

From the outgoing President

This is the text of the report given to the AGM on 18 October



In the United States political system, a President's final year of office is often an unproductive one. More time is devoted to electioneering than to policymaking (shades of Australian politics here!) and many of the bills proposed are blocked or held back until it becomes clear who will hold the office next. This time is referred to as a 'lame duck' presidency because, quite frankly, nothing the President proposes is ever going to 'fly'.

I am happy to say that the final year of the current ANZSI Committee can be called anything but a 'lame duck' year. Indeed, this year has been one of the most productive of our 5-year tenure, with activity on all fronts and a number of major projects coming to fruition.

Special Projects

First and foremost has been the creation of procedural guidelines to supplement the Constitution. What began as a series of small explanations about discrete processes has developed into a blueprint for all the administrative aspects of our Society. While some of the work simply recorded the current status, much broke new ground and required intensive examination of a range of options. The guidelines now cover the duties and responsibilities of each of the office bearers, the roles and operations of all the committees, procedures for elections, the operation of the mentoring scheme, a re-vamped Registration process and policy statements on a range of issues from endorsements to honorary life membership. In all, we have developed guidelines for eight positions, three committees, two programs, and fifteen policies. For the first time in our history, we have a comprehensive set of documents which record the policies and procedures that we have devised and by which we operate. This will be an invaluable reference that should smooth the handover of operations to the new Committee, and will help keep the corporate memory of our Society strong and vibrant.

The ACT-based members of the ANZSI Committee were instrumental in creating these guidelines. Geraldine Triffitt, Barry Howarth, Penny Whitten, Shirley Campbell and I identified the areas requiring documentation and wrote first drafts of the procedures. Tracy Harwood and Laurelle Tunks (later additions to the Committee) reviewed these drafts for
(continued on page 4)

From the incoming President

At the ANZSI AGM in Canberra on the 18th of October a new Committee was elected unopposed. You will find its members listed on the back page as usual, together with the Registration, Awards and Education Committees that are so important for the smooth running of our society and those vital individuals the Membership Secretary, the Newsletter Editor and the Web Manager. The meeting also agreed to change the name of ANZSI's governing body from the ambiguous 'ANZSI Committee' to 'ANZSI Council'.



Let me begin by thanking Lynn and the other outgoing members for their hard work and enthusiasm. The last few years have seen extremely rapid social and technological changes, and merely keeping up with these has been a significant achievement. To successfully take on new initiatives like the mentoring program and the website redesign at the same time required high levels of dedication. The last ANZSI Committee is going to be a hard act to follow.

For the first time, too, we have a distributed governing body: the ANZSI Council is spread across two States and one Territory. This is going to require a new approach to meetings and consultations.

(continued on page 6)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Newsletter, Webmaster and Registration details	2
ANZSI AGM 2006	2
Vic Branch officers 2006-07	2
ANZSI ACT Region Branch report and AGM	7
NSW Branch New Year lunch	3
New Zealand Branch greetings	3
Calendar of forthcoming events	3
From the Literature and other thoughts	5
Sponsorship to attend the ANZSI Conference	2
ANZSI NSW Branch report 2005-06	6
Where's the gold in them thar hills?	7
NSW Branch celebrating 30 years of AUSSI/ANZSI	7
ANZSI and Branch committee contacts	8

Deadline for the Jan-Feb 2007 issue: 2 February

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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

2 February for the Jan-Feb 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

Full page A\$175; half page A\$90; quarter page A\$35; full year 10 for the price of 8.

Membership charges

A\$55 per year; A\$30 half year (Jan to June).

Student member A\$30.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$40 p.a.

The Indexer

(international indexing journal)

Maureen MacGlashan, Executive Editor

<editor@theindexer.org>

Cost: A\$35 for ANZSI members.

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registration.html>

Indexers Available

<www.aussi.org/IndexersAvailable>

ANZSI Annual General Meeting 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Canberra on 18 October 2006. Fifteen members were present and there were six apologies.

The normal business of the meeting included the minutes of the previous meeting, the President's report and the Treasurer's report. Amendments to the Constitution were voted on and all four resolutions were passed. It was pleasing to receive proxy votes from members who were unable to be present at the meeting.

As a consequence of the amendment to the Constitution Resolution 4, the main body responsible for the affairs of the Society is now known as the ANZSI Council. As a result of the elections at the Annual General Meeting the following officers were elected:

Council for 2006-07

President: Jon Jermey (NSW Branch)

Vice President: Susan Rintoul (SA)

Secretary: Laurelle Tunks (ACT Region)

Treasurer: Margaret Findlay (Vic Branch)

Members: Lynn Farkas (ACT Region),
Tracy Harwood (ACT Region),
Max McMaster (Vic Branch)

Presidents of Branches were confirmed as ex officio members of the Council:

ACT Region Branch: Barry Howarth

NZ Branch: Tordis Flath

Vic Branch: Karen Gillen

NSW Branch: TBA (later confirmed as
Glenda Browne)

Committee members for 2006-07 were confirmed:

Registration Committee

Chairperson: Michael Harrington

Members: Barry Howarth, Jean Norman

Returning Officer: Shirley Campbell

Awards Committee

Chairperson: John Simkin

Members: Ann Bentley, Pam Jonas, Max McMaster, with Michael Ramsden if a replacement is required

Returning Officer: Alan Eddy

Education Committee

Chairperson: Sherrey Quinn

Members: Glenda Browne, Madeleine Davis, Lynn Farkas, Max McMaster

Mentoring Coordinator: Lynn Farkas

Other Society Officers for 2006-07 were confirmed:

Membership Secretary: Joanna McLachlan

Newsletter Editor: Peter Judge

Web Manager: Jon Jermey

Contact Persons

Qld Contact: Moira Brown

SA Group with SocEd (SA): Susan Rintoul

WA Contact: Alex George

Other business of the meeting included a report from the Awards Committee stating that no award of the Medal would be made this year. Publicity was distributed for the next ANZSI Conference, which will be held in Melbourne on 15-17 March 2007. Prototypes of the new website page design were also available for viewing and comment.

At the conclusion of the meeting a special vote of thanks was given to Lynn Farkas and Shirley Campbell for all their work during their time in office, particularly with regard to developing and rewriting the Society's guidelines and procedures. They were each presented with a bouquet of flowers.



Holding their bouquets: a smiling Lynn and Shirley, with Geraldine standing behind them.

Vic Branch officers 2006-07

President: Karen Gillen

Vice President: Jane Purton

Secretary: Mary Russell

Treasurer: Margaret Findlay

Committee members: M McMaster, J Restarick, J Simkin, C Tully, K Simpson, A Eddy

ANZSI ACT Region Branch end of 2006 activities

The ACT Region branch held its Annual General Meeting on 18 October. Fifteen members attended. ACT President Geraldine Triffitt welcomed members and friends, and gave the President's Report of activities throughout the year. There was our usual mix of social and educational activities, including a networking function held early in the year as a joint event in collaboration with the editors and technical communicators, which in 2007 will be hosted by the editors.

A highlight of the year was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Society, for which the ACT hosted a dinner in conjunction with the GAMES meeting.

Sandra Henderson tabled the Treasurer's Report, stating that the ACT had paid for the catering at the GAMES meeting and made a contribution to the new website.

A new committee was elected for 2006-07, as follows:

President: Barry Howarth
 Secretary: Eleanor Whelan
 Treasurer: Sandra Henderson
 Committee: Edyth Binkowski, Sherrey Quinn,
 Alison Sloper, Geraldine Triffitt.

After dinner, a delicious Thai banquet, Bobby Graham, web content manager at the National Library, spoke of the highs and lows of her first year in the job, and of the new projects being developed.

Lynn Farkas ran a second thesaurus construction course for the year on 26 October, after many requests from members to hold it on a weekday. Thirteen people attended, all from government departments, including one from Melbourne. The group included information architects, database managers and website business analysts. These people formed a lively group, with many shared experiences. All the feedback to Lynn was positive.

The year would not be complete without our Christmas barbecue brunch, which has become a tradition enjoyed by many members and their families. This year we are breaking with tradition and moving to Telopea Park. The function will be held on Sunday 3 December from 9.30 am to 12.00 pm. ACT members will soon receive flyers with a map and details of what will be provided and what to bring.

Edyth Binkowski



New Zealand Branch
 On behalf of the New Zealand Branch, Tordis Flath and her committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
 Celebrate and enjoy!

NSW Branch New Year lunch
 The NSW Branch has decided to break with tradition and have a New Year lunch rather than a Christmas lunch when everybody is flat out with other events. The date and venue have not been set, but it will probably be in late January or early February. An announcement will be sent to aliaINDEXERS and NSW Branch members, and a note put on the website.
Lorraine Doyle

Calendar of forthcoming Branch activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Friday, 24 November 12.00 noon	NSW Branch	Indexers will be welcome at the NSW Society of Editors Freelancers' lunch	Glenmore Hotel, 96 Cumberland St, The Rocks – on the roof if good weather	All very casual – just turn up at around midday – there are bound to be people there you know...
Sunday, 3 December, 9.30 – 12.30	ACT Region Branch	Christmas barbecue brunch	Telopea Park	ACT Region members will shortly receive a flyer with a map, details of what will be provided and suggestions for what to bring
Early Feb 2007	NSW Branch	Post-Xmas recovery lunch	We will send an email to NSW members and aliaINDEXERS and will put information on the website closer to the date	

National events

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
15–17 March 2007	Vic Branch	ANZSI Conference	Amora Hotel Riverwalk, Richmond, Melbourne	Margaret Findlay <conference@aussi.org>

(from the outgoing President, continued from page 1)

content and readability, and edited our works to impose a consistent structure throughout. The drafts were then brought to a weekend-long meeting of the full ANZSI Committee, including all the Branch Presidents and two ANZSI members-at-large (John Simkin for his archiving interests, Alan Walker as past President), chaired by Sherrey Quinn. This meeting in May 2006, dubbed the GAMES (Guidelines, Archives and Mentoring for the Society) meeting, reviewed and debated the draft documents, suggested additions and changes, and accepted in principle the general trend of the documents. Shirley Campbell and I were then charged with the task of incorporating the sentiments of the meeting into final versions of each document. With the exception of three documents, this task is now almost complete. All these documents will be available for the perusal of members on the new ANZSI website.

Which brings me to the next major initiative of this year, the redevelopment of the Society's website. Over the past two years, the NSW Branch has worked hard to prepare and test a new information architecture for our website. On its completion, the ANZSI Committee prepared a tender document and issued it to a selected list of web development companies in April 2006. The responses were evaluated and Link Web Services was chosen as the successful tenderer. Link began work on the redevelopment in mid-August and we are pleased to be able to present prototypes of the top-level page designs to you tonight. This gives an idea of what the 'look and feel' of the new website will be, and how it incorporates colour and images into the design of the pages.

Link will now commence work on the programs and content management system which will 'drive' the site, and will incorporate existing databases and files into the new shell. A working party comprising Shirley Campbell, Laurelle Tunks, Geraldine Triffitt, Tracy Harwood, Penny Whitten and I has overseen this work. Shirley, Laurelle, Geraldine, Tracy and I have offered to continue in this capacity, creating the new text and content required to populate the site, until the site is launched later in the year.

As an interim measure while the site was being reworked, our Webmaster Jon Jermy developed a new interface for membership details and for *Indexers Available*, that allows members to update their own data at their convenience. This has proved quite popular and will be incorporated into the new website.

Ongoing Activities

As the federal body in an organisation with strong and largely autonomous branches, the ANZSI Committee has few day-to-day duties, but it does oversee a number of ongoing activities of the Society. During my term of office from February 2002 to the present, two successful biennial conferences have been run on behalf of the ANZSI Committee by the New South Wales (2003) and Victorian (2005) Branches respectively. The March 2007 Conference, organised again by the Victorian Branch, is well under way. Special thanks to Margaret Findlay who has coordinated both Victorian Conferences, and the NSW Branch Conference Committee which arranged the 2003 Sydney Conference.

Subcommittee Activities

Our Registration Panel has considered eight applications for Registered Indexer status during my term of office, with three successful applicants: Frances Paterson, Catherine Page, and Tordis Flath (winner of the 2004 AusSI Medal). In 2006, GAMES meeting participants confirmed the concept that Registration is an indication of high quality in indexing, and as such Registration is not given lightly. None of the three applicants for Registration this year was successful. However, the Registration Panel's detailed comments on their indexes should help them to achieve higher quality in future works and we encourage all applicants to try again to achieve this, one of the Society's high accolades. Our thanks to the Registration Panel Michael Harrington (Chair), Jean Norman and Barry Howarth for the time they put into this most important of tasks.

In a similar vein, our Awards Subcommittee decided not to award an ANZSI Medal in 2006. A feature of our Medal competition is that it is not restricted to ANZSI members. Entry is open to all and even the judging panel is a mix of ANZSI and non-ANZSI professionals. This year six of the ten entrants were non-ANZSI members – a testament to the esteem accorded to our award by the publishing industry, and to the efforts of our organiser John Simkin in publicising it widely. While most entries showed evidence of good work all had limitations that, in the opinion of the Awards Subcommittee, did not warrant the granting of the award. The Subcommittee acknowledged that in some cases the limitations may have been due to restrictions placed by the publisher on the indexer's work, and that the indexers may have overcome the restrictions had they been able to argue their case accordingly; nevertheless the works presented did not achieve the level of quality in indexing that is a hallmark of the ANZSI Medal. The Subcommittee thanked entrants for their submissions and encourages members and non-members alike to submit indexes for next year's awards. Our thanks go to John Simkin for his continuing efforts in organising the competition and chairing the Subcommittee, and to Awards Subcommittee members Ann Bently (Librarian), Pam Jonas (Editor) and Max McMaster (Indexer).

The Education Subcommittee was dormant this year, but plans to kick off the new year with a meeting at the Conference in Melbourne. One of the longstanding difficulties faced by the Subcommittee was a lack of focus on where the members' attention should be concentrated. The GAMES meeting helped clarify the areas of interest for this group. With a new focus, and with responsibility for overseeing the Mentoring Scheme, we are sure the Education Subcommittee will make substantial contributions to the Society in the next few years.

Office-bearer Activities

As President, I am ANZSI's international contact with the other indexing societies and in that capacity attended the Triennial International Meeting of Indexing Societies held this year in Toronto, Canada. Among other issues discussed, the Meeting welcomed two new indexing groups (not yet developed enough to consider themselves Societies) from the Netherlands and Germany as associates to our current Societies

based in Australia/New Zealand, Canada, China, Great Britain, South Africa and the United States. Issues that concern all the Societies are discussed at these meetings, and this year we dealt with the need for an international 'best practice' website, the impact of globalisation on indexing, the ethics of indexing, reciprocal newsletter exchanges, and changes to the International Agreement in order to incorporate the two new Groups.

On the home front, our Secretary Shirley Campbell has been instrumental in maintaining strong liaison links between the Committee and the Branches and in promoting the Society through responding promptly and fully to all enquiries about indexing. Shirley has worked tirelessly at the often thankless task of ensuring that agendas and minutes are prepared and circulated, and that administrative details are followed up and acted upon. In addition, she has been a willing volunteer for the two major projects outlined above, spending many hours rewriting guidelines and assisting with visits to our web developers. Shirley has been the foundation upon which this Committee has built for the past five years, and without her input we would not have accomplished many of the tasks we undertook. I believe all the Committee members will agree with me in giving her special acknowledgement and heartfelt thanks for the contribution she has made to the Society.

Which is not to overlook the contributions of the other members of the ANZSI Committee. Our Treasurer Penny Whitten has kept an eye on our spending, grappled with the complexities of dual currencies, devised a system of receipting memberships, and provided sound advice on all matters financial. Geraldine Triffitt, as the ex-officio ACT Branch President member, has given selflessly of her time in attending all meetings, and is always willing to lend a hand when needed. Laurelle Tunks and Tracy Harwood, who replaced Barry Howarth as Committee members, have added a fresh perspective to the group. Three of our ex-officio Branch Presidents, Tordis Flath (NZ), Geraldine Triffitt (ACT) and Max McMaster (Vic) took the various threads of their Branch-based mentoring programs and wove them together to form the basis for our new Society-wide mentoring scheme which will begin next year. Our New South Wales Branch President Jon Jerney, who doubles as the Society's Webmaster, regularly offers comments and advice on Committee matters from afar and recently prepared a paper on the various means of facilitating electronic payments open to our members, which is still under discussion.

Other federal office bearers have also been active. Our Membership Secretary Joanna McLachlan and Webmaster Jon Jerney worked together to develop improved ways of keeping membership records, and our Chairs of the Registration Panel (Michael Harrington) and Awards Subcommittee (John Simkin) have, with their respective subcommittee members, continued the outstanding work of those groups in recognising and awarding quality in indexing. Speaking of contributions, special mention has to be made of Sherrey Quinn's work for the Committee. Her activities as Chairperson of the GAMES meeting included pre-meeting preparation and a set of comprehensive minutes which made the task of finalising documents far easier.

Members News

The year has not been without sadness. Two of our longstanding members, Mary Huxlin and Bill Phippard, passed away this year in untimely and unexpected deaths. Mary and Bill were interested members of the Society and they will be missed.

Conclusion

I have been privileged to preside over such a willing and cooperative group of Committee members and associates. A better Committee could not have been found. A lesser Committee would not have been able to achieve the milestones of the last five years: a new Constitution, a new Branch, a new website, new mentoring and registration programs, and a set of operational guidelines. I am sure all members of ANZSI join me in thanking each of the Committee members for their time and efforts.

I would like to conclude by highlighting a happy occasion. This was a milestone year for the Society, as we celebrated 30 years of existence. The occasion was marked by activities at Branch levels and by a dinner and 'birthday' cake at the federal level. It was a great pleasure to be an office bearer in such an auspicious year. I thank the Society for giving me the opportunity to serve in the capacity of President. I wish the incoming Committee all the best, and look forward to the next 30 years, and more, of ANZSI.

*Lynn Farkas
ANZSI President, 2002-2006
18 October 2006*

Sponsorship to attend ANZSI Conference in Melbourne 2007

The ANZSI Council offers sponsorship for one member of the Society remote from Melbourne to attend its conference in March 2007. Sponsorship will include the registration fee and \$500 towards transport and accommodation costs on production of valid invoices.

Following the conference the successful applicant will be required to provide a report to the Committee.

Criteria to be taken into account when determining the recipient of this sponsorship include:

- must be a member of ANZSI
- has not attended a previous ANZSI conference
- does not have easy direct contact with other ANZSI members
- can show evidence of practical indexing work or indexing study.

The quality of the application will also be taken into account.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 17 January 2007. Applications may be sent by email to <secretary@aussi.org> but must be backed up by a print copy mailed to:

Secretary (Conference sponsorship)
Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers
GPO Box 2069, CANBERRA ACT 2601

(From the incoming President, continued from page 1)

Like many of us these days, ANZSI is asset-rich but time-poor. My main goal initially will be to try and reduce the burden of work on our dedicated volunteers and encourage existing and new members across both countries – and outside them – to feel that they have an opportunity and an obligation to take an active part in the Society.

What are my plans for ANZSI in 2007? First, to maintain and expand the initiatives taken by the outgoing Committee. Second, to help promote the Conference in March 2007. In the longer term there are a number of options that I hope to explore with the aim of keeping ANZSI growing and developing. I will write about each of these in detail in the coming months, but in summary they are:

1. Moving to electronic communications wherever possible for meetings, application forms, payments, notification of events and formal discussions within the Society.
2. Spending your money on marketing, training, bursaries, careers days, trade shows, guest speakers and anything else which can attract public interest and new members, and provide value for existing ones.

3. Inviting other groups and professional bodies to collaborate on meetings, lunches and other ways to share resources.
4. Devolving responsibility to individual members and officers as far as possible – for example, in maintaining their own records.
5. Placing ANZSI documents of record on the website in public or password-protected areas.
6. Providing assistance for the standardisation of software and methods (e.g. accounting) across the Branches wherever possible.

Combined with day-to-day ANZSI business this constitutes a full agenda. It won't be possible without the help and cooperation of all our members. If you'd like to help, or if you have questions, comments or suggestions to add, please write to me at <president@aussi.org>.

Jon Jermy, ANZSI President 2006-07

ANZSI NSW Branch President's Report 2005-6

After a long period focussing on designing the new ANZSI website, ANZSI NSW was able to relax and turn its attention elsewhere when the designs were handed over to the ANZSI Committee towards the end of 2005. Following an AGM at the Golden Cinnamon restaurant in town, we began by organising a Christmas lunch in Parramatta. This was well attended although some city-based members found it a challenge to their navigation skills travelling so far west.

On 5 March we held a Taxonomy Seminar at the NSW Writers' Centre. Prue Deacon, Elizabeth Drynan and Mary Huxlin gave short presentations on various aspects of taxonomies and thesauruses. Again, there was a good attendance, including some non-members from the information sciences. It was after this meeting that we developed a policy of allowing non-members to join at the door when meetings are held, so that the surcharge for non-members effectively becomes their first years' subscription to ANZSI.

In May Glenda Browne and I attended the GAMES Meeting in Canberra. The full ANZSI Committee plus two members-at-large participated in this meeting. The aim was to discuss the draft guidelines and procedures for the operations of the Society which had been developed by the ACT members of the Committee, as well as to establish policies for Archives and Mentoring. Enormous amounts of work were done by all concerned and the outcome was generally successful, although some issues remain to be resolved.

In July Glenda Browne ran a Basic Book Indexing course at Thomson Legal and Regulatory. This was also very successful,

with seven attendees. But there was some sad news this month – Mary Huxlin, a longstanding member and one of the presenters at our March seminar, died on 10 July after a brief illness.

By September we were planning our next AGM – at the same place as last year, the Golden Cinnamon - and organising two short courses in indexing software, to be held in Parramatta in November.

In July 2005 there were 50 financial members in the NSW Branch. In October 2006 there were 45 – a fall of 10%. This may be slightly skewed by the timing – there are several members who may still be planning to renew – but it does indicate a worrying trend: membership levels are falling right across the Society.

One innovation which has been pioneered in the NZ Branch is online branch committee meetings. We have experimented with this with some success, and I hope that we can develop it into an efficient and genuinely democratic system that allows all our members to make a contribution. This is a goal I will be working towards in my new position.

Personally this has been an interesting and busy year for me and a real challenge in terms of juggling work. For better or worse I have decided to move on and will be taking on the role of ANZSI President for 2007. I would like to thank all the NSW Committee members and especially Glenda Browne for their help and enthusiasm and I know I leave NSW in capable hands.

Jon Jermy, ANZSI NSW President

Where's the gold in them thar hills?

A group of indexers assembled at the Women's Health Victoria offices on 19 September to listen to two speakers. First, Jane Purton, Victorian Branch Committee member, told us about her experiences of the American Society of Indexers and the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada's joint conference in Toronto. Her talk ranged widely, from luxury hotels and youth hostels, using SKY to file names beginning Mac or Mc, to kohlrabi as the official vegetable of the American Society of Indexers (no one has heard of it and if they have they do not know what to do with it).

The second part of the evening focused on the Data Metallogena mineral deposit database, presented by Alan Goode, Kerry O'Sullivan and Imran Hussain from AMIRA International. In 1970 Professor Peter Laznicka began to collect rock samples from mineral deposits around the world. By 1999, when he retired, he had approximately 45,000 mini rock samples arranged in about 2,400 sets glued to backing boards. Each set was from one location, with a unique number and was accompanied by supporting data including maps, literature, photographs and field notes, all entered into an MS Access database. Laznicka sold this collection to AMIRA to keep it in the public domain. The main collection, called the 'Lithotheque', consisted of the mounted sets. A subsidiary 'Macrotheque' collection comprised boxed collections of larger, loose rock samples or thin and polished rock sections organised by themes. All boxes were numbered and the samples labelled, but there was no database or formal inventory.

AMIRA has now created a searchable web database of images of the collection. The images are of high resolution and the database provides links to PDF files of the supporting documentation. The perceived benefits of such a database to the world mining industry have enabled AMIRA to raise over \$2 million from over 100 sponsors to acquire and expand the physical collection and to develop the website delivery.

This has been achieved using DB/Textworks, Web Publisher and MrSID (Multi-resolution Seamless Image Database) software. The database was designed by geologists who knew what the users would want, enabling access via deposit or district name, plate number, country, commodity, deposit type and special tags such as theses or data galleries.

MrSID enables them to take high resolution photos, usually about 18Mb, and compress them to manageable files of about 0.5Mb, yet still retaining excellent image quality on decompression. Photos are taken of each set as well as a limited number of selected individual samples. The geologists believe the quality of the images of the individual samples is better than using a hand lens!

You can visit the resulting database on AMIRA's website at <www.datametallogena.com>. Use the 'Example data' button to see how it looks. Full access is available on subscription. There are now approximately 70,000 rock samples from 3,800 separate locations worldwide, and many more samples and supporting information, such as theses and spectral data are being added all the time.

The physical collection was stored in bookshelves at Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF) in Adelaide, but is currently in shipping containers. However, the location of the physical collection does not matter as the collection can be viewed online from anywhere. The long term vision is 'to build the world encyclopaedia of mineral deposits for reference, training and education as a not-for-profit, self-funding business'. This was a fascinating example of how one man's passion for collecting rocks has grown into an internationally recognised resource that can be accessed anywhere.

Our thanks to Jane Purton, Alan Goode, Kerry O'Sullivan and Imran Hussain for their talks and to Suellen Gosstray for hosting the meeting.

Mary Russell

NSW Branch celebrating 30 years of Aussi/ANSZI



The NSW Branch of ANZSI met on 25 October to hold their AGM and also to celebrate 30 years for the Australian Society. Fourteen members heard guest speakers Jeremy Fisher, who was the first indexers medal winner, and Alan Walker (indexer extraordinaire).

Jeremy Fisher's talk will be reported at greater length in the next newsletter. Alan Walker's talk, 'Prehistory of ANZSI in NSW', took us back to the Society's beginnings in Melbourne in 1976. Alan joined the Society back then, but nothing much happened in a formal way until he recommended to John Simkin that we should set up a NSW committee. This came about in 1990 and the Aussi Constitution was amended to legitimise state branches.

The next stage saw Michael Wyatt suggesting that we should run courses in indexing and an evening program at UNSW began, running over six weeks. Garry Cousins assisted with this program. Over the years notable indexers such as Betty Moys and David Crystal have attended and spoken at our meetings.

The Branch's AGM brought about some changes in the Committee following the election of our 2005-06 President Jon Jermey to become the ANZSI President. The 2006-07 Branch President is Glenda Browne, with new member, Sue Flaxman, taking over as Treasurer. Trish Waters is Vice President and Lorraine Doyle remains as Secretary.

A most enjoyable celebratory evening was had by all.

Glenda Browne

ANZSI and Branch Committee contacts

ANZSI Council 2006–07

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<secretary@aussi.org>

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