

From the President

Last month, the Victorian Branch of ANZSI hosted the 2007 ANZSI Conference, *The Indexing Life*. The holding of regular conferences is an important function of the Society, and it is gratifying that so many delegates kindly took the trouble to communicate, either verbally or in writing, their positive experiences of the Conference.

On behalf of the ANZSI Council, and as Victorian Branch President, I would like to commend the Victorian Branch Committee, their Conference Committee, and in particular, Margaret Findlay, the Conference Convenor, for putting

together such an interesting and enjoyable program, and for ensuring the financial success of the conference.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all presenters and delegates whose participation in the conference helped to make it such an enriching experience.



Karen Gillen, ANZSI President

The Indexing Life – an overview

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Conference

15–17 March 2007, Amora Hotel, Melbourne, Australia

The theme of the recent conference, *The Indexing Life*, reflected the intention of the organisers to put together a program that touched upon as many aspects of 'the indexing life' as possible and provided professional development opportunities for those just starting out in the profession through to those with well-established careers. Accordingly, the conference provided delegates with a varied program of workshops, conference papers, 'birds of a feather' sessions, panel discussions, a comic reading, and an exercise session, as well as formal and informal social activities. The program catered for both database and web indexers and back-of-book indexers, and also provided plenty of opportunities for socialising and networking.

The Conference was attended by delegates from Australia and from a number of other countries. It was with great pleasure that we once again welcomed Geraldine Beare as the official representative of the UK Society of Indexers (SI), and Frances Lennie as the official representative of the American Society of Indexers (ASI). We were also very pleased to welcome the other international visitors to the conference: Kesaia Vilsoni from Fiji, Saeed Rezaei Sharifabadi from Iran, and Linda Chu from Hong Kong. Within Australia, in addition to those from Victoria, delegates came from the

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Kathy Simpson and Catharine Tully at the registration desk

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It is *your* newsletter, and we are totally dependent on contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact the editor if you have any questions about the suitability of items for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or abridge contributions.

Please send files via email in MS Word Rich Text Format or plain text (ASCII). Do not embed footnotes in Word files.

Next deadline

4 May for the May 2007 issue.

Graphics

Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. Camera-ready art and photos can be scanned by the editor. Note that photos need to be clear, sharp and contrasty if they are to copy well in black and white.

Advertising charges

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Membership charges

A\$55 per year; A\$30 half year (Jan to June).
Student member A\$30.
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The Indexer

(*international indexing journal*)

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registration.html>

Indexers Available

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Book launch: *The Indexing Companion*

The Indexing Companion, by Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey, published by Cambridge University Press, was launched by Pam Peters at the ANZSI conference.

The tea room proved to be a cosy venue for the speeches, for browsing and buying this book (along with others from CUP and SI), and for enjoying afternoon tea with like-minded colleagues.

Pam Peters spoke about the book having breadth and depth, a range of international examples, and a lot of current references, many to freely-



Jon and Glenda at the book launch

available websites. She also said that the book was fun. One of the aims was to show indexing as a human activity, starting with the first quote from Seth Maislin saying that his biggest achievement has been convincing his mother-in-law that indexing is cool!

Pam also mentioned the analogy borrowed from author Sonya Hartnett, who used to write stories higgledy-piggledy as the ideas arrived, using the 'ride a wild pony approach', but who now structures things more carefully from the beginning, following her 'dressage' approach.

Glenda thanked the people who had been involved in the development of the book, which grew out of an interesting chain of events.

The starting point was Auslib Press, who published Jon and Glenda's first book, *Website indexing*. That book was added by Sue Woolley to a list of good books on indexing that was being circulated to editors. Susan Keogh saw the list, and suggested they publish with CUP. They contacted publisher Jill Henry, who sent their proposal to CUP in Melbourne and then Cambridge (where it was assessed by the 'Syndics').

Thanks were also due to the many staff at CUP who assisted at all stages of production, including Kate Indigo, who they met for the first time at the conference. Fundamental to the book were the indexers whose writings and discussions over the last 18 years stimulated their thinking and provided much of the content for the text.

The three anonymous readers who commented on the book proposal all made suggestions enhancing the final book. Suggestions included writing a section analysing the future of indexing, discussing both open system (collection) and closed system (book-style) indexing.

Maureen MacGlashan, editor of *The Indexer*, later became 'unanonymous', and a quote from her final report is printed on the back cover.

Many thanks go to all those who contributed to the excitement of the launch – Pam Peters, for her thorough and positive appraisal, the conference committee for organising the event, CUP staff for running the stall and sponsoring the tea, and all the indexers who attended.

Glenda Browne

Browne, Glenda and Jermey, Jonathan.
The Indexing Companion.
Melbourne, Cambridge University Press, 2007.
\$49.95. ISBN 978-0-521-68988-5, 240 p.

Conference social events and entertainment

Welcome Happy Hour - Thursday 15 March

Workshop participants, newly arrived conference delegates, Vic Branch members and partners celebrated the successful completion of Day One – the Workshop program, at a convivial ‘meet and greet’ function in the Tracks Bar of Amora Riverwalk.

For a healthy end to the day, a large party walked along Bridge Road to Café Bohème for dinner, ably organized by Catherine Tully, after which we ambled back to the hotel and so to bed.



Kesaia Vilsoni from Fiji and Dee McArthur



Walter Lee and Margaret Findlay

Break-Up Dinner - Saturday 17 March

At the end of the afternoon sessions, after paying the final accounts and saying farewell to many of our travelling visitors, a handful of Committee members, visitors and presenters crossed the road to dine together at the Bridge Hotel, to cement friendships and drink to the successful completion of yet another international indexing event.

Jenny Restarick

Conference Dinner - Friday 16 March

A good crowd of delegates and partners enjoyed a night of great camaraderie, fine dining and wining, together with an ‘ice-breaker’ table competition of ‘name the logo/brand’ plus enjoyable music from the Jazz Doctors band, with the inclusion of ANZSI Council member and trombonist, Don Jordan.



Don Jordan joins the Jazz Doctors



Tony Venn and Geraldine Beare



Frances Lennie

(*Overview, continued from page 1*)

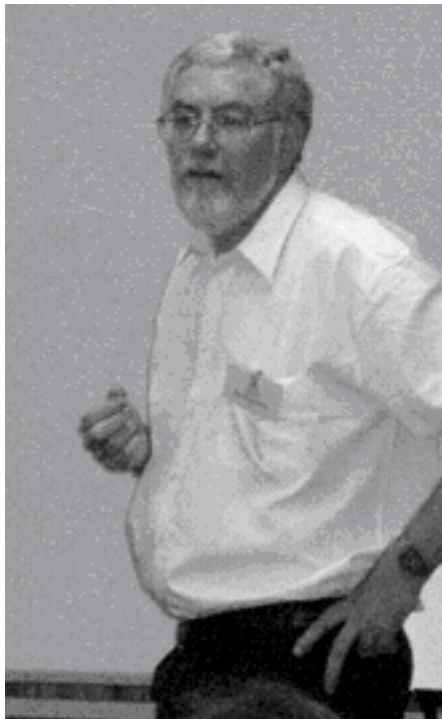
ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia. The ANZSI Council sponsors the attendance of a member who resides in a location remote from the conference. This year's successful applicant for sponsorship was Alex George, from Perth, Western Australia. Alex's report of the conference appears on page 6 of this issue of the *Newsletter*. Of the 77 delegates who attended, 38 were self-employed or freelance indexers, while the others worked full- or part-time in organizations.

The Conference began with a number of optional workshops on Thursday 15 March. Max McMaster (Vic) presented a full-day workshop at Swinburne University of Technology on 'Newspaper and magazine indexing'. A couple of half-day workshops were also held at Swinburne, with Frances Lennie (US) leading a morning session on 'Cindex Software', and Glenda Browne (NSW) presenting an afternoon workshop on 'Web Indexing'. Another couple of half-day workshops were held at the Amora Hotel. Alan Walker (NSW) presented a morning session on 'Law Indexing', and Michael Harrington (ACT) held an afternoon workshop on 'Indexing Annual Reports'. Overall, the workshops were well attended, with Glenda Browne's workshop on 'Web Indexing' proving particularly popular.

Early on Thursday evening, a 'Welcome' Cocktail Hour was held in the Tracks Bar of the Amora Hotel. This was a great opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances and meet some newer ANZSI members and conference delegates. A number of delegates then strolled down Bridge Rd, Richmond, to a nearby restaurant, to enjoy an informal dinner hosted by ANZSI Victorian Branch Committee members.

On Friday morning, following the official opening of the conference, the first keynote address for the conference was

presented by Geraldine Beare (a freelance indexer, and official representative of the UK Society of Indexers). In a fact-filled, witty and thought-provoking presentation, titled 'Indexing Past and Present: Whither the Future', Geraldine traced the evolution of indexing, from the Paleolithic to the present, and offered some predictions about the future of indexing. The final quote provided, from Eric Hoffer, is worth repeating here: *'In times of change, learners inherit the world, while the learned remain beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.'*



Max McMaster

During breaks throughout the conference, delegates were able to browse through the Trade Exhibition, order a range of Society of Indexers (SI) publications, or purchase items from the \$5 table (book-stops, additional conference bags and badges, Proceedings of the 2005 ANZSI Conference, etc.).

Also on display at the conference were ANZSI Medal-Awarded Books, along with a list of Medal winners and those whose work had been highly commended. This is the first time that these books have been collected and displayed together, and delegates were able to browse through them and make their own assessments of the indexes they contained. A complete list of the titles of the books, and the medal winners will be included in the June issue of the *Newsletter*.

Following morning tea, there were concurrent 'Birds of a Feather' Sessions. Prue Deacon (ACT) chaired a session for database and web indexers, cataloguers, metadata creators and thesaurus developers, while Max McMaster (Vic) chaired a session on back of book indexing. Next on the program was a panel discussion, chaired by Alex George, on 'Indexing Gardening/Botany publications'. Panellists included Alex George (WA), Caroline Colton (NSW) and Roger Spencer (Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne). Detailed reports of this

Calendar of forthcoming Branch activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
24 April	NSW Editors	Lunch	Firehouse Hotel, 86 Walker Street, North Sydney	All ANZSI members warmly invited. No need to RSVP.
30 April	Vic Branch	Introductory indexing training	Holmesglen TAFE	Max McMaster ph/fax +61 3 9500 8715 or <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
1 May	Vic Branch	Intermediate indexing training		
23 June 30 June	NSW Branch	Basic book indexing course	Thomson Legal & Regulatory, 100 Harris Street, Pyrmont	Lorraine Doyle <lorraine.doyle@thomson.com>
11 August	NSW Branch	Indexing specialties seminar	NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle	Lorraine Doyle <lorraine.doyle@thomson.com>

panel discussion, and the preceding 'Birds of a Feather' sessions will be published in the May issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*. In a parallel session, Prof. Wallace Kirsop (Centre for the Book, Monash University) presented a fascinating paper entitled 'Behind the scenes in publishing in nineteenth and early twentieth century Australia'.

After lunch, Geraldine Triffitt (ACT), presented a paper on 'Compiling a bibliography in the digital age', and Dennis Bryans (Vic) followed with a paper on 'Compiling and indexing a bibliography of theatre programmes'. In a parallel session, Jeanne MacKenzie (National Center for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide SA) gave a presentation on 'The VOCED database – from indexing to dissemination', and Pru Mitchell (Education, SA) presented a paper on 'Learning architectures: issues in indexing Australian education in a Web 2.0 world'.

During the afternoon tea break, there was an official launch of *The Indexing Companion* by Glenda Browne and Jon Jermy (CUP 2007). Professor Pam Peters, from the Dictionary Research Centre at Macquarie University, gave a full and very positive review of the book. With the authors on hand to sign copies, many delegates took the opportunity to purchase the book.

Next on the program, Jennifer Gawne and Kathy Simpson (Vic) provided details of some of the more unusual jobs undertaken by indexers at Sensis Pty Ltd. They were followed by Kerry O'Sullivan (AMIRA, Melbourne), who gave a presentation on 'Data Metallogenica', an image-based mineral deposits database. In a parallel session, Max McMaster hosted the 'Indexers Road Show'. The expert panelists on hand to evaluate indexes supplied by delegates were: Michael Harrington (ACT); Max McMaster (Vic); Michael Ramsden (Vic); John Simkin (Vic); Alan Walker (NSW). A detailed report on this innovative session will be provided in the May issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*.

The Conference Dinner was held on Friday night in the Atrium of the Amora Hotel. Jenny Restarick hosted the dinner, and the Jazz Doctors provided the background music to an entertaining and enjoyable social occasion.

The final day's program began with a presentation by Lynn Farkas, the ANZSI Mentoring Coordinator, on the 'New Look' Society-Wide Mentoring Scheme.

Following morning tea, Professor Pam Peters (Dictionary Research Centre, Macquarie University) presented the second keynote address: 'Language on the move'. Professor Peters used a series of examples of English borrowings from classical languages, for example the spelling of words like 'h(a)emoglobin' and plurals of words like 'retina', to show the ongoing process of assimilation that underlies the surface variation in the spelling of such words. Significantly, the variable forms of words have



Professor Pam Peters

some impact on the alphabetisation of words, and on indexing that looks beyond the spellings used in the author's text.

The next item on the program, and a wonderful complement to Professor Peters' presentation, was a comic reading by journalist Sharon Gray (columnist with *The Age* Newspaper) of an article by Richard Boston, published in the *Guardian* (16 April 1989), on how the 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary came into being.



Sharon Gray

In order to work up an appetite for lunch, the next item on the program was a health and fitness session presented by Jenny Davrain. A few delegates demonstrated astonishing bursts of speed to escape from the room before the doors were locked. Those that remained were shown and encouraged to practice a range of stretch and relaxation exercises for sedentary workers involving tins of baked beans, bottles of tomato sauce, John Travolta impersonations, and a lot of laughter.



After lunch, it was back to business, with Renee Otmar (Vic) presenting a seminar on 'Business basics for freelance indexers: what to do before and after you hang up your shingle.' In a parallel session, Jon Jermy (NSW) gave a paper on 'The database in your future'; Andrew Pentecost (Maxus, Melbourne), gave a demonstration of database and thesaurus management software products in the construction of a database index; and Saeed Rezaei Sharifabadi (Alzahara University, Iran), gave a presentation on 'The feasibility of subject authority control of web-based Persian medical databases'.

Following afternoon tea, Shauna Hicks and Simon Flagg, from the Public Records Office, Victoria, gave a presentation on 'Indexing manuscripts and the Koorie Indexing Name Project'. Sherrey Quinn (ACT) then gave a paper on 'Managing language; some reflections on corporate glossaries'. In a parallel session, there was a panel discussion on 'Indexing

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Conference report by Alex George, the ANZSI-sponsored delegate

I won't go into the presentations in detail, since abstracts are available of most and I believe that there will be some kind of publication, whether printed or electronic is yet to be decided. Of the workshops held on Thursday, I chose that by Frances Lennie on Cindex software, mainly because I'd seen the advertisements but knew nothing about it. From the session and informal discussions with Frances I gained an understanding of the system and its potential. While it is better applied to more complex indexing than the kind that I do, I gained useful hints for my work.

On both Friday and Saturday there were plenary and parallel sessions, the latter presenting papers on a wide range of topics but also meaning difficult decisions on which to attend. With apologies to those whose sessions I could not attend, what did I get from the papers?

From Geraldine Beare: a wonderful overview of the history of indexing, from cave art (yes, it can be seen as an index) to the present with its widening array of the kinds of indexes being produced as finding aids.

From Max McMaster: reminders of how to deal with both commonly met problems such as undifferentiated locators, what to do with Mc/Mac/M', with articles, and less common ones such as ethical matters (how do I treat a word that was acceptable when the work was first published but by the time of a reprint 50 years later is derogatory?; should I take that job when I disagree with the author's concepts?).

From Roger Spencer and Caroline Colton (my co-presenters in a panel discussion on indexing botanical and gardening works): mutual support in our particular field; caution in using plant names coined for commercial use.

From Geraldine Triffitt: on the compilation of a bibliography (which is, after all, a kind of index), emphasising the benefits of co-operation with authors while remaining alert to the moral rights of individuals.

From Dennis Bryans: an insight into a subject area foreign to me – theatre programs, their myriad forms, their changeability (even by the day) and the complexities of indexing people, performances, advertisers and slang.

From Kerry O'Sullivan: a masterly demonstration of building, indexing and using an international library of geological specimens (70 000+), with images, legends and a map-based finding aid for access via the World Wide Web.

From Jennifer Gawne and Kathy Simpson: a view of the indexing needs of the world of commerce (with particular emphasis on producing the Yellow and White Pages).

From Lynn Farkas: how the Society's mentoring scheme for training new indexers has been developed, how it will operate, and some challenges facing it (Glenda Browne's closing paper led to discussion of some issues that the Education Committee faces in the scheme).

From Pam Peters: a reminder (if we needed it!) of the fascination and joy (?) of words, their diverse origins, how they enter the language and their evolution in different countries.

From Sharon Gray: a 'performance poet' reading of a paper by Richard Boston on the creation of the *Oxford English*

Dictionary, combining history and humour.

From Jonathan Jermey: the influence of the computer and database on our profession, our need to understand, and stay current with, developments.

From Andrew Pentecost: using Maxus as an example, a demonstration of building and managing a database index, and the use of thesaurus terms.

From Saeed Rezaei Sharifabadi: a fascinating look at the problems encountered in building a medical database for both national and international use in a country that does not have English as its first language, with adequate authority control.

From Shauna Hicks and Simon Flagg: an insight into Koorie records in Victoria, the problem of having archives split between the State and Commonwealth, the difficulties of using handwritten records that may be fragile, incomplete, almost illegible, inconsistent in spelling names etc.

From Sherrey Quinn: an insight into the problems of seeking standard use of terminology in a large, diverse organisation, the example being the Department of Defence which also deals with counterparts in other countries that may use the same terms but with different meanings.

From Glenda Browne: a challenging talk about 'consensus-based' indexing that highlighted the benefits that could come from agreement on principles and standards but, in the example of defining 'index entry', showed how difficult it could be in some areas.

It was appropriate to have the book *The Indexing Companion* by Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey (Cambridge University Press) launched by Pam Peters. Judging from the sales it will quickly become a standard reference for practising indexers.

The trade exhibition was confined to sales of publications from our Society, the Society of Indexers and Cambridge University Press. There was also a display of indexes that had been awarded medals over the past two decades.

There were two extra-curricular events, the conference dinner when the food, conversation and entertainment were excellent, and a 'health and well-being' session with practical exercises to demonstrate how we should look after our physical state in a relatively sedentary occupation.

Finding a catchy title for a conference can be difficult, but including *Life* in this one was highly appropriate as the program and the participants showed that our profession is indeed a living one – in the work itself, in the evolving technology and demands, and in our inter-relationships. So I came away with new knowledge and insights, a wider understanding, a wider circle of colleagues, better equipped to handle both the constants and the changes in the world of indexing.



Alex George
ANZSI's WA contact

(Conference overview, continued from page 5)

cooking and food publications'. Panellists included: Tim White, Caroline Colton, Isabelle de Solier and Tricia Waters. A detailed report of this session will be published in the May issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*. The final paper of the conference was presented by Glenda Browne (NSW), on 'Consensus-based indexing: group development of indexing principles'.

In the closing session, Dee McArthur's name was drawn as the winner of the *Oxford Dictionary* generously donated as a



Tricia Walters, Caroline Colton and Isabelle de Solier

prize by Oxford University Press. We hope the rest of the delegates also left the conference feeling enriched by the opportunity to share and extend their knowledge.

Another benefit of the conference was that it attracted some publicity for the Society. During the conference, journalist Trevor Robbins interviewed Karen Gillen and Max McMaster for an article he is writing on indexing as a profession for the Careers lift-out section of the *Age* newspaper. The article is to appear in the 21 April 2007 edition of the paper.

After appearing as a guest presenter at the conference, Sharon Gray, a columnist at the *Age*, also approached ANZSI with a request to do an article on indexers and indexing. Sharon interviewed Jenny Restarick, Sherrey Quinn and Prof. Pam Peters, and her resulting column appeared in the *Age* in the 10 April 2007 edition.

Throughout the planning and organizing of the conference, the Conference Committee of the Victorian Branch reported regularly on its activities to the ANZSI Council (formerly Committee). Its reports will provide a valuable resource for future ANZSI conference planners. As part of its operations, the Conference Committee also compiled a Conference Checklist for use by conference organizers. The Conference Checklist is to be published later this year in the *Indexer*.

Finally, the Proceedings of the Conference will be produced as soon as possible, and details of its availability will be posted in the *ANZSI Newsletter*, and on the ANZSI website in the near future.

*Karen Gillen, ANZSI President
Margaret Findlay, Conference Convenor*

WHERE AM I GOING?

... I DON'T KNOW

WHERE AM I HEADING?

... I AIN'T CERTAIN

(with apologies to Lerner and Loewe and Paint your Wagon)

You don't? You ain't? Then join ANZSI (Vic) members in a visit to the Map Collection of the State Library of Victoria, where their Map Librarian, Judith Scurfield, will introduce us to this collection. The main focus is on Australian maps, particularly Victorian, although the Library also has strong holdings of maps from overseas.

Date: **Thursday, 26 April.**

Time : 5.00 pm start, with our usual enjoyable dinner afterwards in a nearby modestly-priced restaurant.

Meeting place : Main front foyer, 328 Swanston Street.

RSVP by Monday 23 April to Jenny Restarick, phone 03 9528 2539 or email <cliffres@connexus.net.au>.

Group numbers are limited to 20.

ANZSI ACT CINDEXTM Workshop

Nine people attended this workshop on the morning of 24 March, chaired by Frances Lennie, creator of CINDEXTM and mentor to many users of it over the years. She gave a workshop at the recent ANZSI conference, and, as five of the nine people had attended that conference, she used this session as a continuation, answering specific questions.

CINDEXTM will, for example, allow you to create a personal dictionary of names, ideal for Aboriginal names with variations in spelling, as an expert present pointed out. CINDEXTM can create multiple screens, say, in draft and final view, as well as groups of temporary entries, perhaps using different fonts for each group.

If you enter page numbers in full form, CINDEXTM will do the eliding. It will change the method of sorting and will show an unformatted view, all records uncompressed, or a summary view, main headings only. Frances stressed the importances of cross-references, of saving records and of making backups. Other more specific questions were also answered and demonstrated.

A brochure is available at <www.indexres.com> to explain how to get started with CINDEXTM.

Edyth Binkowski

Call for expressions of interest

The Society of Indexers celebrates its anniversary at its Conference in London, 13-16 July 2007 and will offer one free place to a representative of ANZSI. Are you interested in taking that place? If so, contact Anne Dowseley at <secretary@aussi.com>.

Meanwhile you can find further information about the conference on the Society of Indexers website at

<www.indexers.org.uk/index.php?id=277>

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