

Next meeting

Celebrating the Author–editor Relationship

*Author Maria Tumarkin with her editor
Sybil Nolan*

Wednesday, 31 October 2007, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm
English Speaking Union,
**146 Toorak Road West (between Walsh and
Marne Streets),**
South Yarra (Melway 21 4E)

Maria Tumarkin is the author of two thought-provoking books published by MUP, *Traumascapes* (2005) and *Courage* (2007). She is delighted to have the opportunity to talk to the Society about her positive working relationship with her editor, and to have Sybil Nolan offer her perspective as well.

Traumascapes, short-listed for the 2006 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, is a reflection on the fate and power of a number of major sites of violence and suffering around the world, including Port Arthur, Sarajevo, Bali and New York. In *Courage*, a 'hybrid of memoir and philosophy, of experience and ideas', Tumarkin reclaims courage as an everyday act that can be as inspiring as the deeds of the great heroes.

Maria Tumarkin was born in 1974 in the former Soviet Union into a Russian Jewish family. In 1989, at the time of Gorbachev's reforms, a large number of Soviet Jews were able to leave their country, and Maria's family immigrated to Australia. In 1992, less than two years after arriving in Australia, Maria 'bluffed' her way into a Melbourne journalism course. After some years, she enrolled at the University of Melbourne to study history and cultural studies and completed an interdisciplinary PhD thesis on sites of trauma. See <www.traumascapes.com> for more information.

Sybil Nolan came to book publishing in her forties, after a career in journalism and the academy. She was a commissioning editor at Melbourne University Publishing from 2003 until August 2007, and now works as a freelance structural editor and ghost writer.

In this issue

IPEd Notes	2
Membership report	2
Christmas fun and festivities!	2
Training course: Project management	3
Redact 2007	3
Wielding the word-surgeon's scalpel	4
Useful Websites for Editors	5
Freelance lunch report	5
From the president	6
About Us: Member Profile	7
Ed. and the City	8
Dinner meeting report	8

PLEASE NOTE 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.

Cost: \$20 members, \$15 students, \$25 non-members

Bookings are essential:

- Book with Nonie Sadler – email preferred – at <noniesa@bigpond.net.au> or phone 0431 954 465.
- Book STRICTLY before 5.00 pm on **Monday, 29 October**. Bookings received after this deadline will not be accepted.
- State your Soc Eds membership status, or if you are a student, or a member of VWC, ASTC, AusSI or APA.
- Please state any specific catering requirements; note that the vegetarian options are always offered at dinner meetings.
- If you need to cancel, please email Nonie as soon as possible.
- If you cancel after 7.00 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.



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

IPEd Notes

News from the Institute of Professional Editors

October 2007

This has been a month of consolidating the initiatives that are under way. The new website is up and running at <www.iped-editors.org>, and we welcome your ideas on how to improve it further – contact your society's IPEd delegate.

The constitution was the main topic of a lengthy teleconference held by the Interim Council at the beginning of September. The council is very aware that it is laying the foundations for an enduring organisation and it is striving to provide a fair and flexible basis to enable IPEd to meet the unknowable challenges that lie ahead. During the phone hook-up the delegates went through the draft prepared by the lawyers, together with email comments circulated beforehand, and considered the implications of every clause in detail. The process was so intense that the meeting had to be adjourned, both to give the delegates a rest and to get more legal advice; it reconvened the following week to complete the discussion. The resulting document is again in the hands of the lawyers to resolve final difficulties and questions. It will be available for comment on the website by the time you read this.

With so much effort going into the constitution, other council matters have taken a back seat for the time being. IPEd's present financial position is reasonably sound. An indicative

start-up budget is in preparation, and the member societies will be kept up to date as financial projections are refined.

The accreditation scheme is making steady progress. The Accreditation Board's current activities include gathering numbers, estimating costs and preparing guidelines for the first examination. The sample exam paper is now available on the website together with its answer sheet and marking guide. Even if you don't intend to sit the exam, you will find it a useful refresher. The societies of editors around Australia are conducting workshops to gauge members' reactions to the exam questions and answers, and Western Australia has already reported on its workshop with some constructive and helpful ideas. While the Accreditation Board takes responsibility for the administration and conduct of the scheme, the Assessors Forum concentrates on the content. As the feedback from the workshops comes in, the Assessors Forum will collate it and modify the exam paper accordingly. There was a good response to the issues paper on how to make the examination available on screen, and these comments are also being considered.

Janet Mackenzie

Liaison Officer

Membership report

October

New members

Over the past two months, the committee has welcomed a number of new members.

Our new full members are Maria Kelty, Rebecca O'Dwyer, Jennifer Johnstone, Deborah Patterson, Michael Kingsford and Elise Fischer. Caro Ballantyne has been accepted as a full member (distant).

Our new associate members are Elissa Sagar, Jane Watson-Brown, Jeannine Thwaite, Judith Lorient, Shayne Walsh, Iris Bergmann, Joanna Anderson, Charlotte Orr and Katrina Machin. Trudy Campbell is a new associate member (distant).

Joanne Petrillo has also qualified for full membership (distant).

Ron Thiele
Membership Secretary



Christmas fun and festivities!

Join us for a great end of year get-together.

Put **Wednesday, 5 December** in your diary now, and let's meet at the English Speaking Union in South Yarra for an evening of good food, great company and a few surprises (in other words, the details are not yet finalised!).

Watch out for further information by email and in the next *Newsletter*.

PLEASE NOTE BOOKING DETAILS

Book with Nonie Sadler – email preferred – at <noniesa@bigpond.net.au> or phone 0431 954 465, strictly before 5.00 pm on **Monday, 3 December**. State your Soc Eds membership status, or if you are a student, or a member of VWC, ASTC, AusSI or APA.

Training course

Project Management for Editors

Presented by Meredith Mail

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

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 course will cover:

Project Management philosophy

- Acquiring Project Management knowledge
- Setting realistic limits

Project Management methodology/introduction to PM methodologies

- PM principles/components
- The Project Management Life Cycle
- PM techniques
- PM tools/applications

Project Management tips/tricks

- 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. 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

9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday, 3 November 2007
CAE, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Places are strictly limited. This course will book out.

To secure your place in this course, please contact Melanie: <melanie.dankel@lonelyplanet.com.au>.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Training event report

Redact 2007

Mansfield, 12–14 October

Take a comfortable resort in the scenic surrounds of Victoria's high country, add a batch of eager editors and a full weekend of inspiration with a couple of experienced presenters, include plenty of good food, coffee and the occasional glass of wine – and that was Redact 2007.

Participants came from many parts of Australia, drawn by the rare opportunity to take part in intensive training designed for experienced editors. As well as the expected numbers of Victorian registrants, two flew in from Western Australia, two more travelled down from Queensland, and one from Tasmania enjoyed last year's Redact so much she came back for more.

What brought them together was a series of well-structured sessions in two distinct strands of editing practice: fiction, presented by Sarah Brennan; and biography, led by Bryony Cosgrove. Both presenters are highly regarded in their fields, and with good reason. Unfortunately, the third advertised strand – trade, to be presented by Paul Watt – did not achieve sufficient numbers to make it viable this year.

The buzz began with the first session, an introductory plenary on Friday afternoon, and continued through Saturday's

in-depth examination of sample manuscripts and lively discussion of the nuts and bolts of editing practice. Topics ranged from author–editor relationships to cover design, the ideal (and the not so ideal) editing brief to the fine detail of line editing, and more. Sunday culminated in another plenary, where each group shared its discoveries and hard-won conclusions with the other – at times breaking into rhyme for added impact!

Of course, all this hard work was balanced by periods of intensive relaxation and intermittent merriment, and various people sampled the delights of the heated pool and spa, or attempted something approximating tennis. Friday night's trivia quiz was generally voted a success (even if the locals who joined in were chagrined to be beaten in the sports round by a bunch of women!) and Saturday night's pub meal went down so well no one made it to the local theatrical event.

Now, who's for doing it all again next year?

Kath Harper and Penny Johnson

Redact 2007 organisers

Wielding the word-surgeon's scalpel at no charge?

Thinking about becoming a freelancer? Elizabeth McDowall has done her research, and outlines here some things that first-timers should consider.

'So what are you going to do when you retire?' Baby-boomers hear this question daily. My golf handicap being somewhere in the high 200s, I fast came to the conclusion that the answer wasn't to chase defenceless balls across the landscape.

As a government policy analyst, I imagined something involving writing would be a better option. Policy analysts are trained both to research and to consider alternatives. Freelance editing as a 'next career' lent itself to this analysis. I quickly discovered that self-employment is not something to undertake lightly. Here's why.

Besides liking editing, successful freelancers must also be good small business operators. Knowing how to find and be found by publishers, being able to earn sufficient income and knowing how to protect yourself are 'must-have' skills for freelancers. As important is self-awareness: flourishing in a potentially isolated world requires qualities of self-confidence and resilience.

Editing skills are universal: love of language; proficiency in grammar, spelling and composition; broad education; ability to work cooperatively; ability to work independently and make informed decisions; elephantine memory for detail; instinct for recognising patterns, creating categories and organising ideas; willingness to question assumptions, theories and facts; and the ability to recognise what's missing in content, argument or presentation.¹

Additionally, you must be self-starting, able to work alone and an experienced project manager. You have to manage time, cash flows and budgets; have marketing ability; understand occupational health and safety²; know when to get professional advice; and network.

Publishers locate editors in a variety of ways: through reputation, by responses to tenders, by having previously employed you, through personal contact, through industry networks, through freelance registers³, through other advertising and by word-of-mouth referrals. Some criteria they use for selecting *you* are: reasonable rates; your reputation and experience; their estimate of your personal qualities of insight, commonsense and literary sensibility; and your match with the publication type.⁴

Freelancers also need to be realistic about potential earnings. Freelance rates should cover both your labour and business running costs: office space and equipment, reference materials, insurance, professional advice, holiday/sick pay equivalents and superannuation. Also factor in a return on investment – potentially thousands of dollars – in capital equipment such as computers and books.

To match current annual Australian average earnings of \$55,660, you would need 24 billable hours a week over 48 weeks at \$50/hour.⁵ This calculation makes no allowance for business overheads, with a more realistic estimate being at least 25 per cent higher.

Freelancers also need to be wary of underquoting. Underquoting puts your own income at risk and jeopardises your fellow professionals' incomes. If a job is done competently against

Australian standards for editing practice⁶, it should be valued appropriately.

As even micro-businesses are regulated, get sound professional advice about incorporating or setting up as a sole trader/partnership. Each has different requirements for compliance with federal and state taxation, superannuation and workers' compensation laws.

Protect yourself through contracts setting out clearly what is included and excluded from the project brief.⁷ Insure against loss or damage to equipment and loss of income from illness or injury. Indemnify yourself against public and professional liability claims.⁸

Freelancing promises good, business-oriented editors an exhilarating ride – with all the pleasures and frustrations of dealing with text and all the rewards and responsibilities of being one's own boss.

Elizabeth McDowall

Elizabeth is a member of the Society of Editors (Victoria)

References

- ¹ J Erkes, S Gaitskell, D Mills and J Taylor *So, You Want to Be an Editor* (excerpt), Freelance Editors' Association of Canada, 1991, Editors' Association of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, viewed 30 May 2007, <www.editors.ca/join_eac/be_an_editor/so.html>.
- ² This includes setting up a workplace and equipment for comfort and safety, avoiding musculo-skeletal injuries and managing stress. See WorkSafe Victoria, *Officewise – a guide to health and safety in the office*, Ergonomics Division, WorkSafe Victoria, Melbourne 2006, viewed 30 May 2007, <www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/Home/Forms+and+Publ...>.
- ³ These are maintained by the various societies of editors. In Victoria, the register can be found at: Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc, *Freelance Register 2007–08*, Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc, 2007, viewed 30 May 2007, <www.socedvic.org/cms/image/Image/FLR2007%2005-05-07.pdf>.
- ⁴ Author's survey of editors and publishers, May 2007.
- ⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics *6302.0 - Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Feb 2007*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, 2007 – full-time adult employees' ordinary time earnings.
- ⁶ Council of Australian Societies of Editors, *Australian Standards for Editing Practice*, 2001, Institute of Professional Editors, Australia, viewed 30 May 2007, <www.iped-editors.org/files/CASE_editing_standards.pdf>.
- ⁷ A useful contract template is available from the Editors' Association of Canada, *Standard Freelance Editorial Agreement* 1999, viewed 30 May 2007, <www.editors.ca/hire/sfea/index.html>.
- ⁸ A professional indemnity policy is designed to protect the personal assets of a professional against damages awarded against them by a court, or resulting from an approved negotiated settlement, in relation to an act, error or omission committed by the professional during the conduct of their professional business activities. It also covers the costs and expenses of defending claims.

Useful Websites for Editors

Unfortunately no submissions were received for this column since the last issue, so there is nothing to publish here this month. Just a recap: this column is intended to be a forum for sharing Internet sources useful to editors (see last month's column for examples of some such sites). Before we consider scrapping this column, I would like to make a final appeal to members to take part. Don't be shy!

Submissions ... please!

This column invites those intrepid Internet explorers among the Society's membership to share their online discoveries.

Do you know of a useful technical information website? Do you have a favourite editing blog you would like to share? Do you want to alert your fellow editors to an interesting journal article or a humorous editing website? If so, please email the website address details along with a short explanation of why you like the site to the *Newsletter* editor: <niki.soe@fivemile.com.au>.

Niki Horin
Newsletter Editor

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, Ruth Siems, 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

Freelance lunch report

Like most freelance editors, I work alone. Sometimes I get so caught up with my current projects that I forget that there are other ways of working, that there are other fields of editing, and even that there are lots of other freelance editors out there also working in isolation. Which is where the Freelance lunch comes in.

The upstairs room at the Vegie Bar in Fitzroy was literally packed to the rafters for the Freelance lunch. Twenty-four editors met to chat with other editors and dine on a great selection of food.

As Liz Steele said after the last Freelance lunch: 'I thought I might need to arrange a speaker, but everyone seemed happy to chat.' And chat we did, with a happy hubbub of noise bouncing off the roof. Recollections of the lunch will vary, of course, according to which table you were sitting at, but I came out with my head happily spinning with tales of why you don't want to go to hospital in China; the perils of editing technical English written by a native Japanese speaker; dealing with authors who want you to edit their novel before it gets accepted by a publisher; and what happens to technical editing outsourced to Asia.

I left the Vegie Bar with one regret: the lunch was too short. Then I realised it had lasted for two hours – which must surely make it the fastest, most enjoyable two-hour lunch of all time. Thanks, Liz, for organising it!

Philip Bryan
Co-Freelance Affairs Officer

From the president

Members may have been surprised after the Annual General Meeting to find me back in the role of president – but none more so than I! The last time I vacated the chair I did so with a sense of completion, of achievement. I was ready to move on and to welcome a new guard to take the Society into a bright, unknown future.

However, I am very happy to be back in 2007, and pleased to find there is, indeed, a new guard – several new faces on the Committee, many, many bright ideas and an abundance of energy and enthusiasm. The current Committee presents just about close to the ideal blend of new and experienced officers. To my mind, this augurs well for ‘succession planning’, if you’ll pardon the corporate speak.

With this in mind, recently I put out a call for members interested in ‘shadowing’ a Committee member. The idea is to give people who are interested in joining the Committee an opportunity to find out about how the Society is run and what is involved in being a Committee member. If you’d like to be a ‘shadow’ on the Committee, do contact me or the Committee member in question. We’d love to hear from you.

As well as the activities on offer this month, the Committee is busily planning ahead – for the Society’s Christmas party, forthcoming newsletters, speakers and training in 2008 and lots, lots more. We are also reflecting on past and current practices, with a view to changing or improving processes and practices where warranted. The following examples are related to the Treasury, but there are several other examples across the portfolios.

Charles Houen, our Treasurer, has already commenced work in transferring the Society’s accounts to a new software package (Money Works Cashbook, for those who are interested) and is busily organising Internet banking. The latter will mark a significant change in the way we make payments on behalf of the Society. Instead of forcing two signatories to get together to sign cheques each time they are needed, Internet banking will allow both signatories to view and authorise proposed payments and other transactions online and at their convenience. The obvious benefits are saving time – Committee members’ and payees’, who will no longer need to attend their bank’s branch to deposit cheques – and having up-to-the-minute access to the Society’s banking records.

Members may be aware that as of 1 July 2007, the threshold turnover for compulsory GST registration increased to \$150,000. Given that the Society is unlikely to exceed this figure in the near future, the Committee is considering whether to cancel our GST registration. If, and when, we do, you’ll be kept informed of the change, which is likely to affect the prices of training courses run by the Society.

On the subject of training courses, the Committee is currently developing a formal policy on cancellations and refunds; once finalised the policy will be published in the *Newsletter*.

The Committee recently decided to extend a 25 per cent discount to Committee members attending training courses and dinner meetings. Members often assume that Committee

members attend these events free of charge, but the reality is that the Society could probably not afford to subsidise all its volunteers. Most Committee members who attend the training courses and dinner meetings are called upon to assist with the organisation and running of these events, or to help ‘make up the numbers’ if it looks like an event may not attract the required number of attendees to break even. I am sure you will agree that this discount provides an affordable recognition of the time and effort Committee members put in on behalf of the Society.

Now that I am back, I’m leaving again. Well, at least, leaving Melbourne – my family and I are making a sea change to Geelong in early December. Fortunately, the Surfcoast is only one hour and 15 minutes away (by train) so I don’t expect my Melbourne colleagues will have much opportunity to miss me. However, over the coming weeks I’ll be discussing with the Committee any perceived or actual negative impact of this move on my role as president or on the Committee itself, and we’ll make any changes necessary to ensure this impact is minimised.

A benefit of my move to Geelong is that soon I’ll be available to arrange occasional events for members in the region who miss out on Society events held in Melbourne. I’ve often felt a pang of sympathy for Society members who live outside of Melbourne, since they do miss out on some pretty fantastic events, and I’ve wished we could host the occasional lunch or dinner in some regional centres. That would give these members a deeper sense of involvement with the Society, and provide opportunities for locals to network. However, it was hard to tell whether there would be much interest and/or attendance.

Recently, we tested this theory in the beautiful regional city of Ballarat. When Society member Bronwyn Blaiklock, who is also an active member of Ballarat Writers and editor of its newsletter, emailed to offer her assistance as a volunteer to the Committee, I suggested we organise a lunch in Ballarat for interested members of the Society and Ballarat Writers. Bronwyn got right onto it, and on 10 October 19 people turned up to lunch at the Phoenix Brewery [see over page for photos]. Present were members of the Society, members of Ballarat Writers (some of whom had driven quite a long way to be there), professional writing and editing students from Ballarat University and others who had heard about the lunch through the local grapevine. I was blown away, not only by the excellent turnout, but also by the tremendous goodwill and enthusiasm evident at the tables. The majority of people who attended indicated that they would like to see closer links between the Society and its local members, as well as between the Society and Ballarat Writers. Several were keen to see jointly run workshops and training courses held in Ballarat.

I can’t tell you how thrilled I am at this outcome. I sincerely hope that this is the start of great things for the Society in regional Victoria, and I certainly will be doing my best to keep up the momentum. Geelong, here I come!

Renée Otmar
President

The Ballarat lunch



Editors, writers and students met and mingled at the Phoenix Brewery in Ballarat.



Our president, Renée Otmar, addressed the 19 guests at the Ballarat lunch.

Thanks to Kerry Biram for these photos.

About Us: Member Profile

In this new monthly column, you will meet members of our Society. This month we meet **Bronwyn Blaiklock**, the initiator and organiser of the recent **Society of Editors (Victoria) lunch in Ballarat.**

What's the best thing about your job?

Two things. I enjoy the variety of work and the challenge of balancing competing deadlines. Currently I am working at the University of Ballarat, managing several projects in the areas of transition and student learning skills.

What's the best thing about being an editor?

Whether it's in the correction of spelling or clarification of expression, I gain a sense of satisfaction in having improved a piece of writing.

What was your first editing job?

My first paid editing job was in the Marketing Communications Office at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW. I wrote and edited marketing and course material with several other editors and graphic designers, then later I managed the unit. I had been editing material for friends and colleagues for years prior to that, but had never seen it as work.

How did you become an editor?

I call it a fortunate accident. When my partner and I moved to Wagga from Adelaide, I sought work in all the (un)usual places. It was while ushering at a theatre performance that I learned the university was looking for someone to undertake a writing project. I put myself forward and discovered a perfect fit.

Describe some of the training you have had to become an editor.

My initial training was on the job. However, the ability to spot an error at 100 paces is something that has always been with me. Then there were the dictionary races in grade four ...

What are the essential qualities of a good editor?

An eye for detail and an interest in written expression.

What's the most rewarding job you have ever done?

Volunteering my skills as a writer and editor to groups such as Ballarat Writers Inc. I appreciate the work of community organisations (especially those which support the culture of writing), and contribute to them whenever possible.

With which grammatical rule/style do you have the most trouble?

Referencing styles and their countless variations of dots and commas are a constant source of entertainment.

Do you prefer to edit on hard copy or on screen?

I generally prefer to edit on hard copy. However, where turnarounds are tight I will edit on screen and email my tracked changes.

What advice would you give to editing students?

Try not to frown while you edit ...

What book would you most like to have edited?

Eats, Shoots & Leaves by Lynne Truss. I confess to having carried a felt-tipped pen around for years (before I officially worked as an editor), so when her book came out, I felt at last I'd found someone who spoke my language.

Ed. and the City: Letter from NYC

In this new monthly column, young Aussie editor Lorelei Vashti Waite reports from the streets of New York on her experiences trying to break into the notoriously tough US publishing industry. This is her first report.

I am in New York looking for a job as a book editor. I was inspired by the Beatrice Davis Editorial Scholarship, but was too impatient to wait until I was qualified. (As you know, you need at least five years' experience, and a very clear editorial goal.) I had three years' experience, and my only clear goal was to live in New York, immerse myself in a publishing culture that was exciting and lively and crazy, and to come home in two or twenty years with more experience, more confidence ... and some idea of how American editors make it all happen.

Over the last five months, I have met with over forty people, from editorial assistants to editorial directors, at both massive multinationals as well as at smaller independent publishers. (My former lecturers at RMIT's Graduate Diploma in Editing and Publishing – Michael Webster and Bryony Cosgrove – were crucial in giving me the names I needed to start out. Not to mention the training and inspiration!)

I have been overwhelmed by the generous way that publishing professionals here have been so open to chatting to me about their jobs. Some of the people I've spoken to have been encouraging and can see no reason why my plan would fail (I do love that sunny-side-up, positive American attitude!), while others have said straight out that it's impossible: why would we hire you when there are thousands of Americans we could give the job to? But everyone has offered invaluable advice and contacts, and I've really learnt so much in this way.

Getting access to the people, getting the job interviews and even getting job offers has not been a problem (I have, in fact, been 'offered' three different jobs), but the difficulty is then convincing HR departments that the relatively new E-3 visa is just a bit of paperwork (and it really is!). The visa is too new, and employers don't yet understand that their requirements are minimal. Each time, I get harrowingly close to being hired, and then comes the inevitable phone call: 'I'm sorry but we can no longer consider you for the role ...'

Despite this, and even though I've now seen inside the tiny offices, learnt that editorial roles in the US can be extremely limiting, and know that the pay is terrible, I'm still determined (read: obstinate). I spent two weeks in London over the summer to see what the opportunities are like there, and even though it would be comparatively simple to get a publishing job (especially as I qualify for a UK ancestry visa), I don't want to live there! I love it here too much.

However, I know I can't stay forever on a tourist visa. If New York doesn't want me, then I guess I'll just have to take my mark-up somewhere else.

Dinner meeting report Workshop on IPEd Accreditation Sample Exam

Facilitated by Renée Otmar

Many who attended the September IPEd accreditation exam workshop arrived somewhat anxious about the very concept of an exam, but it soon became a relaxed and enjoyable evening. The mood was heightened by many chocolate incentives from the facilitator, Renée Otmar, a game of bingo and a delay in the arrival of dinner – which gave participants plenty of time to chat.

Renée began by explaining how the sample exam was put together and how the actual exam will be conducted. A creative team within the Assessors Forum compiled the exam with feedback from the Assessors Forum and the Accreditation Board. Once the exam had Accreditation Board approval, it was given a time trial. When it comes to the real exam, it is necessary to get at least 80 per cent for each section to pass. After this introduction, participants turned their attention to the sample exam ... [Find the sample exam on the IPEd website: <www.iped-editors.org>.]

Rather than working through Part 1, we played bingo by identifying the problematic phrases against a list of phrases. Hopefully the chocolate rewards received will also be distributed during the real exam! We then looked at examples of how six editors had marked up the manuscript in Part 2 and discussed these. Finally, participants formed small groups to work through selected questions in Part 3.

Comments on the exam

Generous feedback flowed from the discussion of each part of the exam. If there was a consistent theme to this feedback, it was the need for clear instructions. For instance, some people were tempted to rewrite sentences in Part 1, which would not indicate whether or not they had identified specific spelling or grammatical errors, and so they felt there was a need for more instruction as to what was required. Others were not familiar with terms used in the instructions, such as 'key in the illustrations' (Part 2). Several people felt that the briefs provided with Part 2 and with the questions in Part 3 were not sufficient to allow them to work with confidence.

The amount of work required did not seem so onerous, one participant commented, once it was clear how much work was expected in each section. Many people noted the value of Renée's 'exhibition' of different approaches to editing the Part 2 manuscript, and wanted similar examples to be made available on the web. The final comment was an expression of thanks to the volunteers at Assessors Forum for their hard work in preparing the sample exam. All feedback will be taken back to the Assessors Forum.

*Katya Johanson and Eve Recht
Meetings Organisers*



ABN: 92 015 006 730

P.O. Box 176, Carlton South, Victoria 3053 Australia

www.socedvic.org

Membership application and renewal 2007-08

MY DETAILS PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAILS CLEARLY

Given name Family name

Address Suburb

State Postcode E-mail

Tel: (BH) (AH) (Mobile)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

I want to apply for **FULL MEMBERSHIP** of the society.

*Applicants **must** tick one or other of the following two boxes, but may tick both boxes.*

I have two years' full-time (or the equivalent in part-time) editing experience in paid employment **OR**

I have a post-secondary qualification in editing and publishing and one year's full-time (or the equivalent in part-time) editing experience in paid employment.

I have attached a short statement that substantiates the option I have ticked above. It includes a summary of the type and duration of my editing experience and details any relevant qualifications I have. **Note: Applicants for full membership must provide this information.**

I have attached statements from two people in editing-related employment which state that I have the necessary qualifications and experience required for full membership. (These references state each person's current occupation, employer and position.) **Note: Applicants for full membership must provide this information.**

I want to apply for **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** of the society. I have an interest in editing and associated disciplines and in the society's aims generally.

I want my associate or full membership to be **DISTANT MEMBERSHIP** because I live over 50 km from the Melbourne GPO.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF RENEWING YOUR EXISTING MEMBERSHIP

I wish to **RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP** of the society for 2007-08.

MY PAYMENT NOTE: WE DO NOT PROCESS APPLICATIONS WITHOUT PAYMENT, OR EVIDENCE OF PAYMENT, ATTACHED TO THIS FORM.

I **ENCLOSE** a CHEQUE MONEY ORDER for \$ *Note: All memberships are due and payable on 1 July each year. New members after 1 January 2007 only pay half the membership fee for the 2007-08 year ... see table at right.*

Category	Payment required	Applicants 1/1/08-30/06/08
Full	\$75	\$37.50
Full (distant)	\$45	\$22.50
Associate	\$75	\$37.50
Associate (distant)	\$45	\$22.50

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 'MEM' followed by your surname (or as many characters that will fit).* **I enclose a printout of my online receipt as proof of transaction.**

I would be interested in talking to a committee member about joining the committee at some stage in the future.

Date / / Signature

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND POST IT TO SOCIETY OF EDITORS (VIC), P.O. BOX 176, CARLTON SOUTH, VICTORIA 3053 AUSTRALIA.

Dates for your diary

Next meeting

Celebrating the Author–editor Relationship

Wednesday, 31 October 2007

Training course: Project Management for Editors

Saturday, 3 November 2007

Society of Editors (Victoria) Christmas Gala

Wednesday, 5 December 2007



If undeliverable,
please return to
PO Box 176
Carlton South VIC 3053

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