

The SOCIETY of EDITORS (VICTORIA)

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 1

JULY 2004

Next meeting

Book launch: *The Editor's Companion* by Janet Mackenzie

Just published by Cambridge University Press
Copies for sale on the night – 20% discount

Café Mystique (upstairs – formerly Rhumaralla's)
342 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Wednesday, 4 August 2004
6.30 for 7 p.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non-members (cash or cheque only) for a lavish finger-food feast: savoury platters (incl. vegetarian) followed by mini-cakes with coffee or tea. Drinks at bar prices.

Celebrate the launch of the very latest specialist guide for editors – *The Editor's Companion* – by Janet Mackenzie.

As the knowledge economy takes shape, editors face many challenges: technology is transforming publishing, text is losing out to graphics, and writing is distorted by cliché, hype and spin. More than ever, editors are needed to add value to information and to rescue readers from boredom and confusion.

The Editor's Companion explains the traditional skills of editing for publication and how to adapt them for digital production. It describes the editorial tasks for all kinds of print and screen publications – from fantasy novels, academic texts and oral history to web pages, government documents and corporate reports. It is an essential tool not only for professional editors but also for media and publications officers, self-publishers and writers editing their own work.

With its broad coverage of editorial concerns, *The Editor's Companion* is the 21st-century replacement for the friendly guidance of in-house mentors and colleagues.

Janet Mackenzie has more than 30 years' experience in the profession and has conducted many training workshops on

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editing. She is the founding Secretary and an Honorary Life Member of the Society of Editors (Victoria), and convenes the national working group on accreditation for the Council of Australian Societies of Editors.

Copies for sale on the night: RRP: \$39.95, less 20% discount = \$31.95 (cash, cheque, credit card taken).

Also available for sale on the night: *The Cambridge Guide to English Usage* – Pam Peters (CUP, pub. April 2004), RRP: \$75.00, less 20% discount = \$60.00.

Bookings are essential:

- Book with **Amanda Coverdale** – email preferred – at <amanda@clari.net.au>, or phone 8802 4482.
- Book **strictly before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 3 August.**
- State if you're a member, student, ASTC member, AusSI member or non-member.
- Give an email address or contact phone number.
- If you need to cancel, please email or phone Amanda 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, the Treasurer will contact you shortly after and ask you to pay as if you had attended.



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President's Report 2003–2004

Brett Lockwood

Honorary Life Members, fellow committee members and general members—welcome to this Annual General Meeting. I have some comments about the past year, and then a short report will be read out for each committee portfolio.

Primarily, I'd like to thank the committee members. All the work they do is unpaid. And they do a lot of it. People join committees for all sorts of reasons. In my experience, people join committee for multiple reasons, not just one. However, there is always the motive of the contribution being deemed as worthwhile by the giver, and this is what makes a committee work well. We have had several new initiatives this year, particularly the redesign of our website. These developments will be mentioned shortly when the reports are presented.

A major trend I would like to mention is the shift towards larger committees. When I first joined this committee there were seven committee members. Our current committee has fourteen members. Committee positions are being split because people just don't have that much time to give any more. Recently, we've had two people sharing training, two sharing freelance affairs, two doing the members' meetings role, and three doing the newsletter. Two months ago, Susan Keogh recommended that we add an assistant treasurer, and we have also just created the position of vice president, a position intended to offer support for the president as well as addressing new initiatives. I am very pleased to announce that Kerry Biram will be our inaugural vice president.

So our committee is a big committee. It thus gets more difficult to fill committee positions, as we require a higher proportion of our members to join the committee each year in order for it to function properly. Also, I heard on Radio National last week that there are 700,000 voluntary associations in Australia. This means that a lot of people are on more than one committee. Kerry Biram mentioned to me, purely as an aside a few days ago, that she had an AGM to attend that night as president of the Parent Support Group for a scout group. Ann Philpott was president of the Victorian branch of the Society of Indexers recently. All this voluntary effort. Hugely beneficial to the members of voluntary associations.

Then there is email. We now send portfolio reports out as Word attachments with each month's committee meeting agenda. For one recent meeting, I received and read a total of twenty-two pages of material. In addition, there was other material relating to my own portfolio to be read. So technology does not really make a committee member's job any faster to accomplish, but that said, being part of the committee over the coming year is going to be challenging, rewarding and exciting—for all the usual reasons, and particularly because of the CASE conference. So who amongst you wants to be part of this seminal year? We still have some committee positions open. Please join us.

One upshot of what I am saying (and I am, in a roundabout way, providing a basis for this next comment), is that when

someone in an association with great drive gets a good idea, especially a totally new one, we have increasingly to expect that this person will carry most of it through themselves, or in some way attract others and build in them a strong commitment to that idea so that it gets built in stone. Any association gets incredibly lucky when it finds such gems, because by their very passion they pull along with them committee members—and thus the association—in their efforts. Without such individuals good things can happen, but great things cannot happen.

I am thinking of someone in particular here, and that person is Renée Otmar. Renée was the founding member of the Council of Australian Societies of Editors (which we now know simply as CASE). Renée has been on our committee continuously since 1992, which makes her our longest serving committee member, as far as I can determine, and over these years Renée has been president four times. And it was Renée who passionately wanted Victoria to host the 2005 CASE conference, and this is indeed what is going to happen.

Renée is one of those gems who brings an association forward with her sheer enthusiasm. I cannot think of any person who has been more strongly committed to the Society roles she has taken on.

Renée will no longer be continuing in the leadership roles for us that she has performed to date. I hope that her involvement with the Society will strengthen again soon. There's a card going around tonight for you all to sign to go with the flowers the committee is going to send to her.

I also wish to thank Rob Moore, Helen Moore, Ann Philpott, Susan Keogh and Kirsten Slifirski, who are stepping down from the committee. They are all deserving of our thanks.

The AGM – in brief

About 30 members and non-members attended this year's AGM and, despite the management and name change of the venue (Rhumbarella's is now Café Mystique), enjoyed the usual good service and food.

Each committee member delivered his or her report for the past year, confirming that the Society has had another successful year. Vane Lindesay, one of the Society's Honorary Life Members, then announced the nominations for the 2004–2005 committee and the members were elected without opposition.

After dinner, there was some vigorous discussion about various issues of relevance to the Society and the incoming committee will take these up in more detail in the coming months.

Lan Wang

Treasurer's Report 2003–2004

Susan Keogh

Receipts	2002–03	2003–04
Membership	18,641.00	18,040.77
Meetings	4,665.00	6,810.00
Freelance Register	5,060.00	5,640.00
Training courses	23,504.00	3,450.00
Bank interest	311.43	352.50
Advertising revenue	132.00	—
GST refund	925.00	227.00
APA	445.00	—
Book sales at meetings	1,095.00	—
Total receipts	59,783.43	34,520.27

Expenditure	2002–03	2003–04
Newsletter	8,031.10	9,055.73
Administration	929.69	641.50
Meetings	12,946.70	9,351.00
Freelance Register	8,205.05	8,936.70
Training courses	22,720.30	3,006.00
Accounting advice	55.00	—
RMIT student award	500.00	500.00
Bank charges	78.40	91.90
Dishonoured cheques	—	194.00
Website	165.00	110.83
Paymate fees	—	33.00
MessageBank (Telstra)	143.10	125.62
Postage	306.30	310.00
CASE	2,252.47	1,047.51
GST remitted	860.00	1,326.00
Miscellaneous	1,479.00	1,706.32
Books	1,084.00	—
Advertising	152.02	—
Total expenditure	59,908.13	36,436.11
Net cash flow	(124.70)	(1,915.84)

Members' funds	2002–03	2003–04
Bank balance at 30 June	5,070.75	1,663.89
Cash management fund	10,279.13	10,727.32
Plus petty cash float	299.00	82.05
Less unrepresented cheques	2,177.02	686.00
Total	13,471.86	11,787.26

Opening balance	2,893.73
Net cash flow	(1,915.84)
Unrepresented cheques	686.00
Closing balance	1,663.89

Notes

Meetings	
Receipts	6,810.00
Expenses*	9,351.00
Net	(2,541.00)

*Includes accreditation workshop (\$599.00) & miscellaneous (\$344.20)

Training	Receipts	Expenses	Net
Quotations & Negotiations	1,560.00	1,958.25	(398.25)
Editing for Onscreen	1,550.00	1,047.75	502.25
Structural editing	340.00	—	340.00
Total			842.25

Freelance Register	
Receipts	5,640.00
Edit & set	2,824.50
Index	950.00
Print	4,171.20
Post	991.00
Net	(3,296.70)

Newsletter	
Postage	1,867.20
Stuff/fold	3,130.23
Printing	3,933.30
Admin	125.00
Total	9,055.73

Miscellaneous	
Brisbane CASE conference	\$985
Book vouchers	\$500
Wine for web students	\$70.50
Flowers	\$71.00
Obituary notice	\$46.59
Stationery	\$33.23
Total	1706.32

Meetings Organiser's Report 2003–2004

Kerry Biram

I have enjoyed a busy and challenging year as Meetings Organiser, and have enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the Society and to get to know some members better.

In general, the role has involved:

- planning the discussion topic and finding speakers
- arranging the venue
- selecting the menu
- taking bookings from members
- supervising the running of the meeting on the night.

There have been nine meetings through the year since last year's Annual General Meeting:

August – Word surgery: delivering the kindest cut to corporate publications, with Trischa Baker, who explained how to turn corporate gobbledegook into clear prose; it's called word surgery.

September – Designing in the 21st century: a forum about technological changes in design, for designers and editors, with Lauren Statham, Virginia Murdoch and Jo Waite. The technological changes impacting on designers, and how they can work with editors to accommodate those changes.

October – What we got up to at the Brisbane CASE conference in July, with Kerry Biram, Donna Williams and Lan Wang. A first-hand view from some of the folk who made it to the Brisbane CASE conference and back again. A description of some of the sessions and what they felt was valuable. Followed by an outline of 'What is CASE and what is it doing for us?' with Renée Otmar and Janet Mackenzie.

November – All I want for Christmas is ... Booksellers tell us what's on their mind in the months before Christmas, with Mark Rubbo of Readings Books, and Tim White from Books for Cooks. Two of Melbourne's busiest booksellers were invited to tell us about the lead-up to Christmas from their point of view.

December – Our Christmas party, Trivial Pursuit competition, Your Choice Editing Awards, and wonderful Christmas food, prizes and lots of fun.

I would like to acknowledge Susan Keogh's assistance in running the March and April meetings.

March – The teaching of editing, with Bryony Cosgrove, who discussed the changes in the training of editors over the past decade – the shift from informal in-house training to formal qualifications, and the ever-expanding range of university and TAFE courses.

April – Editorial horror stories. Susan Keogh conducted an informal evening of sharing our favourite editorial horror stories. In our search for perfection in our books, Murphy's Law sometimes takes hold, with memorable results – hideous typos, misspelt spines and assorted computer glitches.

May – The technology involved in setting up (or upgrading) your freelance office, with Lan Wang. How to select the right equipment for the job, and what questions to ask: hardware, software, etc. with plenty of guidance from an expert.

June – Writing in Tongues: LOTE, editing and translating. A panel session with Anne Löhnberg, Hilary Royston, Moreno Giovannoni and Kerry Brown. The experiences and backgrounds of four people who combine their skills with English and other languages to produce a variety of material in that context.

July – Annual General Meeting. A new committee was elected, and reports were presented from outgoing Committee members.

My thanks go to all my fellow Committee members for their cooperation and help over the year, and thanks to the many active Society members who contribute by their attendance and interest in the meetings that have been held.

My best wishes to all for a busy and successful year ahead.

Your 2004–2005 Committee

President

Brett Lockwood

Treasurer

Carole Pearce

Membership and Correspondence

Ron Thiele

Meetings

Amanda Coverdale

Lydia Di Stefano

Training

Marta Veroni

Minutes

Anne Löhnberg

Web (Acting)

Ann Philpott

Freelance Affairs

L. Elaine Miller

Newsletter

Liz Steele

CASE Accreditation

Janet Mackenzie

Contact details of new members will be provided in the next *Newsletter*. In the meantime, you can address queries to outgoing committee members.

Web Manager's Report 2003–2004

Ann Philpott

This year has seen a website user survey conducted and website redesign project begun. The results of the survey were detailed in the Society's April *Newsletter*.

The redesign project was spearheaded late last year by an approach from the Society's president to Graham Hill, the course convenor of information technology studies at Deakin University, Burwood Campus.

This particular department enjoys having its students work on real-life projects, so the redesign of our website was accepted by Graham and allocated to a group of five students, who were undertaking this course of study as part of their degree or diploma.

I headed a subcommittee that was responsible for drawing up a list of website specifications for our new site during December and the early part of this year. The Society's president and I then met the students and lecturer Penelope Goward at an initial meeting in March, where we outlined the Society's requirements. There were a number of further meetings during the semester, which culminated in the students delivering to me in late June a website design on CD together with installation and maintenance manuals.

The Society presented each student with a certificate of appreciation and a book voucher for \$100 in recognition of the work they had put into our site.

The new website will be installed after a new web manager has been appointed and has familiarised him- or herself with the manuals, files and functionality issues, and made any editorial or other changes he or she wishes to make to the students' work.

The committee would like interested persons to contact the president. Someone who is keen to learn new web skills or someone who wishes to further develop their skills in this area would be ideal.

I shall continue to manage the existing website until the new web manager feels ready to take over with the installation and management of the new website.

The benefits of the new website

The overall benefits are those of a functional nature. The new design is in my opinion an interim design. They were, after all, IT rather than design students. Down the track the Society may well consider a new design for the website and newsletter, so that there is a harmony of design for both the website and newsletter.

All the existing website pages are on the new site (some with different names) plus a site map. There are also some exciting new features.

Search function

A Google® search engine is incorporated into the new site. This will make for easy searching of the whole site for useful information about a particular topic or person. It will be possible, for example, to search past newsletters for a special article or topic, or the *Freelance Register* for a name or subject area simply by typing the words in the Google window.

W3C compliance

In the interest of accessibility for all users and visitors to our site, the new site has been designed in accordance with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) guidelines. For more information about these guidelines visit <<http://www.w3.org/WAI>>.

Electronic payment facilities

We shall be using the services of an electronic payment facilities provider, namely PayMate. Members will be able to pay for meetings, membership and courses by clicking on the PayMate icon on our new site and paying by credit card.

The current and new Society websites are not secure in terms of conducting financial transactions. An advantage of using PayMate is that by clicking on the PayMate icon, payers are transferred to a secure site to do their financial transactions. PayMate is a cheaper option than other bank options. For details about PayMate visit <<http://www.paymate.com.au>>.

Electronic forms

Electronic forms are located on various web pages of the new site. The PayMate icon is located on the bottom of these pages. Forms that include a payment requirement will be available on the 'Meetings', 'Training' and 'Members' web pages. 'Change of details' forms shall be available on the 'Members' and 'Freelance editors' web pages.

Please note that for those people who do not like using online payment facilities, the old option of downloading a form, filling it out and posting it in with a cheque will still be available. However, the Society hopes that members will embrace the new method of payment as this will streamline the workload and operation of many of the committee portfolios.

Members' area

Another exciting feature of the new website is the 'Discussion forum', which is only available to members. This is a place where members can post questions or comments to their fellow members, and possibly receive a reply or range of replies.

Members of the Society will be allocated a password, which they can use to access the 'Members only' area of the site, which will contain the discussion forum, membership renewal

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Membership Secretary's Report 2003–2004

Rob Moore

At the end of June 2004, the total membership of the Society was 394, an increase of 26 on last year's total, continuing the

trend of increasing membership. Below is a breakdown of the figures over the past three years.

	2001/02	%	2002/03	%	2003/04	%
Full Members	164	53.9	191	52.0	208	52.8
Full Distant Members	20	6.6	38	10.3	36	9.1
Honorary Life Members	16	5.3	16	4.3	15	3.8
Associate Members	49	16.1	67	18.2	82	20.8
Associate Distant Members	13	4.3	17	4.6	16	4.1
Affiliates	42	13.8	38	10.3	37	9.4
Overseas Members*	8		8		8	
Total	304		367		394	

* Overseas Members are not counted separately for each financial year

The trend continues the healthy growth in membership, which has been consistent over the past three years.

The growth has appeared to be in a significant rise in Associate Members – which may indicate a rising entry into the profession, and an interest in the Society. Distant membership has fallen slightly, members more characteristically being based in metropolitan Melbourne.

The secretary's portfolio has experienced an 'as-you-were' year – the email list consolidating its role in membership communication. But a big advance will be the launch of new and improved services via the Society website. The redesign of the website stands to be a major improvement in allowing members to access information and benefits. Not the least

of these will be electronic payment of subscriptions and PDF-formatted receipts.

The planning for the CASE conference in Melbourne in October 2005 is now forging ahead and, as a single event, stands to gain more promotion and recognition of our profession and Society than ever before.

But this year ends with my withdrawal from 'active service' after many years as Helen's trouble-shooter and back-up, and as secretary for the past couple of years. Editorial and family life intervene and I must clear some space and take care of 'life matters' before I can again offer realistic time and effort for the Society. It's been fun – and interesting – and I'm sure that I will not stay away for very long.

Web distractions

Here are two distracting websites to browse when you are looking for any chance to not work:

Swot's Corner

<<http://www.yaelf.com/swot.shtml>>

Good for anyone wanting to know what the word is to describe someone with no sense of smell, or the term that refers to words like 'I scream' and 'ice cream', 'some others' and 'some mothers' or 'Toyota' and 'toy Yoda'.

Words: Woe and Wonder

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/indepth/words/>>

Handy for drawing a line between freedom fighters and terrorists and clarifying which jets, specifically, may be referred to as 'jumbo'.

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Web Manager's Report

application form and change-of-details form. This area will also be useful for disseminating other information to members, as the need arises.

Visitors to the site as well as members will have access to the 'Members' page, where they can learn about the benefits, conditions and costs of membership, and access an online application form or download a form for posting in.

I have enjoyed my two years as web manager. It is an excellent way of getting to know colleagues on a deeper level, both professionally and personally. I have also found it valuable in terms of learning more about the Society and how it operates, as well as a practical way of serving the Society and our profession.

Training Officer's Report 2003–2004

Marta Veroni

The aim of the Society's training program is to provide training courses for members, to update members' skills and to demonstrate new developments or software available.

Workshops held

Quotations and negotiations

29 November 2003

Presenters: The Freelance Workshop (Sally Woollett and Renée Otmar)

Editing for on-screen publications: An introductory workshop

3 April 2004

Presenter: Lan Wang

Planned for the coming year

Using macros in editing

Structural editing (repeat of workshop held 3 July)

Quotations and negotiations

Project management

Freelance Affairs Officer's Report 2003–2004

L. Elaine Miller

When I came on board, Kirsten Slifirski was doing a stellar job with the freelance affairs portfolio. As we both had a number of ongoing commitments, I agreed to share the freelance affairs post with Kirsten.

With the meticulous and efficient help of Cathy Edmonds, who edited and typeset the *Freelance Register*, we decided to trial a new system, sending each editor or company a PDF of their *Register* entry to check. Although the *Register* is also proofread against original copy, a proofreader wouldn't catch, for example, an error typed by the author of the entry. The self-checking practice was favourably received and will be continued this year.

There will also be a style guide for the 2005 *Register* to assist with consistency. It will be employed with judicious common sense.

I have recently been talking with the MEAA about the needs of book editors, both in-house and freelance, and hope to continue discussion in the coming year. I would welcome your opinions, questions and concerns.

CASE Accreditation Delegate Report 2003–2004

Janet Mackenzie

The Accreditation Working Group was set up by CASE, the Council of Australian Societies of Editors, in December 2001. I am the Victorian delegate on the working group as well as its convenor, hence my report to this meeting.

This time last year, the working group had just published the Draft Report, a proposed accreditation scheme, which most of you will have seen. During the second half of last year all states and territories held sessions or workshops to discuss the report and sent valuable comments to the working group. We also sought feedback from organisations such as CREATE Australia, which advises the federal government on arts policy. Then we spent some time organising all the comments into a vast table and considering how we could accommodate the sometimes contradictory suggestions.

In February 2004, we had a teleconference, which was valuable, but we realised that we needed to meet around a table to thrash out the issues. So in May we gathered for a weekend in Melbourne to overhaul the Draft Report. This was only the second time the working group had met face-

to-face. As you know from our report in the June *Newsletter*, the weekend was very productive. We roughed out a revised proposal, and at present we are refining the provisions and the wording.

We have examined possible budgets for the scheme and concluded that it will be difficult to finance. We have also held discussions with the Literature Board about a grant to help fund the establishment stage of an accreditation scheme.

We hope to complete the revised proposal before the end of the year – possibly as soon as October. We will then present it to CASE as our Final Report, and CASE will decide whether to put it to the membership nationwide.

As I said in the *Newsletter*, the Accreditation Working Group ceases to exist as soon as it has presented its report to CASE. If the scheme goes ahead, we will be looking for a Victorian delegate for the Accreditation Board next year. Please talk to me afterwards if you have any interest in this important and enjoyable job.

Victorian CASE Delegate Report 2003–2004

Renée Otmar

On the national front

Every year since the establishment of CASE in 1998, I have been reporting to you on what I have found to be tremendously exciting and inspiring developments on the national front. I call it the 'national front' because that's exactly where it is: editors at the forefront of our profession, working to advance editing and the social and cultural values we embody in our work.

At times I have felt a little guilty – not only because I have been so honoured to be entrusted to represent the editors of Victoria, but also because it has been so much fun!

Where's the fun?

The fun began in warmer climes for this past year when we converged in Brisbane in July 2003. There, the Queensland Society hosted our first-ever CASE national conference for editors. I have already reported on this event, so I'll just remind you of two significant outcomes of this conference:

1. A resolution recommending that a CASE conference be held every two years.
2. A resolution recommending that CASE investigate the feasibility of establishing a national organisation.

A national conference for editors – in Victoria!

You already know that our Society will be hosting the second CASE conference in 2005. A core group of 11 amazing individuals has been converging on a monthly basis to coordinate what we've titled 'Editing in Context', a three-day extravaganza guaranteed to knock your socks off. All you need to do is make sure you 'ink in' the dates of 13–15 October 2005, and prepare to play hosts to your colleagues from around the country. Watch the *Newsletter* and website for regular updates on the conference planning and program. The conference organising subcommittee welcomes any thoughts, ideas, comments and suggestions you may have to help ensure the conference is a success.

A national organisation for editors?

The CASE meeting held as an adjunct to the Brisbane conference last July established a working group to investigate the establishment of a national organisation. Victorian member Haya Hussein is convening the National

Organisation Working Group, which expects to table a report with recommendations to CASE by mid-2005.

Promoting editors and editing

I have been convening the Promotions Working Group (PWG), also formed at the July 2003 CASE meeting. This group has been working on two tasks: drafting a strategy document for a national promotions campaign and a short-term initiative to get the ball rolling. The short-term initiative is a bookmark to promote editors and editing to existing and prospective clients and employers, and to the general community. If we get approval from all the states/territories, the bookmark could be available for distribution within three to four months. The PWG will be calling for ideas on an appropriate and effective slogan for the bookmark, so watch for this via the email list.

Policies on thesis editing: two years in the making

As you know, ethical questions about editing the work of tertiary students have concerned professional editors for a long time. In December 2001, CASE drafted a letter to the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) on the matter. We recommended the AVCC adopt a policy (for which we suggested draft guidelines) to assist universities and their research staff and students in determining the level of assistance acceptable in the event that a professional editor is engaged to edit a candidate's thesis. We were hopeful that when agreement was reached there would also be clear guidelines for editors working professionally in this area.

Six months later, having still not received a response from the AVCC, we recommended to our state/territory societies that a common policy be adopted. This three-point policy would serve to assist our members – as well as university staff and students who approached us for advice on the matter. By December 2002, all state and territory societies had adopted the policy and recommended it to their members.

Nearly 18 months after CASE wrote to it, the AVCC responded with an invitation for CASE to participate in a working group established by its Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDoGs) to investigate the matter. In May 2003 we duly despatched Janet Mackenzie to represent CASE, and for just over a year she worked with DDoGs to develop a policy on behalf of the universities. This policy has now been adopted by both DDoGs and CASE, and is being published by all the

state/territory societies to inform members of its existence. Janet Mackenzie's presentation on the policy to Style Council last weekend made an important contribution to the debate on ethics in editing.

What else is CASE doing/talking about?

- CASE is about to commence a review of *Australian Standards for Editing Practice* (2001).
- Training and mentoring are two topics of interest which will be discussed in forthcoming meetings or teleconferences, especially with regard to accreditation.
- An investigation into insurances for editors (such as public liability insurance) – many of you would have seen (and responded to) the survey being conducted by Robyn Colman of Tasmania.

The next CASE teleconference will be held in October this year, so do contact your next president if there is any matter you wish to have raised on your behalf.

Goodbye from me

Many of you are aware that only days ago I resigned from all of the official and unofficial duties and roles I have been undertaking on behalf of the Society, including CASE activities and co-convening the 2005 conference. At this time I feel that the best course of action – for the Society as well as for me personally – is to apply my skills and passions elsewhere.

I feel a huge sense of sadness and regret to be ending my long association with the Society, but I have 12 years of (mostly) happy memories to look back on. In closing, I would like to thank the many colleagues from around the country, and especially Committee and ordinary Society members in Victoria, for the numerous phone calls, messages and emails to express their regret and support – these are all very much appreciated.

Note about newsletter contributions

In Liz Steele's absence (until 9 August), please send your newsletter items to Lan Wang at <lanwang@wovenwords.com.au>.

Newsletter Editor's Report 2003–2004

Liz Steele

My apologies for not being with you tonight. I was offered the opportunity to do something completely different for a month and I am currently working in my sister's busy café on the west coast of Ireland.

It has been another bumper year for our Society's newsletter, mainly due to the continued enthusiastic support from you, the members, and most importantly, your active committee. The support has ensured we can easily fill a 12-pager each month and often struggle to keep it to just that.

I have prepared the newsletter in much the same way as last year – trying to make it current, interesting, and a reflection of what the members are saying and wanting to know. My teammate Lan Wang and I see ourselves as coordinators rather than 'editors'. Each month I am flooded with information to sort and allocate to a page, and within 24 hours the jigsaw is complete and ready to go to the printers. It is not a simple juggle, but the committee support and constant members' enthusiasm makes the task so much easier.

I would particularly like to once again thank Lan Wang, who makes the job so easy. Lan not only designs and layouts the newsletter, she coordinates the printing. We have changed to Snap Printing this year following a few hiccups with our previous printer and all seems to be working well. We continue our successful relationship with our distributor, Dualware – our contacts are most efficient and a pleasure to deal with. Thanks to Anne Findlay also who makes time to proofread the newsletter in her busy life.

A special mention to a number of committee members whose help has been invaluable. Firstly, Helen Moore and Rob Moore who have provided print runs and labels for posting every month, and especially Helen who has very often sent me a filler, review or story that I have been able to use. Secondly, Kerry Biram, our meetings coordinator, who has consistently organised a member to write the reviews of our dinner meetings. Members have enjoyed the opportunity to write instead of edit, and we have seen the fantastic results. We have continued with our 'About Us' feature this year for the same reason – members have embraced the opportunity to talk about their careers and share anecdotes, which has been very rewarding for readers.

With the forthcoming 2005 conference I expect our newsletter to be brimming with information. It is truly a reflection of our vibrant Society and I look forward to being involved for another 12 months.

Miscellanea

Structural editing: the big picture

On 3 July, about 30 participants took part in a course on structural editing, run by Pam Hewitt and Shelley Kenigsberg, both of whom live and work in Sydney as freelance editors, writers and trainers.

Shelley presented the morning's session, which covered non-fiction structural editing, and Pam spent the afternoon on fiction structural editing. Both sessions proved to be equally fascinating, and the presenters were not able to escape until well after the designated finishing time of 5 p.m., such was the interest of the course attendees.

The participants in the course had a diverse range of experience and brought with them very different needs, depending on whether they worked on academic journals, in trade or educational publishing, technical writing or translating, briefed editors on the level of editing required or were writers themselves – or in some cases, all of the above. Shelley and Pam managed to establish and capture the interest of all the participants, no matter what their field of expertise or level of experience. The worksheets and exercises that they presented were imaginative and thought provoking, as well as being enjoyable.

The workshop was well paced and, as one would expect – and hope, given the topic – very well structured. Both Pam and Shelley were very generous with their knowledge and experience, and their presentation was seamless in its professionalism.

The Society was overwhelmed by bookings for the course, and we are hoping to run another, given by Shelley and Pam, in early October, depending on the commitments of the presenters. We already have a waiting list of interested participants whom we couldn't accommodate in July's course. If you are interested in being added to the list, please let Marta Veroni <bohemian@melbpc.org.au> know as soon as possible, so that details can be finalised. We will need to ask for firm commitments and payment in advance, once we have a date established.

Helen Moore

Australian Science Communicators and Australasian Medical Writers Association national conference

Science and Medicine: Connecting with Society

26–29 September 2004

Greenmount Beach Resort, Coolangatta (just 300 m from the beach!)

This exciting conference will include a broad range of activities about the business of writing and communicating science and medical information. The program includes interactive plenary sessions, members' submitted papers, research insights sessions, and professional development workshops on a broad range of topics relating to communicating science and medical information through different media.

If you are involved in writing, editing or publishing in science or medicine, you will be sure to find something in the program to interest you. And with a planned attendance of about 200 like-minded folk from around the country and beyond, the conference will provide a wonderful opportunity for networking.

For more information and draft program go to: <http://www.medicalwriters.org> or <http://www.asc.asn.au/conf/index.html>

CAINON online newsletter

You may be interested in subscribing to CAINON – Children's Authors & Illustrators Networking Online Newsletter. It is an information service provided weekly by Australian children's author, Di Bates. CAINON has a few hundred subscribers.

CAINON is principally for children's authors and illustrators, but it is also received by book publishers, editors, booksellers, television and film producers, magazine publishers, librarians, conference organisers and others in the children's book industry.

It is free, runs on goodwill, and is posted at noon every Monday.

CAINON is a product of contributions from subscribers. It is anticipated that recipients will regularly submit book notices, information about markets, forthcoming conferences, news of manuscript assessors, literary agents, author organisations, helpful websites, comments, words of inspiration, author or illustrator (or publisher/producer) profiles, suggestions, articles, book news, book reviews, youth library happenings, and other information of interest and assistance to children's authors and illustrators.

If you are interested in receiving or submitting to CAINON, contact Di Bates <dibates@enterprisingwords.com>.

Editing in Context
National Editors Conference – Melbourne 2005

Editing in Context National Editors Conference

13–15 October 2005, Melbourne

Presented by the Council of Australian
Societies of Editors (CASE)
Hosted by the Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc.

The Society of Editors of Victoria is delighted to host the second national CASE conference, 13–15 October 2005, on the theme of Editing in Context. The conference will be held in Melbourne.

We will be building on the success of the first national CASE conference, which was held in Brisbane in 2003.

The conference will focus on editing as a profession and explore issues such as the public perception of editors, how we promote ourselves, keeping up-to-date, financial and legal issues, and our health and wellbeing.

The three-day program will provide an exciting mix of keynote plenaries to kickstart the big ideas, concurrent presentations addressing our professional issues, workshops, field trips, a trade fair and even relaxation sessions!

Presenters and participants alike will be drawn from the editing and publishing community from all over the country, and will benefit from both the inspiration and networking opportunities on offer.

The conference will take place during the Melbourne International Arts Festival and Spring Racing Carnival, so there will also be plenty to do and see in your spare time. You could even come a few days early or stay on a while longer and enjoy all that Melbourne has to offer at such an eventful time.

We look forward to seeing you here.

Calls for papers and conference registration details will be announced in early 2005. Keep an eye on our website at www.socedvic.org for regular updates.

For more information about the conference, please contact the Convenor, Lan Wang (tel. (03) 9410 9027, email lanwang@wovenwords.com.au).

Dates for your diary

Next meeting

Wednesday, 4 August 2004

Have you renewed your membership?

It was due on 1 July 2004. See our website for details.



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John Curtain (d. 1999)

Beatrice Davis (d. 1992)

Frank Eyre (d. 1988)

Stephen Murray-Smith (d. 1988)

Anne Godden (d. 2004)

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

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