\$18,903	-\$8,294	-\$8,017	-\$15,277
Operating surplus/deficit	\$2,840	\$104,034	\$42,978	\$162,496	\$130,202

Society dinner meeting in June!

We've planned a special winter dinner meeting as a variation from the usual format. The dinner will be held on Tuesday, 5 June, and the venue is the lively Dancing Zorbas Greek restaurant in Mosman. Booking forms are enclosed in this issue of *Blue Pencil*.

The dinner provides a great opportunity for all society members to interact and enjoy great food, wine and fun. Calling all northside members of the society... If you haven't been able to get into town for a meeting recently, please take this chance to join us at the June dinner.

Tiered membership system

The newly introduced tiered membership system will work as follows.

Categories

This membership year (2007) 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;
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 as a professional editor 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

Within four years (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 two letters 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 Professional Editor Membership flyer (which will be made available on the website) for more information 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 \$300, 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.**



Who says editors don't have fun?

From Inspiration to Publication

Institute of Professional Editors 3rd National Conference
9–12 May 2007, Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart Tasmania

Speakers include:

- Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty
- ANZ Bank Chief Economist Saul Eslake
- Atlantic Magazine senior editor Yvonne Rolzhausen

Presentations, panels and workshops on science, education, corporate, magazine and trade editing; public forum (town hall style), reception at Government House (very grand and neo-Gothic), dinner in an art deco ballroom with an open fire (theme: Black & White is the New Read) and music by the fabulous String Chickens!

<http://www.tas-editors.org.au/conference2007.htm>

Sponsored by



Style Council 2007



On Saturday 12 May, Style Council 2007, 'Australian usage and style: language description and commentary' will also be held at the Convention Centre in Hobart. Speakers include Dr Bruce Moore on 'Regionalism in Australian English: The Tasmanian Evidence'; Dr Bernadette Hince on 'Farthest South—Antarctica's influence on the English language'; Professor Pam Peters on 'Australian English usage at the turn of the millennium'; Adam Smith, on 'Language columns and columnists'; and Dr Danielle Wood on 'Verbs in the language of place'. There will also be a panel discussion and Style Council Dinner. The cost is \$110 with editors conference registration. Booking details are at <www.ling.mq.edu.au/centres/sc/styleconf07.htm>.

IPed notes

News from Institute of Professional Editors, formerly known as CASE, April 2007

Australian editors are poised to take a huge step forward which will lift us to a new level of professionalism. This month the seven societies of editors are voting on two important proposals: to establish the national organisation as a legal entity, and to modify the proposed accreditation scheme to include a copyediting examination as a first level. Each society is conducting the votes according to its own constitution, and information is available on their websites or direct from their committees. If the proposals are endorsed, we expect that IPed will be established as a not-for-profit company and the first copyediting examination will be held before the end of the year. The results and their significance will be discussed at the national conference in Hobart as well as in the newsletters.

Meanwhile, autumn in the Apple Isle beckons and the conference is on everyone's mind. Despite their location at the end of the world, the Tasmanians obviously have top-class intellectual connections and have enticed a glittering array of keynote speakers to elaborate on the conference theme, from inspiration to publication:

- Ramona Koval is an author and a well-known figure on the Australian literary scene, especially as the presenter of *The Book Show* on your ABC.
- Professor Peter Doherty, who has won a Nobel Prize for his medical research, writes lucidly in the fields of science and education.
- Yvonne Rolzhausen, a senior editor at the *Atlantic* magazine in the USA, is an authority on the meticulous science of fact-checking.
- Saul Eslake, the ANZ Bank's chief economist and chair of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board, is a skilful communicator in the often difficult field of corporate and public-sector economics.

This is our third national conference and another great chance to catch up with friends, hear the latest news and learn about matters of vocational interest. The conferences, which are surely essential professional development events, also present rich opportunities for networking and making new contacts, all in a potentially tax-deductible environment. Various social and professional events are being held in conjunction with it, including a BELS examination and Style Council.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to obtain permission to stage a musical adaptation by Nico Muhly of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*.

The conference runs from Wednesday evening, 9 May, to Friday, 11 May. It is easy to register and to book accommodation on the conference website <www.tas-editors.org.au/conference/conference2007.htm> or via the link on the IPed site, <iped-editors.org>.

Janet Mackenzie
IPed Liaison Officer

Tell us what you think...

If you would like to find out more about the recommendations proposed by the Assessors Forum (March issue of *Blue Pencil*), or if you wish to comment on the recommendations, please visit <www.iped-editors.org> or contact your state society of editors.

Freelancers do lunch, 24 April

The next freelancers' lunch will be held at noon on Tuesday, 24 April 2007 (**note the new date**). The venue is the Firehouse Hotel at 86 Walker Street, North Sydney (near corner of Walker and Spring streets). Mains cost about \$10 to \$14. 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!

National Editors Conference, Hobart, 9 to 12 May

The third National Editors Conference will be held in Hobart from 9 to 12 May 2007 at the Wrest Point Convention Centre. Conference registration can be accessed via the links at <www.tas-editors.org.au/conference/registration.html>. Registration fees are Standard \$430; Concession \$345; Day Registration (Thursday or Friday) \$215; Day Registration Concession (Thursday or Friday) \$175. For more program details go to <www.tas-editors.org.au/conference/program.html>. A Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) exam will also be held. For details about BELS and the exam visit <www.bels.org>.

Style Council, 12 May

The Style Council 2007, taking the theme 'Australian usage and style: language description and commentary', will be held in Hobart on Saturday, 12 May, dovetailing with the National Editors conference. Dr Bruce Moore (Australian National Dictionary Centre, ANU) is the keynote speaker and other invited papers include Dr Bernadette Hince on 'antarctic lexicography' and Dr Danielle Wood (University of Tasmania) on the language of place in her novels. Other papers will discuss language columns in Australian newspapers; and millennial changes in Australian style. Booking information is at <www.ling.mq.edu.au/centres/sc/styleconf07.htm>. The cost is \$132 per day or just \$110 with National Editors Conference registration.

ABIA call for entries, closing date 14 May

Nominations for books, marketing campaigns, and export and rights successes for the 2007 Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA) are now open.

Some categories for nominations include: Australian Biography of the Year; Australian Illustrated Book of the Year; Australian Marketing Campaign of the Year; and Australian Export Success of the Year Award. The closing date is Monday, 14 May 2007.

For further award criteria and details, go to the APA website at <www.publishers.asn.au>, or contact Janice Fewin on tel (02) 9281 9788 or email <apa@publishers.asn.au>.

Galley Club Networking Happy Hour, 15 May

The Galley Club of Sydney is hosting a monthly networking Happy Hour for anyone in publishing or printing. The next one is on Tuesday, 15 May from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., at Level 3, Harbour View Hotel, 18 Lower Fort Street, The Rocks.

For Galley Club members drinks are free. Non-members pay a door fee of \$5 and drinks are free thereafter. (Or you could just join the Club: \$50 p.a. or \$20 p.a. student concession...and enjoy free Happy Hours every month!). Visit <www.galleyclubsydney.org.au> for details.

The Australian Publishers Association Book Design Awards, 28 May

The Australian Publishers Association (APA) Design Awards ceremony and cocktail party will be held at the Powerhouse Museum on 28 May. The event will be presented by Bob Downe, and starts at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$60 per person and should be ordered by 11 May. For more details phone Michaela Purcell or Dee Read (02 9281 9788). For booking forms visit the APA website at <www.publishers.asn.au>.

Sydney Writers' Festival, 28 May to 3 June

The tenth Sydney Writers' Festival will feature more than 60 international writers who will join an ever-expanding contingent of Australian authors for a week of passionate debate and lively conversation. Many events will again take place at Pier 4/5 and Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay, alongside other city venues and locations beyond the CBD. Presenters include Richard Ford, Andrei Makine and Rachel Seiffert. Visit the website <www.swf.org.au> for more details of the festival program.

ASA announces new literary award

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) Barbara Jefferis Award will be an annual prize of at least \$35,000 for the best novel written by an Australian author that depicts women and girls in a positive way or otherwise empowers the status of women and girls in society. The novel may be in any genre and it is not necessary for it to be set in Australia.

The award commemorates one of the ASA's founding members, novelist Barbara Jefferis. For details contact Dr Jeremy Fisher, Executive Director, ASA, phone (02) 9318 0877 or email <Jeremy@asauthors.org>.

Unwin Trust Fellowship awarded

Faye Sutherland, manager of the Co-op Bookshop at Macquarie University, has been awarded this year's Unwin Trust Fellowship. Sutherland, who is the first academic bookseller to be awarded the fellowship, will travel to the UK later this year to carry out research for her project 'Academic Bookselling in the UK: Its Response to Market Change and the Relevance of this to Australia.'

The Unwin Fellowship is sponsored by the Unwin Charitable Trust in the UK, which provides an annual award of £10,000 (A\$23,500), for a project taking up to three months, alternating between the UK and Australia.



Vale Margaret Olds

Many editors who have worked with editor and publisher Margaret Olds over many years have been saddened by her recent death. Millennium House writes:

‘It is with the saddest of hearts that Gordon Cheers advises that Margaret Olds, after having spent many weeks in hospital, has passed away after a prolonged illness resulting from complications associated with pneumonia.

‘As you can imagine this has come as a great shock to her family, friends and work colleagues.

‘Margaret worked for many of the major publishing houses. Her career in publishing began at *Choice Magazine*, then with William Collins. She worked at Ure Smith, Child & Associates, Random House and a number of other major publishers, and also ran a successful freelance editorial business. She then set up Global Book Publishing and, more recently, Millennium House, both in partnership with Gordon Cheers. She was the driving force behind such books as *Australia through Time*, *Botanica*, *Flora*, *Anatomica*, *Historica* and many more.

‘Margaret was also instrumental in formulating the Macquarie University Editing and Publishing Course, where she also lectured for several years.

‘She will be missed both professionally and personally by a great many people, and will leave a gap in the publishing world that will be difficult to fill.’

Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

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

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Your comments and contributions are welcome. Mail them to the Editor, *Blue Pencil*, Society of Editors (NSW) Inc., PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007, or email Catherine Etteridge at <cje_editing@hotmail.com>.

Copy deadline for the June issue is Tuesday, 8 May 2007

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 2007 fees are \$70 for ordinary member or professional members renewals; \$75 for new professional members (\$45 if joining after 31 May); or \$50 for associate membership. Interested organisations can become corporate associates for \$300 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 <cgray@mpx.com.au>.

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.

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Call for contributions

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

Blue Pencil.

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

Professional development

Indexing for Editors

Presenter: Glenda Browne

Date: Friday, 18 May 2007

Cost: \$195 members, \$265 non-members

Indexing is a crucial part of the publishing process—you may create quality content, but you need tools such as indexes to get the best out of it. This workshop takes the point-of-view of the editors who commission indexes, as well as the people who create them.

Structural editing

Presenter: Shelley Kenigsberg

Date: Wednesday, 20 June

Grammar for Editors

Presenter: Pam Peters

Date: Friday, 13 July 2007

Copyediting

Presenter: Shelley Kenigsberg

Date: Thursday, 23 August

Typography for editors

Presenter: Bruce Howarth

Date: Friday, 21 September

Effective writing: structure, style, and plain English

Presenter: Pauline Waugh

Date: Friday, 16 November

Cost for all workshops: \$195 for members and \$265 for non-members.

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

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

Please return your Member Survey

Have you sent in your 2007 Member Survey yet? The deadline has been extended, but we need to receive your responses as soon as possible. All society members were sent a stamped envelope with their survey. Please contact the newsletter editor at <cje_editing@hotmail.com> if you require a copy of the survey. We need your help to work out what members want and what current rates are, and how we should calculate any future suggested rates. If you only have time to fill out some of the form we would still appreciate your response.

Copy deadline for the June issue of
Blue Pencil
Tuesday, 8 May 2007