

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of
the Society
of Editors
(NSW)

Patron: Hazel Hawke

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MARCH 1994

To Talk of Other Things

Calling in-house editors and those editors 'out of town'

In the Society of Editors (NSW) its 160 members are from South Australia, Victoria, the ACT, and urban and rural New South Wales, made up of in-house editors and freelance editors.

The Society of Editors (NSW) is *your* society.

- It was set up for in-house and freelance wordsmiths, and people interested in book publishing.
- It offers interaction between in-house editors (some working within very narrow disciplines) and freelance editors.
- It is a forum for exchange of ideas, and for discussing changes in ideas and technology in the profession.
- At meetings guest speakers such as other editors, designers, marketing people, and authors present different views and share their publishing experiences.

The committee invites in-house editors who have not been attending the monthly meetings to mark the first Tuesday in the month as the date for the society meetings.

For those who cannot attend meetings, contributions to *Blue Pencil* would be welcome in the form of articles, anecdotes, information on regional workshops and conferences, and as Letters to the Editors.

On a separate matter the society welcomes Lesley Dow back after her

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Treasurer's Report from the Annual General Meeting, 1 February 1994

Summary of Cash Receipts and Outgoings for the Year Ended 31 December 1993

	\$	\$
Receipts		
Membership	7110	
Meetings	4909	
Register	916	
Interest received	90	
		<u>13025</u>
Less:		
Refunds	170	
		<u>(170)</u>
Total receipts		12855
Less: Outgoings		
Advertising	224	
Bank charges	43	
Blue Pencil news	6738	
Catering	3725	
Committee expenses	651	
Couriers	22	
Insurance	167	
Postage	37	
Subscriptions	60	
Telephone	528	
Total outgoings		<u>12195</u>
Net surplus		660

Statement of Assets for the Year Ended 31 December 1993

	1993	1992
	\$	\$
Cash at bank		
Commonwealth Bank Cheque		
Account # 0090 5083	1279	110
St George Account # 025 539 977	-	245
	<u>1279</u>	<u>355</u>
Cash on hand	23	-
Commonwealth Savings Bank		
Investment # 500 2527	3833	3743
Total assets	<u>5135</u>	<u>4098</u>

Treasurer/Catering

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Editors (NSW) on 1 February 1994 two key positions on the committee remain open:

- Treasurer
- Catering.

The society's books are in good order and there is money in the bank. All the information for someone to take over the catering role is available.

Help us to help our society fulfil the terms of our constitution or we will be drawing straws for these positions on 1 March instead of holding a meeting.

Committee meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in the city at 6.30 pm.

Please ring Robin Appleton on 560 1017 before 1 March to discuss these positions.

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Editor-in-Residence Fellowship at Griffith University, Queensland, and bids best wishes and many challenges to Beverley Barnes who takes up her Editor-in-Residence Fellowship at the University of South Australia in March.

People interested in being considered for the 1995 Fellowship are invited to send their personal details to the Literature Unit, Australia Council, PO Box 788, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.
Robin Appleton

EDITORS AND AUTHORS

Andrew and Nina Riemer addressed the February meeting, not as a double act, but from the separate points of view of an author and a managing editor working with editors.

Andrew is best known to us as the literary editor of the *Independent Monthly* and a reviewer for the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He stressed that Nina is not his editor.

He began as an academic editor in England in the early 60s specialising in textual scholarship, examining 16th and 17th century drama texts 'to try to recover them from the accretions of time'. In his textual editing in this period, he felt that although conflict situations inevitably arose, one was fortunate in one way – Johnson, Shakespeare or Milton could not fight back. Andrew's early textual scholarship work was notable for its clear paradigms and structures, but when he later returned to Sydney he found that it had become unfashionable and he could no longer pursue that literary interest.

As a textual scholar, Andrew's aim was to bring out clearly what was implicit in a word or section of text which, as written, did not communicate its meaning clearly to the reader. As an author he is most concerned when one of his books is seen by the editor or publisher in a different form from that in which he wrote it. His books are unlike the bulk of the purpose-written books published today (such as those for the gardening or Do It

Yourself market) and he looks to the publisher to accept them as artefacts, made objects shaped with some care. He finds it most disturbing to be asked to make changes to a book because of the editor's different perception of the nature of the work.

Andrew wrote *The Habsburg Cafe* as an explanation of the contemporary politics and society of the Eastern Europe of his past experience, but an editor saw it as a travel book and suggested that he move large sections of the text. The book was finally balanced between travel and biography, a very tricky line to negotiate which led to some disagreement with one of the editors. Thanks to his earlier experiences as an academic editor these problems were resolved and the book survived. Andrew suggests that the moral of the experience is how good it is that such conflicts can be resolved because of the common ground of the author and editor.

Nina began her career as an editorial assistant on a magazine and then began working in public relations with the ABC. Twenty years ago she became a consulting editor for ABC Books and is now a senior editor in the ABC publishing program.

Comparing then and now, Nina misses certain aspects of the hot metal era when there was more time to collaborate with designers over the look of the book, the print on the page. In these days of computer typesetting on disk and the quickie book, it is now possible to publish within a matter of weeks a book that has not yet been written. There is no time for proper editing, and the opportunity to establish a creative partnership with the designer has been lost. Quickie books may or may not be best sellers. The negative aspect of this is that serious books with small runs and small budgets written by people with great ideas, but who might be bad writers, need editing time which budget restrictions do not allow.

In Nina's view, the situation is anomalous; the glamorous, hard-cover editions in the pulp-fiction

Register of Editorial Services

The society is compiling a 1994 register of editorial services. The register is open to members and non-members working freelance or in-house. To have your name and details of your services entered in the register, complete the entry form enclosed with this issue of *Blue Pencil* and return it with the appropriate fee to PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007, by 15 March.

Meeting dates

The dates of the society meetings for 1994 are:

5 April	3 May	7 June	5 July
2 August	6 Sept	4 October	1 Nov

Society of Editors (NSW) Register of Editorial Services, 1994

ENTRY FORM

Please type your entry or print clearly in upper and lower case.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Phone: (.....)

Fax: (.....)

Full-time

Part-time

Brief summary of services offered [8 words max.]:

.....

Experience: In-house:

.....

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Freelance:

.....

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Recent projects [20 words max.]:

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Academic qualifications:

.....

.....

Special skills, including languages [20 words max.]:

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Special interests [20 words max.]:

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.....

Computer services offered:

.....

Please send the completed form and your payment by 15 March 1994 to:

Register of Editorial Services
Society of Editors (NSW)
PO Box 254
Broadway NSW 2007

Enclose your payment:

- \$ 40.00, member of Society of Editors(NSW)
- \$ 45.00, non-member
- money order
- cheque, payable to Society of Editors (NSW)

Signature: Date:

Office use only:	Date:	Initials:
Receipt and galley proof sent to registrant
Approval received from registrant
Complimentary copy of register sent

BULLETIN BOARD

Editing Seminars

Robin Appleton will present a series of weekend editing seminars at the New South Wales Writers' Centre, Rozelle.

The seminars will deal with the important aspects of editing from manuscript to proofreading.

Dates: 15, 22, and 29 May; 4 and 5 June

Time: 9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Enquiries: Laurel Cohn, tel: 555 9757

Writers

Does anyone know of a directory listing Sydney-based writers and their specialities? Please contact Robyn Flemming on 326 2925.

Share Your News

Have you changed jobs? Gone bush? Set up as a freelancer? Let other members know what you're doing by placing a notice on the Bulletin Board. Simply fax your notice to John Fleming on 529 9764.

Conference on the 4Rs

The Humanities Research Centre (ANU) and the Australian Scholarly Editions Centre (English Department, ADFA) are holding a joint Conference on the 4Rs (wRiting, Repairing, Re-presenting, Re-creating the Text) at the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, 8–10 April 1994. The 4Rs conferences emphasise the detailed consideration of the texts of scholarly manuscripts. For further details and an application form contact The Convenor, Associate Professor Paul Eggert, Scholarly Editions Centre, English Department, ADFA, Canberra ACT 2600, but hurry. Registration forms should be returned by 8 March.

Training Resources

The Society of Editors (NSW) is compiling a list of training resources for the information of members. We are interested in hearing about any courses/workshops you have attended. Please provide information and contact details on the Feedback sheet included with the April issue of *Blue Pencil*.

end of the market are getting all the money because this area is perceived to be where the high profits are. At the other end of the market, editors and authors have to do with wrappers and small, over-priced books on poor quality paper.

From the publisher's point of view, editors are sometimes overpaid and at times not up to the mark, lacking, for example, either

knowledge of formal grammar or of life and yet having what Nina calls a 'confidence of ignorance'. She gave a recent example of an editor striking out an author's use of the possessive with the gerund.

Nina is quick to acknowledge that on the good side, there are editors who are extremely thorough, such as the one who was able to provide the exact wording

of a statement by Marlon Brando in the film 'On the Waterfront' and which had been misquoted by an author.

Nina's advice for editors is to always question your own wisdom. It is always tricky interposing yourself between the author and the text without checking, especially when you think you know.

Your Committee 1994

President

Robin Appleton
Ph: 560 1017

Secretary

Val Phillips
Ph: 697 4345 (w)
918 7031 (h)

Treasurer

Position vacant

Catering

Position vacant

Membership

Rhana Pike
Ph: 569 7831

Newsletter

John Fleming
Ph: 529 8638
Fax: 529 9764

Robyn Flemming
Ph: 326 2925
Fax: 327 2963

Carol D'Costa
Ph: 954 0711

Our Next Speaker: Irina Dunn

Irina Dunn is the Co-ordinator of the New South Wales Writers' Centre. Prior to taking up the position in December 1992, she had worked as a journalist, book editor, film-maker, school and TAFE teacher, university lecturer, and parliamentarian.

An honours graduate in English Language and Literature from the University of Sydney, Irina began teaching at Frensham Girls' School, Mittagong, teaching French and English. Since that time she has been a tutor in the Department of English at the University of Sydney, a teacher of Communications and English at Sydney Technical College, TAFE, and the Police Academy, a project officer in the prisoner literacy program of the Department of Corrective Services, and a senior lecturer in Environmental Policy at the University of New England.

Irina's experience in both in-house and freelance publishing is extensive and varied. She has been a senior editor for Hamlyn Books and Pergamon Press, project editor of Reader's Digest *Scenic Wonders of the World*, and editor of the prisoners' newspaper, *Inprint*, and the Australian film and television industry trade magazine, *Encore*. As a freelancer, she edited the Penguin publications *Stirring the Possum*, the autobiogra-

phy of former Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, Mr Jim McClelland, and Roger Milliss's *The Serpent's Tooth*. She has also been consultant editor for research studies and publications of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW) and the Australian Museum.

Her publications include numerous radio, journal and newspaper articles, reviews, and interviews. Her book, *A Natural Legacy: Ecology in Australia*, of which she was co-editor and co-author, won the 1979 Royal Zoological Society Prize for the best text on the subject.

In 1983 she researched, narrated, directed and produced the documentary film, 'Frame Up: Who Bombed the Hilton, Who Didn't', after which she wrote and directed a second documentary film 'Fighting for Peace', a prize winner at the 1985 San Francisco International Film and Video Festival.

In July 1988 Irina was elected to Federal Parliament as an independent Senator for New South Wales and served in that capacity until June 1990. During that time she was a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, the Parliamentary Liaison Group on Aids, and the Select Committee examining the quasi-judicial role of government tribunals.

Pedagogue, publisher, and politician, we look forward to hearing Irina's address on 1 March.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the society will be held on Tuesday, 1 March 1994 at 6.30 pm at the Rooftop Function Centre, 4th Floor, Australian Museum. Enter from William Street.

Our guest speaker will be Irina Dunn, Co-ordinator of the New South Wales Writers' Centre.

Drinks and light food will be provided.

RSVP by 27 February by phoning Robin Appleton on 560 1017.

Members \$10; non-members and for those who forget to notify us before the RSVP date, \$12.