

The SOCIETY of EDITORS (VICTORIA)

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 7/8

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

Next meeting

The Teaching of Editing

With Bryony Cosgrove

Rhumbaralla's Café (The Loft, upstairs)

342 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Wednesday, 3 March 2004

6.30 for 7 p.m.

\$25 members and \$30 non-members for a set menu plus tea and coffee. Drinks at bar prices

Over the last decade, one of the most remarkable changes in the training of editors has been the shift from informal in-house training to formal qualifications offered through an ever-expanding range of university and TAFE courses. Will you become unemployable if you don't have a PhD in the appropriate use of the apostrophe? Or is the teaching of editing a lucrative string that current editors should add to their bows? We are fortunate to have one of the leading editor educators in Melbourne to share her views with us on these topics.

Bryony Cosgrove is the Subject Co-ordinator for the RMIT Postgraduate Diploma in Editing and Publishing (Melbourne's original editing course and one that the Society of Editors worked to bring about) and also for RMIT's MA in Applied Communications. She is also a Beatrice Davis Fellow, a winner of the FAW Barbara Ramsden Award (the only award given to a book's editor) and once had the best job title in the country: Publisher of Adult Books at Penguin.

Bookings are essential:

- Book with Susan Keogh – email at <skeogh@cambridge.edu.au> or phone 8671 1413.
- Book strictly before 5 p.m. on **Monday, 1 March**.
- Indicate if you're a member, student, ASTC member, or non-member.
- Choose vegetarian, vegan, white-meat or red-meat main course, and the cake or fresh-fruit salad for dessert. Please advise Susan of your choice when booking.
- Give a contact phone number or email.

- If you need to cancel, please email or phone Susan as soon as possible so we don't waste money on catering for people who don't turn up.
- If you cancel after 7 p.m. on the day before the meeting, Susan will contact you with her Treasurer's hat on and ask you to pay as if you had attended.

Susan has offered to organise this and the next dinner meeting to give our hard-working Meetings Secretary, Kerry Biram, a well-deserved break. Details of meetings to come will appear in our next newsletter and on our website.

Roll on 2004

A small, but important newsletter this month as we get underway for another year. Your dedicated committee has been working hard to come up with a range of dinner meeting ideas and training opportunities for members, with our first dinner meeting on 3 March and training opportunity on 3 April.

One of the most important things we are doing this year is revamping our website – and the subcommittee led by our Web Manager, Ann Philpott, has spent many hours looking at a range of options to improve it. You can also have some input on how to make it a better website – see page 3.

The 2004 *Freelance Register* is also well underway and that has been another huge task for those involved. It should hit the streets sometime in March or early April.

We are sorry to say goodbye to our Minutes Secretary, Catherine Hunt, who is leaving to concentrate on work and training commitments. Her diligence will be missed and we thank her for her commitment. Catherine's replacement on the committee will be published in the next newsletter.

The newsletter will continue to come to you monthly – we would welcome your feedback, new ideas, letters, stories and photos. Please send these to me at <lzsteele@melbpc.org.au>.

Liz Steele



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News, comments, letters and other material for publication, review or mention in the *Newsletter* should be addressed to the *Newsletter* Editor at the address on the left.

Disclaimer: The views expressed by individuals in this *Newsletter* are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.

Remembering the Christmas Party

There were at least 50 eager editors sampling the wonderful Christmas menu at Rhumbaralla's on Wednesday 3 December. If you weren't there, you missed out on a delectable entrée and main course, and later in the evening, we had to find room to fit in either plum pudding, chocolate fudge mud cake or lemon tart. Let me tell you it really was a struggle, but there were plenty of empty plates at the end.

Liz Steele and Susan Keogh compiled a set of quite fiendish Trivial Pursuit® questions, which tested everyone's grey matter. Kerry Biram's daughter, Justine Herbstreit, read the questions, and Liz's daughter, Meg, tallied up the scores – an excellent double-act. Kerryn Burgess's table won in a titanic struggle, with each person on the winning table selecting a book from a table-full of options.

There were other prizes awarded through out the night, in between food and rounds of Trivial Pursuit:

The **First-Booker Award**: to Ann Philpott for getting in early with her booking on 15 November.

The **Big-Booker Award**: to Katie Barnett for making up a table of eight colleagues from Harcourt Education.

The **Nightmare Award**: to Liz Steele, for her account of pre-Christmas workplace stress which resulted in her putting her cordless phone in the courier box with artwork and manuscripts and sending it to her client. The kids copped the blame for quite a while until the client contacted her (on her mobile) with the news.

The **Eye Teeth Award**: to Janet Mackenzie for her story of an absolutely genuine editing job where she worked on writing

that was light and lively, where there was no deadline, no budget, and a friendly, efficient and grateful author. (I wish!!!)

The **Em-dash Award**: to Sally Woollett for a 10-line sentence full of brow-furrowing complex numbering, punctuation and technical language; she says the whole article was like that.

My thanks to everyone who helped set up the room beforehand, and to all the members who entered heartily into the spirit of pre-Christmas fun and games. We hope your family Christmas celebrations were as much fun, and as delicious.

Kerry Biram

What's on your shelf or bedside table?

What did you read over the summer? Fiction, self-help manuals, biographies, the pile of *Weekend Australian* magazines you hadn't had time to read during the year? Tell us (in 50 words or less) about your latest great read. We want to know the good, the bad and the ugly.

Include title and author of course, a brief outline and your rating of it and why.

Email your literary lowdowns to Sally Woollett at <wools@bigpond.net.au>.

The Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc. presents

Editing for on-screen publications: An introductory workshop

Presenter: Lan Wang

Saturday 3 April, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

CAE, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

In these days of technological change, editors are increasingly being asked to work with on-screen publications such as websites and multimedia CDs.

The big question is: what's the difference between editing print versus on-screen content?

This half-day workshop will take participants through the key features of the on-screen environment which affect the editing process, with an emphasis on making content more logical, readable and meaningful to the reader. Workshop participants will be able to discuss numerous examples of good and not-so-good on-screen writing and editing, and put their new knowledge to practice with hands-on exercises.

The workshop is aimed at those who have little or no experience working with on-screen publications or those who would simply like to confirm or round out their existing knowledge.

Lan Wang has worked for many years writing, editing and managing the production of both print and on-screen publications. She has also given numerous workshops and lectures at RMIT, the University of Melbourne and other organisations.

Cost: \$95 for members (Society of Editors, ASTC and Society of Indexers), \$125 for non-members

Please book with Marta Veroni <bohemian@melbpc.org.au> by **Friday, 19 March 2004.**

Note: Due to computer availability, places are limited, so please book early!

Website usage survey

The Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc. is currently working at updating its website. Please take the time to answer the following questions that are relevant to your usage patterns and to make any comments or suggestions. This is *your* website so your input would be appreciated.

You could win a \$30 book voucher just by replying to this survey by **29 February 2004!** If you have already responded to this survey via the e-list, please do not send in another response. The name of the newsletter respondent who wins the book voucher will be published in the next newsletter. Post to Website Survey, PO Box 176, Carlton South VIC 3053.

The winner of the \$30 book voucher for responding to the survey on the e-list by 31 December was **Robyn Colman**. Congratulations!

Place a cross (X) in the column that most closely reflects your usage pattern of the following:

www.socedvic.org website usage	Once or twice a year	Once a month	Twice a month or more
Home page only			
News section on the home page			
Meetings information			
Training course information			
Contact details of the committee			
Most recent or past newsletters			
<i>Freelance Register</i>			
Interesting or useful websites about editors or editing via the Links page?			
Discovering news about or publications by CASE (Council of Australian Societies of Editors)			
Membership information and forms			
For any other reason (please describe):			

If you have never used the website, please state why not:

What I would like to see on the website:

Any other comments that do not fit elsewhere:

Many thanks for your time! – *Ann Philpott*

Training report

Calendar of events for 2004

Is there a specific type of training you feel you need? Please email me at <bohemian@memltpc.com.au>. The following training sessions are designed to help you – what else would you like to see this year?

April 2004	Editing for On-screen Publications
April 2004	Project Management for Editors
May 2004	Structural Editing
June 2004	Using Macros as an Editing Tool

Marta Veroni

Membership report

Welcome to the following new full members and associate members.

Full members: Sarah Brenan, Anna Fern, Charlotte Harrison, Kellie Hughes, Deb Kuyper, Claire Owen, Eva Zylinski, Joy Whitton and Liesha Northover.

Associate members: Zerrin Sayer, Denise Formica, Michelle Almiron, Claire Emery, Stephanie Lenn, Vida Mierendorff and Mary Pearl.

Rob Moore

Dates for your diary

March meeting

Wednesday, 3 March 2004

Website survey

Responses due Sunday, 29 February 2004



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Honorary Life Members

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Colin Jevons, Susan Keogh, Vane Lindesay, Janet Mackenzie, Sally Milner,
Renée Otmar, Teresa Pitt, Yvonne Rousseau, Wendy Sutherland, Basil Walby,
Lee White

John Curtin (d. 1999)
Beatrice Davis (d. 1992)
Frank Eyre (d. 1988)
Stephen Murray-Smith (d. 1988)

Membership of the Society is open to anyone engaged professionally in any
aspect of editing for publication, or who has had such experience in the
past. Associate membership is open to anyone interested in the Society's
activities. Associate members may not vote or hold office in the Society.

Membership application/renewal forms are available from the Secretary, the
Membership Secretary or the Society's website: www.socedvic.org

Subscriptions

Full membership \$66
Associate membership \$66
Distant membership \$38.50