



# Newsletter

## Next meeting

### Christmas gala/extravaganza/BBQ

**Wednesday, 6 December 2006**

English Speaking Union  
146 Toorak Road (West) South Yarra  
(between Walsh and Marne Streets Melway 21 4E)  
from 6.30 pm  
\$20 member, \$25 non-members

Join us to wind up a great year with a get-together/gala/extravaganza barbecue on Wednesday 6 December at the English Speaking Union. Reports from Redact participants will make up part of the evening's events.

**Mistress Mel, renowned tarot card reader, will be on hand to tell you where your next job is coming from, how to manage your weekly workload ... as well as give us hints on how to live without work altogether!**

Menu with all the Christmas trimmings will include:

- Chicken satay
- Lamb and rosemary sausages
- Tandoori porterhouse
- Spiced pumpkin burgers
- Seafood brochettes with lemongrass
- Tandoori polenta.

### PLEASE NOTE BOOKING DETAILS

Book with Katherine Ross – email preferred – at <info@akra.com.au> or phone 9712 0704, **strictly by 5 pm, Monday 3 December**. State if you are a member, ASTC member, Victorian Writers' Centre member, AusSI member or non-member. If you need to cancel, please contact Katherine as soon as possible. Cancellations after 7 pm on the day before the meeting must be paid for.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Last newsletter for 2007

This is our last *Newsletter* for 2006. We have enjoyed another wonderful year of growth in membership and we have some exciting plans for 2007, so there is a lot to look forward to.

We are currently working with the Victorian Writers' Centre on some cooperative training options for next year and will start planning early next year for another Redact intensive following the success of this new training initiative.

Planning for the dinner meeting program for next year is also underway and, after the success of our freelance lunch recently, we will plan more of those as well.

Our best wishes for the festive season and we hope to see many of you at the end of year barbecue on Wednesday 6 December.

*Society of Editors committee*



# IPEd notes

## News from the Institute of Professional Editors

November 2006

The IPEd Interim Council is considering a paper prepared under the auspices of the National Organisation Working Group. Entitled 'Establishing a National Organisation', it sets out the purpose, background, legal standing and management of such an entity. It also lists the functions that the entity will carry out and outlines five suitable business activities that could generate income. The paper will be posted on the website <[www.iped-editors.org](http://www.iped-editors.org)> and all members are invited to contact their society's IPEd delegate with comments and suggestions. Also on the website, we are now posting the minutes of IPEd Interim Council meetings: click on 'Meeting Minutes' on the home page to access them.

The Interim Council is developing strategies to ensure that its sub-groups work effectively with each other. The Accreditation Board, for instance, needs to collaborate with the Communications Working Group to develop the publicity strategy for the accreditation scheme. As part of the developing sophistication of the profession's national network, the convenors of the working groups will hold their first teleconference in November and plan to continue interaction by this and other means.

The Standards Revision Working Group is due to put a draft of its revised Standards up for members' approval and discussion. Making use of online technology, the group will be seeking members' input via the IPEd website; the text of the first redraft of Standards will be posted as a wiki – interactive software that allows anyone access to read and write and edit text on the web (think 'Wikipedia'). Soon all members who register will

be able to access the redrafted Standards and edit or alter the wording, punctuation and format. The working group will monitor the changes that people suggest and incorporate worthwhile ones into its final stages of revision.

The Accreditation Board has postponed the workshops that it had planned to hold in November to discuss drafts of the documentation that will accompany the accreditation scheme. These are beginning to constitute an impressive pile of paperwork; eventually it will include an information kit for applicants, guidelines for assessors, a procedures manual, guidelines for handling complaints and appeals, a business plan and a position description for the accreditation secretary. The drafts necessarily incorporate many decisions about the actual operation of the scheme, and the board decided that they needed more work before they were submitted to the membership for comment. The documents will be posted on the website as they become available; societies will hold workshops to discuss them in early 2007 and/or invite members to contribute by email.

About a dozen assessors, representing all states and the ACT, will attend a national meeting on the first weekend of December to discuss the accreditation scheme in Melbourne. At present the assessors are preparing dummy applications that present a range of challenges for the assessment process, and they will work through these over the weekend to develop their joint understanding of what constitutes competent editing.

*Janet Mackenzie  
Liaison officer*

### Institute of Professional Editors National Conference 2007



The third national conference for editors will be held on 9–12 May 2007 in Hobart and will be hosted by the Society of Editors (Tasmania). Preliminary information is available at <[www.tas-editors.org.au/conference2007.htm](http://www.tas-editors.org.au/conference2007.htm)> and the organisers are currently calling for proposals for conference sessions and seminars/workshops.

### Freelance lunch report

Alphabet City Café was buzzing with more than a discussion of split infinitives last Thursday when 30 editors met for lunch.

A revival of the 'freelancers' lunch' of years ago was enthusiastically received, and most attendees were asking when the next one was to be scheduled even before we had been served our terrific meal. It was a great opportunity to network with peers and discuss issues like rates, workloads, accreditation, training and much more. At least half of the group had not attended a dinner meeting for some time and found the lunch option a great alternative.

We have plans to slot a few lunches into our program for 2007 and not just in the northern suburbs. Any suggestions for location or other ideas would be welcome.

## CredAbility 3

CredAbility is the Accreditation Board's forum for discussing its current thinking on concerns members have raised and seeking your input as we attempt to work through the issues that arise on the road to accreditation.

The important topic of how the first assessors were chosen was the subject of *CredAbility 1*, which is available on the website of the Institute of Professional Editors, <[www.iped-editors.org](http://www.iped-editors.org)>, under 'Accreditation'. Here we present a list of those distinguished editors – the term 'distinguished' exceeding notions of competence or even excellence – who have been nominated by their societies as assessors and have accepted that challenge. Details of their careers will be available on the website shortly as *CredAbility 3*.

### ACT

Elizabeth Murphy (generalist)  
Chris Pirie (generalist, government, commissions of inquiry)  
Loma Snooks (generalist, government, corporate)

### NSW

Heather Jamieson (generalist, academic, fiction)  
Sybil Kesteven (educational, vocational)  
Pam Peters (generalist)  
Meryl Potter (generalist, education, corporate)

### Qld

Susan Addison (fiction, humanities, legal editing)  
Paul Bennett (education, government, land transport)  
Rosanne Fitzgibbon (fiction, literary non-fiction, history, politics)  
Judy Heinemann (education, government)  
Jill Morris (generalist, children's books, education, fiction)  
Barbara Ker Wilson, AM (generalist)  
Ruth Ridgway (generalist)  
Jan Whelan (generalist)

### SA

Karen Disney (generalist, engineering)  
Celia Jellett (generalist, children's books)  
Susan Rintoul (general editing, education)  
Kathie Stove (generalist, science, environment)

### Tas.

Janice Bird (generalist, government publishing)

### Vic.

Elizabeth Flann (generalist)  
Beryl Hill (generalist, writer)  
Janet Mackenzie (generalist, writer, lecturer)  
Renée Otmar (generalist)  
Susan Keogh (education, non-fiction)

### WA

Janet Blagg (children's and adult fiction, non-fiction, Indigenous writing)  
Anne Surma (generalist, corporate, technical, academic)

## CredAbility 4: The assessment process

The success of the proposed accreditation scheme rests on the ability of the Accreditation Board to develop an assessment process that not only is based on a nationally approved definition of editing competence but also evaluates this competence in a consistent, equitable and transparent manner.

With these tasks clearly in mind, 14 delegates drawn from the initial assessors' pool and representing all societies (ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas., WA, Vic.) are meeting in Melbourne for a two-day workshop on 2–3 December to establish a sound foundation for the assessment process.

The delegates will begin by reviewing some minor rewording of the Australian Standards for Editing Practice that the Standards Revision Working Group is currently considering, to ensure that these changes, if implemented, would not compromise the Standards' suitability as the basis for establishing editing competence.

Delegates will then work through a number of different materials, including 'dummy' applications and a selection of texts related to different genres (e.g. educational materials, children's fiction, government reports), to reach a consensus on what represents an acceptable level of editing skill. They will also be asking 'what if' questions to identify aspects that would cause an application to be judged borderline or be rejected.

For example, what if the applicant provided insufficient or dubious evidence of their contribution to the final document? What if their editing introduced errors into the text? What if they failed to note and correct clearly contradictory statements?

The delegates' objective will be to draft a list of guiding principles for determining editing competence, which will ultimately be incorporated into the overall guidelines for assessors. The draft list will be circulated to societies, reviewed at society workshops or meetings planned for February 2007, and placed on the IPed website for comments to be registered.

If time permits, the delegates may also review a number of other documents that the Accreditation Board has drafted, including an information kit for applicants, guidelines for assessors and an explanation of the appeals process. The delegates' final task will be to pass on all the information gained over the weekend to the other assessors in their state or territory.

For further information on accreditation, go to <[www.iped-editors.org/accreditation.html](http://www.iped-editors.org/accreditation.html)>. If you have any suggestions or comments on these matters, or any others, please contact your society's Accreditation Board member. We welcome your input.

## Redact weekend a fantastic success

*The Redact organising committee has been busy compiling feedback from participants and we are delighted to report that it was an overwhelming success. Such was the buzz after the first day that we started planning the next Redact!*

*The three presenters, Sarah Brenan, Paul Watt and Glenys Osborne, engaged the participants with their expertise and enthusiasm, so it is of little surprise that the response was*

*extremely positive. The reports below are typical of the feedback we received.*

*Redact will feature as part of our training calendar again in 2007.*



### Redact report: Fiction strand

The fiction strand of Redact was inspiring, practical and crammed with so much information that I had to check back over my notes in order to write this report. Here's what I could decipher from my almost unreadable handwriting.

To begin, our guru Sarah Brenan said that when editing fiction, if there is little or no plot to the story, give the stranger accents. I'm not sure how the introduction of a mysteriously accented stranger solves structural problems, but surely Sarah's thirty-something years of experience can't be wrong?

Apparently, we also asked ourselves the question: What makes us bury a book? A useful counselling topic, I'm sure you'll agree, aimed at those editors with a canine streak of post-publication denial trauma – I think.

But things became really baffling when I read that we had been asked to look for the itching incident in each manuscript. Capital letters written by my own hand virtually tripped over themselves in their eagerness to exclaim that BEING ABLE TO RECOGNISE THE ITCHING INCIDENT WILL MAKE YOU A BETTER EDITOR!!

Lastly, we discovered that our first responses to a text are valid – but that we then have to just titty our reactions. Now, I know editing is a female-dominated profession, but I really felt that Sarah had gone too far here – what happened to inclusive treatment of the sexes, huh?

I quickly realised that I'd unknowingly participated in some kind of sick, brainwashing weekend. But before calling up the Redact committee and ranting at what a disgrace it was (What kind of advice are you giving to innocent editors? etc.), a vision of Sarah Brenan as an iridescent angel appeared before me and whispered these words of wisdom: 'Re-read the text, Lorelei. Interrogate your initial reaction.' Obediently, I revisited my notes and looked more closely at the scrawling mess.

What I discovered was that when there isn't much of a plot, you can give stronger accents to the turning points to create a clearer sense that you are advancing through the story. I saw that we were asked to cross-examine what exactly makes us



All photos courtesy of Kerry Biram

Redact participants in the Fiction strand.

buy a book. Oh, yes, and I now understand that the inciting incident sends the hero or heroine off on their quest and is thus pivotal to the story.

And of course, you should read back over what you've just read to question your first reactions and justify them. Find out what it was that made you feel that way in the first place (my own terrible handwriting) and see if your initial reaction still stands when you re-read it (frankly, no).

Thanks so much to Sarah Brenan and to my colleagues who made Redact such a valuable, important weekend. Thanks also to the Redact committee for organising such an inciting – and not at all itchy – event.

Lorelei Waite

### Redact report: Trade strand

The nine of us in the trade strand became development editors for the weekend. We were presented with a vague publisher's brief for a book, the main thrust of which was 'make lots of money, quickly'. A fairly realistic publisher's brief, by all accounts, but not necessarily a realistic demand of a book called *Monuments of Victoria* (the provisional title we were given).



*Redact at a local restaurant: (l. to r.) Rosemary Noble, Kath Harper, Paul Watt, Robert Glade-Wright, Sarah Brennan, Kerry Biram, Liz Steele*

We took this germ of an idea and, led by Paul Watt, we fed it, shaped it and nurtured it until it was a fully fledged book concept ready to present to the harsh publishing world.

Over the three days, we thrashed out all aspects of the book in detail. It wasn't always easy. Right from the start it became obvious that the initial topic, monuments of Victoria, was problematic. Who knew there were so many interpretations of the word 'monument'? Even the word 'Victoria' posed problems, as ninety per cent of the examples we brainstormed were limited to Melbourne. Over much discussion and with some quite diverting side-tracks (a favourite being Underground: Victoria from Below) we settled on an idea with legs: public art in Victoria.

Once we had the concept, we took a thorough look at every conceivable angle of creating a workable, saleable book: market, budget, print run, structure, content, format, design, personnel, marketing and publicity.

By the end of the weekend, we had transformed a badly thought-out notion resulting from a panicked publishing meeting into StreetsmART: The Public Art of Victoria, a beautifully photographed, full-colour coffee-table book that encompasses everything from Aboriginal rock art to the Yellow Peril, and from sculptures of Queen Victoria to stencil graffiti, with a foreword by Dame Edna (TBC). All on budget and backed up with a clever marketing campaign. A good weekend's work.

*Clare Emery*

## Redact report: Education strand

Recently I was asked by my boss to manage a newly acquired educational list. I accepted the challenge, but soon realised I didn't really know where to start, as I have no experience in educational publishing.

When I saw the Redact course included an education strand, I knew I had found my entry point. On the night before Redact, feeling slightly desperate but hopeful, I scrawled out a list of questions: What are the developmental stages and reading levels of children? Where can you find this information? How do copyeditors know the syllabus? Furthermore, how on earth do they manage to carry the syllabus in their heads while they copyedit?

Well these questions were answered during the first session on Friday afternoon, soon after our arrival at Mansfield. So from there on in, I could relax and soak it all up.

The education strand was run by Glenys Osborne, a former managing editor at Macmillan and Thomson who currently works as a freelance editor and teaches in the MA course at RMIT. Over the course of seven sessions in two-and-a-bit days, Glenys expertly guided us through the steps involved in commissioning, editing and publishing an educational textbook. While

we did have a sample manuscript to work with, we didn't spend a lot of time analysing it closely. Rather, the sessions were intensive seminars, loaded with facts, processes, practical information and helpful class exercises. For my purposes, I found the sessions on manuscript assessment and substantive editing most useful.

Of course, the weekend wasn't all work. During the sessions, other participants (both in-house and freelance editors) shared experiences and strategies, and during our free time – at the bar, during mealtimes and at the pub – we had the opportunity to meet and mingle with those in the other two strands.

The weekend was hard work, but it was also informative and inspiring. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other editors, and I have brought back with me a renewed enthusiasm for editing, as well as a cache of new knowledge and ideas.

*Niki Horin*



*Redact participants relaxing in the bar.*

# Treasurer's annual report 2005–2006

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>
Accounting services	500.00
Administration	292.10
Advertising	234.85
<i>At The Typeface</i>	11,584.10
Awards	1,370.00
Bank charges	513.30
Books	0.00
CASE conference	87,612.96
<i>Freelance Register</i>	6,946.01
GST remitted	699.00
IPEd, Institute of Professional Editors	8,410.05
Meetings	4,589.74
Miscellaneous	0.00
<i>Newsletter</i>	8,746.09
Paymate fees	198.00
Postage	856.07
Redact intensive, October	1,500.00
Reimbursements	165.00
Returned cheques	75.00
Teleconferencing	709.26
Telstra, Messagebank	96.65
Training	8,287.30
Venue hire, meetings	1,045.00
Web page, services	1,919.45
Writer's Festival	150.00
Transfer to Events account	3,300.00
Transfer to Management a/c	25,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,799.93</b>

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b>
Advertising	110.00
<i>At The Typeface</i>	833.10
Australian Tax Office, GST	1,132.00
Bank refunds	0.00
CASE conference	107,209.55
<i>Freelance Register</i>	11,160.00
Interest	107.64
Meetings	5,117.00
Membership	22,199.61
Training	8,942.50
Miscellaneous	29,373.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,185.14</b>

## Members' Funds

Bank Balances at 30/6/06	9,656.20
Cash Management Trust (CCMT)	31,996.04
Events account	19,371.16
Petty cash	416.00
Unpresented cheques	654.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,785.34</b>

## Submissions invited

Submissions for the Society of Editors (Vic.) *Newsletter* are welcome. Please send feedback, suggestions or submissions to *Newsletter* Editor Kirstie Innes-Will at <kirstieaiw@gmail.com>.

## Membership report

At its November meeting, the committee was pleased to accept to membership of the society Mandy Cockerall, Fiona Creedy, Penny Drago, Zoe Hamilton, Philip Ingman, Alison Lerner, Cathy McPherson, Carlie Mason, Eve Merton, Jeanette Mowbray, Karen Philips and Michaela Skelly as full members. We also welcome Rob Glade-Wright, who was accepted as an associate member in August.

*Ron Thiele*  
Membership and Correspondence Secretary

We apologise to members who have joined recently and have not been able to access the Members Only area of our website. Please bear with us as we cross-check our database and hopefully you will be receiving an email advising you of your login details before too long.

*Rosemary Noble*  
Web Content Manager

# At the Typeface

## Selections from the *Newsletter* of the Victorian Society of Editors

Edited by Janet Mackenzie



The Victorian Society of Editors has long been a meeting point for Melbourne's intellectual and cultural life, and its monthly *Newsletter* has provided a forum for discussing books and ideas, the publishing industry, and the role and status of editors in Australia. *At the Typeface* is a selection from thirty-five years of the *Newsletter* with contributions from a wide range of authors, editors and publishers.

This book opens a window on the world of publishing. Watch as editors encounter computers for the first time at a training workshop in 1979. Hear colleagues reminisce about famous bookmen such as Andrew Fabinyi, Frank Eyre and Stephen Murray-Smith. Get the inside story on publishing events such as *Evil Angels* and *Spycatcher*. Tom Shapcott explains the ways of the Literature Board, Judith Brett resigns on a matter of principle, Louise Adler defends multinational publishers, Dinny O'Hearn is given a sitting ovation, Judith Rodriguez fails to meet famous writers and Richard Walsh questions the myth of the good old

days. Here is Beatrice Davis receiving her honorary doctorate and Barbara Ramsden being persuaded to accept an MBE. Editors pursue the mummy longlegs and freelancers do the vacation creep. A typesetter blames feminism for falling standards; a printer pleads for timely information; a production manager confesses to a life of lies.

*At the Typeface* reveals editors' professional life, described with the wit and intelligence of people whose business is words. The anthology is not only an entertaining read but also an important addition to the historical records of Australian publishing.

Janet Mackenzie helped to found the Society of Editors in 1970 and is an honorary life member. She is the author of *The Editor's Companion* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

October 2005 • Paperback • ISBN 0-646-45165-0 • 368 pages • \$25.00

## Order now for your Christmas stocking!

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *At the Typeface* @ \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postage and handling (within Australia \$10; elsewhere please enquire) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment details

- I enclose a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to The Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc.
- I have **transferred payment** online to the society's bank account: The Society of Editors (Vic) Inc / Commonwealth Bank / BSB 063-114, Account number 0090 1695. Note: In the **description** line, please type 'ATT' followed by your surname (or as many characters that will fit). **I enclose a printout of my online receipt as proof of transaction.**

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Please return this form with payment to: The Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc., PO Box 176, Carlton South VIC 3053  
<www.socedvic.org> | ABN 92 015 006 730

# Same old story ... or new chapter?

Deakin University's postgraduate courses in Writing and Literature offer the opportunity to expand your knowledge and understanding of literature, as well as develop your own writing skills. All our courses are designed to fit study around work, family and lifestyle demands. These courses give you the flexibility to study on-campus\* or off-campus, and the opportunity to take units in Journalism, Public Relations, and Media and Communication.

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### Children's Literature

Deakin's Children's Literature courses will develop your understanding and further your knowledge of children's and young adults' literature, film and media, while allowing you to extend your qualifications—perfect for teachers, librarians, publishers or others working with children.

### Literary Studies

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*\* Some units only available off campus*

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Yvonne Rousseau, Wendy Sutherland, Basil Walby, Lee  
White, Jackie Yowell

John Curtain (d. 1999)  
Stephen Murray-Smith (d. 1988)  
Beatrice Davis (d. 1992)  
Anne Godden (d. 2004)  
Frank Eyre (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.

Application/renewal forms are available from the Membership Secretary or the Society's website:

<[www.socedvic.org](http://www.socedvic.org)>

### Subscriptions

Full membership \$75  
Distant membership \$45  
Associate membership \$75

## Dates for your diary

### Next meetings

**December meeting – Christmas gala**

**Wednesday 6 December 2006**

**Workshop to discuss national developments**

**February 2007**



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please return to  
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Carlton South VIC 3053

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