

Next meeting

Portrait of a friendship: The Letters of Barbara Blackman and Judith Wright 1950–2000

Bryony Cosgrove

Wednesday, 6 June, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

Retro café, 413 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Share in a delicious selection of finger food (including vegetarian). Drinks available at bar prices.

\$20 members, \$15 students, \$25 non-members.

Bryony Cosgrove will discuss her new book, *Portrait of a Friendship*, and the process of editing and annotating the letters of two women who made a significant contribution to twentieth-century Australian literary culture. *Portrait of a Friendship* is a collection of the letters of Barbara Blackman and Judith Wright.

Barbara Blackman is an essayist, journalist, librettist and oral historian. Judith Wright was one of Australia's best-known writers, publishing poetry, short stories, children's fiction, literary criticism and family memoirs. She was also a dedicated environmentalist and championed the rights of Aboriginal people. Their letters discuss love, marriage, births, deaths, poetry, art, politics, gardens, pets and philosophy with the wit and vitality of writers who relished the play and beauty of words.

About the presenter

Bryony Cosgrove has worked as an editor, publisher and university lecturer for many years, specialising in fiction, biography and autobiography. After commissioning Barbara Blackman's 1997 memoir *Glass After Glass*, she was asked to edit and annotate the Blackman-Wright correspondence. *Portrait of a Friendship* is published by MUP.

Right: Members of the Occasional Series on Australian Editors Working Group launched Editors in Conversation at the Hobart IPEd conference - from left Jenny Craig, Kerry Biram, and right Diane Brown. They are with Tasmanian poet and editor of Island magazine, Gina Mercer, (centre) who launched the book. Sales at the conference were excellent and the order form is on page 5 of the Newsletter.

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Booking details

The dinner meetings are organised by volunteer committee members – please assist them in this very time-consuming task by taking note of the following:

Bookings are essential:

- Book with Nonie Sadler – email preferred – at <noniesa@bigpond.net.au> or phone 0431 954 465.
- Book STRICTLY before midday on Monday, 4 June. Bookings received after this deadline will not be accepted.
- State if you are a member, student, ASTC member, AusSI member, APA member or a non-member. Give an email address or telephone number.
- If you need to cancel, please email Nonie as soon as possible so we don't waste money catering for people who don't turn up.
- If you cancel after 7 pm on the day before the meeting, the Treasurer will contact you shortly after and ask you to pay as if you had attended.

People who arrive on the night without a prior booking will be unable to attend.



Published by
The Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.
PO Box 176, Carlton South, VIC 3053
<www.socedvic.org>
A0023664H
ISSN 0311 0907

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

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IPEd Notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors

May 2007

At the time of writing, IPEd is forging ahead on all fronts as the national conference in Hobart in the second week of May looms as a deadline for various projects.

The delegates to the Interim Council have been working with their society committees to conduct a vote by their members that will endorse the formation of IPEd as a not-for-profit company. By the time you read this the verdict will be known. The national conference offers the Council a rare chance to talk directly with a large group of individual members, both to hear their concerns and to explain IPEd's activities, and much thought is being given to the Council's presentation for the plenary session on Friday 11 May.

As with any new organisation, many principles and practices have to be decided. A start has been made on a procedures manual to maintain the consistency and continuity of IPEd's operations. Drafts have been prepared of various items – position descriptions for delegates and potential employees, policy on reimbursing expenses, guidelines for accreditation – and these documents are being discussed and refined.

Meanwhile the delegates to the Accreditation Board have been seeking endorsement from the members of the societies for the amended accreditation scheme, which includes a copyediting examination, and the Assessors Forum has been drafting, testing and marking a sample exam paper. Once the accreditation scheme becomes established, it is likely that the Board and the Forum will be merged or streamlined; at present, though, there is so much to be done that it is convenient for the Board to handle administrative and financial matters and report to the Council and the societies, while the Forum works on the content and standard of the exam.

The Education, Training and Mentoring Working Group is surveying training provision in all sectors: higher education, vocational, private providers, societies of editors and industry bodies. The working group has begun drafting an issues paper for circulation to members nationally, to identify gaps in provision, in terms of sectors, geographical coverage and mode of provision. The issues paper, which will be presented towards the end of the year, will also canvass a proposal for keeping the survey information up to date and a mechanism for working with providers in the future. The group is also investigating models for mentoring schemes. It will report to the conference at the Friday afternoon session on education and training.

The Communication Working Group is collating the results of its survey of clients' perceptions of editors. It is also supervising the preparation of flyers containing background information on IPEd, assessment and accreditation, which will be placed in the Hobart conference satchels.

*Janet Mackenzie
IPEd Liaison Officer*

Book launch at IPEd conference

Editors in Conversation was launched in Hobart on 10 May by Tasmanian poet and editor of *Island* magazine, Gina Mercer, at the Wrest Point Convention Centre. Five of the eight editors featured in the monograph attended the launch: Sheila Allison, Pamela Ball, Robyn Colman, Beryl Hill and Renée Otmar.

The following is an extract from Gina Mercer's speech:

In a previous life I worked as an academic in a regional university. One day my boss decided to send me to a 'Women in Leadership' workshop – the university needed more token women on its committees – she says cynically. The course was not enormously useful but the facilitator did hand us one metaphor which, being a poet, I gleefully collected and carried home. She spoke of the predominant metaphor of a lifelong career as being that of climbing a ladder – you start on the lowest rung and claw, climb or clamber your way to the top kicking off any other would-be climbers along the way. Ladders are cold, uncomfortable, uncollegiate and, to a woman in a tight-fitting skirt and high heels (just ask Beryl Hill about climbing the ladder to Manning Clark's study), ladders can be downright dangerous. The alternative metaphor given by the workshop leader involved a lattice. She put this lattice up in her back yard and planted two geraniums at the base and stood back imagining the whole lattice covered in healthy leaves, studded with vibrant flowers. Well the geraniums did grow, but they grew a little bit up and then across and then down, and then across in another direction and then downwards again. It all looked a bit random and straggly and she became very frustrated at the eccentric and eclectic behaviour of her plants. Then she got busy and had no time to worry about it until one morning a couple of years later she happened to glance at her lattice as she rinsed her coffee mug at the sink before dashing off to work. To her surprise and delight she observed that her lattice was completely covered with thriving leaves and masses of vibrant blossom – her vision had been fulfilled.

continued on page 3



*Members of the Assessors Forum on a panel during the conference:
from left,*

Susan Rintoul, Celia Jellett, Beryl Hill, Kathie Stove.

continued from page 2

Why am I talking to you about geraniums? Well, I'm a poet and we are known to be eclectic and eccentric and utterly unable to resist a good metaphor ... but actually that metaphor surfaced very strongly for me as I read this marvellous book – *Editors in Conversation*. Why? Because each of the eight powerful women whose voices we hear in this book has a career which is the equivalent to a backyard awash with masses of geranium blossom. The stories of these women's careers are not stories of ladders and cold ruthless climbs. They are stories perfumed with intelligence, empathy, strength, nurturing, analysis, support and gentle but undeniable achievement ...

I congratulate all who have been involved in the creation of this book and warmly welcome it into the world where I wish it every success – it deserves vast bunches of geraniums and many other accolades.

Plans for a Victorian launch are under way and details will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

*Diane Brown, Kerry Biram, Jenny Craig & Deborah Candy
Occasional Series on Australian Editors Working Group*



Robyn Colman, Renée Otmar, Pamela Ball, Gina Mercer, Beryl Hill and Sheila Allison, following the launch of Editors in Conversation at the IPEd Conference in Hobart.

Conferences, IPEd and Hobart in autumn

Every one of the large contingent of Victorian editors who participated in 'From inspiration to publication', the national conference of editors in Hobart on 9-12 May, will agree that it was a roaring success. The fabulous keynote speakers, interesting program and excellent organisation by the Tasmanian Society of Editors were complemented by the great venue and superb autumn weather.

The highlight of the conference was the presentation of the results of the national vote on two proposals, to form a peak body for the profession and to put in place an accreditation scheme. Years of preparation have culminated in a resounding mandate on both proposals. The Victorian Society of Editors held its vote on these proposals at an extraordinary general meeting on 2 May, the minutes of which have been circulated to members. Congratulations to all those who turned up on the night or sent in proxies, and thanks also for the helpful comments on the ballot papers.

Here are the national results.

Motion to endorse formation of IPEd

Society	no. of Votes	for		against		abstentions
		votes	%	votes	%	
Canberra	90	86	96	4	4	
NSW	25	21	84	4	16	
Qld	27	27	100	0	–	
SA	48	44	92	4	8	
Tas	44	43	98	1	2	
Vic	65	60	92	1	2	4
WA	20	20	100	0	–	
Total	319	301	94	14	5	4

Motion to endorse amendment of accreditation proposal

Society	no. of Votes	for		against		abstentions
		votes	%	votes	%	
Canberra	89	72	81	15	17	2
NSW	26	18	69	6	23	2
Qld	28	25	89	1	4	2
SA	48	40	83	8	17	–
Tas	44	39	89	2	5	3
Vic	64	56	87	4	7	4
WA	20	19	95	0	–	1
Total	319	269	84	36	12	14

In conjunction with the conference, IPEd's Interim Council, the Accreditation Board, the Assessors Forum and various working groups spent many hours meeting to make the plans for incorporation a reality. Great strides have been made and you will be able to read all about them in forthcoming issues of IPEd Notes and CredAbility. Check the next *Newsletter* or the IPEd website at <www.iped-editors.org>.

Janet Mackenzie

Learning to change – adaptation and survival in the world of publishing

SfEP Conference: 3–5 September 2007

University of Sussex, Brighton

This year the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) is holding its annual conference at the University of Sussex in Brighton. This conference is in many ways a milestone – the 18th conference in the 19th year of the SfEP, so you could say the Society is reaching the end of its adolescent years. The SfEP still has some of its founder members, who can vouch for the way that the Society has changed, from its quite simple aspirations as a toddler in the late 1980s to the complex professional body that it now aspires to be.

The SfEP may have changed, but the world of publishing has changed even more dramatically. This year's conference programme will discuss some of these changes, and delegates will learn how they can adapt to meet the challenges of our new working world. There are several sessions on the changing world of publishing, including a talk on editorial outsourcing and its impact on UK editors and proofreaders. Other sessions will help delegates decide on a good personal approach to these changes: cooperative

working, development editing, entering the commercial market, etc.

In addition to the many interesting workshops and seminars in this year's programme, keynote speakers include Andrew Franklin, publisher and managing director of Profile Books, one of Britain's leading independent publishers and 'Small Publisher of the Year' for 1999, 2004 and 2006. There is also a talk on the changing role of the commissioning editor by Gill Davies, lecturer at the London College of Communication.

The conference will start with the AGM on Monday 3 September – the main conference days will be Tuesday and Wednesday. Two training courses will run simultaneously on Thursday 6 September, one of which will cover the latest techniques for on-screen editing and for working with PDFs, the other for those who wish to add training to their skills. For details of the conference programme and the training courses, visit the SfEP website <www.sfep.org.uk> or contact the SfEP office <admin@sfep.org.uk>.

Letter to the editor

I am an honorary life member of the society, no longer working in publishing, but I'd like to add a further very important reason for freelancers not to undercharge.

This actually happened to me, and it was one of the things that encouraged me to move from the world of editing into marketing. Aargh, yuck, many readers may be thinking – but hear me out please.

There must have been a shortage of good freelance editors at the time, because I was getting overloaded with work. So, having studied basic economics, I decided to put up my prices in order to reduce demand, as the textbook said it would. In practice, the opposite happened. My clients were surprised that I was becoming more expensive – but gave me more work, not less. "If he's charging that much, he must be good, or at least better than we think!"

Charging an appropriate fee is a vital part of being professional. In my own consulting work I have an absolute minimum rate that I never breach – unless I do the job for nothing, on a pro bono basis. I'd urge all editors to do the same. If you make too much money, I can recommend some good charities to donate the excess to!

*Colin Jevons
Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing
Monash University, Caulfield campus*

Honorary Life Members

John Bangsund, Ruth Dixon, Elizabeth Flann, Beryl Hill, Nick Hudson, Colin Jevons, Susan Keogh, Vane Lindesay, Janet Mackenzie, Sally Milner, Renée Otmar, Teresa Pitt, 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

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>

Subscriptions

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

Editors in Conversation

Edited by Kerry Biram, Diane Brown
& Jenny Craig

Australian Scholarly Publishing

Australian editors are rising to the challenge of the knock-on effects of massive global shifts in the media and publishing industries.

With the rapid uptake of information and communication technology, editors are playing an increasingly crucial role in managing the transmission of print and online content, from creator to consumer.

But in this context and in the face of the big squeeze, how do publishing companies, government and non-government organisations and the corporate sector perceive the added value of editors?

At the second national editors conference in Melbourne 2005, eight editors came together to discuss various issues and to reflect on their extraordinary working lives:

- Sheila Allison & Pamela Ball
- Beryl Hill & Wendy Sutherland
- Renée Otmar & Loma Snooks
- Robyn Colman & Lee White

From diverse backgrounds in publishing, they have won major awards, and raised the level of knowledge management and knowledge presentation issues at the heart of what editors do.

The conference panel, Some of the Finest: Honorary Life Members, is also published in this collection.

Editors in Conversation is sponsored by the Centre for the Book (Monash University), the Society of Editors (Victoria), the Canberra Society of Editors and the Society of Editors (Tasmania).

Note: Available for direct sale in Australia after the mid-May launch release.

May 2007, Paperback, ISBN 1-7409-7137-X, 202 pages, \$22



Order form

Please send me: _____ copies of *Editors in Conversation* @ \$22 each \$ _____

Postage and handling (within Australia \$6 per copy; for multiple copies 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 'EIC' followed by your surname (or as many characters that will fit). **I enclose a printout of my online receipt as proof of transaction.**

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card number | | |

Signature _____ Expiry date _____

Name on card _____

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All prices are in Australian dollars and include GST.

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<www.socedvic.org> | ABN 92 015 006 730

Training course

Project Management for Editors

Trainer: Meredith Mail

A huge part of the editor's role is juggling multiple tasks and deadlines at any one time. Missing deadlines is an editor's worst nightmare, considered the proverbial kiss of death for future work. Effective project management is a key skill in maximising your business opportunities.

This one-day workshop has been designed specifically for the Society of Editors (Victoria) and will provide attendees with a thorough introduction to Project Management – the philosophy that underpins the discipline and the methodology that supports it. Learn how to deal with multiple projects, what questions you need to ask your clients, basic tools to make your life easier, plus practical tips and tricks and plenty of opportunity for practical exercises.

The session will cover the following areas:

Project management philosophy

- Definitions
- Acquiring project management knowledge
- Setting realistic limits

Project management methodology

- Introduction to PM methodologies
- Project management language
- PM principles/components
- PM processes/stages/phases – the project management life cycle
- PM techniques
- PM tools/applications

Project management tips/tricks

- Questions to ask your client(s)?
- Planning
- Multiple project management
- Time/cost/quality balance
- Time management/estimating time
- Team member roles/responsibilities
- Communication

The presenter

Meredith Mail has spent a decade working in a projects setting, starting off her professional career in the UK, managing and completing projects for Railtrack before moving to Lonely Planet Publications in Melbourne, where she was employed as their Publishing Special Projects Manager.

In this role she project managed the largest project Lonely Planet had undertaken in their 30-year history and for the past four years has managed Publishing's Continuous Process Improvement portfolio, as well as project managing a range of change projects and consulting for other areas of the business as a subject matter expert.

Meredith has formal qualifications in PMBOK® and Prince2 methodology and is completing a Master of Project Management at RMIT University. She is now self-employed as a Business Consultant.

When & where

9.30am to 4pm, Saturday 7th July 2007

CAE Computer lab, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Cost

Members (Soc Eds, APA, AusSI, VWC) \$120.00

Non-members \$160.00

Places are strictly limited. RSVP to Melanie Dankel, Training Officer, <melanie.dankel@lonelyplanet.com.au>.

Bookings close Thursday 28 June

Tea and coffee will be provided.

ALSO COMING SOON...

Successful Freelancing

Presented by Renée Otmar and Sally Woollett

11–12 August 2007

Many editors and aspiring editors focus on the technical and creative aspects of their craft, to the detriment of their business skills. So what can they do to build a successful freelance business?

Successful Freelancing is a two-day workshop program introducing the business end of the editing business. These workshops explore how a proactive approach, good communication skills and a dose of assertiveness can avert some of the common problems encountered by freelance editors. The workshops are structured to ease participants from theory to practice, with plenty of examples, case studies and common scenarios.

Expressions of interest can be sent to <melanie.dankel@lonelyplanet.com.au>.



Alphabet City Cafe hosted our second freelance lunch recently with thirty-one editors – new and old. It proved to be not only a great social occasion but an excellent mentoring opportunity. Another freelance lunch will be held in September. Photo: Lan Wang

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!

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

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

Total amount \$ _____

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Dates for your diary

Next meeting:

Portrait of a friendship: The Letters of Barbara Blackman and Judith Wright
1950–2000

Wednesday, 6 June 2007, Retro Café, Fitzroy

Training: Project management for editors

Saturday, 7 July 2007



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