

## From the President

Response from the members' mail survey has been extremely good with a return rate of 44% so far according to our statistician Mary Russell who is analysing the returns. Apart from the survey responses, members have been providing valuable comments about the Society overall and the Branches, both in areas in which we have done very well and in other areas in which we need to improve. Although we initially set a closing date for the return of survey forms as 30 September, if you have forgotten to return your form, please do so even at this late stage. All returns and comments from the newest member to the oldest are equally important, so don't think you have nothing to offer, you have.

Detailed analysis of the survey results will be provided in the November–December 2007 issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*. Branches will also receive a more comprehensive breakdown of the data for their location.

This month is AGM time with elections for office for 2007/08 for the ANZSI Council, ACT Region Branch, NSW Branch, NZ Branch and Vic Branch. Details about the respective AGMs appear in this issue. For the ANZSI Council AGM two amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by the ACT Branch. Details of the proposed changes and an explanation about the changes have been included for the benefit of members. A proxy voting form is also included for those members who are unable to attend the AGM in

Melbourne on Wednesday, 24 October, from 6.30 pm at the Elsternwick Club. During the evening of the ANZSI Council AGM we shall be presenting the ANZSI Medal for 2007, so come along and see one of your colleagues honoured.



Moira Brown, our ANZSI contact in Queensland, wonders about setting up a Queensland Branch of the Society.

At this stage she is only asking for an expression of interest, but there are more than enough Queensland indexers (22 in fact, and only ten are needed) to form a Branch. Our NSW Branch colleagues may be horrified, but for those members living in northern NSW having a Queensland Branch based in Brisbane might be more advantageous for getting to events and meetings. Members are, of course, entitled to join whichever Branch is most convenient for them.

This issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter* also includes the report from John Simkin on his impressions of the 2007 Society of Indexers Conference, held in Roehampton, UK in July this year. John also provides valuable insight into finding cheaper accommodation in London. John was ANZSI's official representative at the Conference this year.

*Max McMaster, ANZSI President*

## An honourable mention for indexes

The Alexander Henderson Award is a prestigious award named for the author of *Australian Families* and *Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina*. It is awarded each year by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies to the author/s of the best family history published in Australia – and the judges consider that a comprehensive index is essential to a good family history.

The 33rd Alexander Henderson Award was won in 2007 by David Grey-Smith for *Boat People of the Empire*. The judges described it as 'a warm family history, very well written in a personal style. There are comprehensive references and notes associated with genealogical tables. The indexing was excellent.'

(Source: '33rd Alexander Henderson Award 2007'. *Genealogist* vol. 12, no. 3, Sept 2007, pp. 43-4.)

*Mary Russell*

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**Deadline for the November 2007 issue: 2 November**

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### ISSN 1832-3855

This newsletter is published monthly 10 times per year, with combined issues for January/February and November/December. It is sent free to all members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

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, .doc files or .rtf. Please do NOT embed footnotes in Word files.

### Next deadline

2 November for the November 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\$60 per year; A\$35 half year (Jan to June).

Student member A\$35.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$45 p.a.

### The Indexer

*(international indexing journal)*

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## ANZSI and Vic Branch AGMs

All members and friends of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers are cordially invited to the 2007 ANZSI Council Annual General Meeting with Vic Branch AGM and dinner to be held at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham St, Elsternwick on Wednesday, 24 October, from 6.30 pm, to enjoy dinner and drinks and the company of your colleagues.

Cost \$35.00 per head all inclusive.

On-site or street parking.

Public transport via trams and buses.

RSVP by 18 October to Jenny Restarick

ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539, or

<cliffres@connexus.net.au>.

Cheque or credit card payment options.

Special dietary meals can be arranged with prior notice.

## A Queensland Branch of ANZSI?

Hello from Brisbane. Our editor wants input, so here is a challenge to all Queensland Indexers. I am writing to ask for a show of interest/enthusiasm to form a 'Branch' in Queensland. Do Indexers in Queensland WANT a Branch in ANZSI? Do we NEED it? Will it BENEFIT us?

The Society of Editors (Qld) meets on the first Wednesday each month in Brisbane. To my knowledge, it is the only forum where editors and indexers can congregate. I had joined the Society of Editors to find some camaraderie, to network and to build friendships with experienced professionals who are working in the publishing industry, as I have only been associated with ANZSI and the Society of Editors for a short time. This meeting is an outing that I look forward to each month.

I would love to meet fellow indexers on a regular basis. Ten persons only are required to form a Branch. Meetings could be held monthly or bi-monthly. Guest speakers could entertain us. We could have our own training sessions. (Out-of-towners, please note that I have three beds with ensuite, to accommodate you.)

Please contact me by telephone on +61 7 3893 1252, mobile 0416 097 629, or by email at <brown5moira@yahoo.com.au> to express your interest (or to give reasons for you lack of enthusiasm...) re this idea of a Queensland Branch of ANZSI. Will 2008 be our first anniversary year?

*Moira Brown*

*Qld contact for ANZSI*

## ACT Region Branch

### Christmas in July dinner

On a chilly winter evening in July, 23 members and spouses gathered in the Gowrie Room of the Canberra Club for Christmas dinner and wonderful singing by the Canberra Men's Choir. The room had been decorated for us with small tables, with a red and white colour theme.

We had our main course first, roast turkey, pork and beef, with delicious roast vegetables. Then the Choir sang for about thirty minutes – Christmas carols, some well known, some quite unknown. Then we all enjoyed coffee, and our dessert, Christmas pudding, of course, with ice cream.

After that, the Choir sang its second bracket of songs, including the great Welsh hymn, *Cwm Rhondda*, and a lesser-known Welsh song, as well as some World War One songs. The Choir consists of about 20 men, plus their conductor, who is Austrian-born. They had some beautiful arrangements for the songs, and some beautiful voices to sing the solos.

We all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and hope to see the Choir again.

*Edyth Binkowski*

*ACT Region Branch*

## Society of Indexers conference, Roehampton, July 2007

This is the 7th or 8th conference of the Society of Indexers (SI) that I have attended. It marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the society and was a return to the location of the 21st anniversary meeting of 1978.

Some of the Roehampton University buildings formerly belonged to a religious establishment. This was most evident in the dining hall which has a domed and beautifully painted ceiling. The receptions were held in a more modern part of the building which has a balcony with a spectacular view across Richmond Park.

I was not staying on campus but with Elizabeth Wallis, a former Chair of SI, at Kew. The SI conferences are distinguished by their generous provision for opportunities to mix informally at lunches, dinners, receptions, coffee breaks and in this case a visit to Kew Gardens or the National Archives, a quite challenging indexing-related quiz session and a banquet.

There were over 100 participants including representatives from Australia, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, South Africa

and United States as well as from all parts of the United Kingdom, even from the Isle of Skye.

My role as ANZSI representative included a contribution to the panel session on the history of indexing societies. Apart from giving an outline of the history of AusSI/ANZSI I mentioned the current proposal for an indexers' tour, which raised some interest. I had brief discussions with Caroline Diepeveen, the Dutch representative, and Helen Litton from Ireland. I expect we will call on their knowledge in planning the tour.

Of the sessions that I attended, two especially impressed me. One was Professor David Crystal's talk on 'Language and indexing', with particular reference to relevance. A thought-provoking presentation which, when published, will make rewarding reading. The other was the account given by Ian Crane, former Chair of SI, of his experience of alternative earnings options, with examples of how the skills of indexing can be extended. A very practical talk.

*(John Simkin's account is concluded on page 5)*

## Calendar of forthcoming activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Thurs, 11 Oct 3.00 pm (walk) 5.30 pm (talk)	Vic Branch	Heritage walk and talk (details were in August newsletter)	Heritage Victoria, East Melbourne	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Sat, 13 Oct 9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Soc Editors (Qld)	<i>Editing for the Web.</i> Talk by David Hill (17 years in the industry)	Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane	Kerri Ullrich at <training@editorsqld.com> or Moirra Brown ph +61 7 3893 1252 <i>also see</i> <www.editorsqld.com>, 'training'
Tues. 16 Oct, 6.00 pm,	ACT Region Branch	AGM followed by dinner	The Canberra Club, 45 West Row, Canberra City	Eleanor Whelan eleanor.whelan@bigpond.com
Thurs 18 Oct 6.00–8.00 pm	NZ Branch	Local Publishers' Forum, Wellington. <i>So you want to be your own boss?</i> Talks on freelancing	Southern Cross Garden Bar & Restaurant, 39 Abel Smith St, Wellington	RSVP to Nancy Fithian <nfithian@gmail.com> by 10 October. Entry by gold coin donation. Cash bar. Food provided.
Wed, 24 Oct 7.00 pm	ANZSI & Vic Branch	AGM Dinner	Elsternwick Club	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Mon, 29 Oct 6.00–9.00 pm	NSW Branch	AGM	Golden Cinnamon/ Cafe Kasturi, 767–69 George Street, Sydney	Lorraine Doyle <lorraine.doyle@thomson.com>
Mon 29 Oct, 5.15–6.30 pm	NZ Branch	AGM	Level 4, 60 Ghuznee St, Wellington	Jill Gallop <jmgallop@ihug.co.nz>
Fri, 16 Nov – Sun 18 Nov	Vic Branch	Visit to Colac and District	Various, in and around Colac	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
23 November 9.00 am – 4.45 pm	Vic Branch	Web indexing workshop	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Course conducted by Glenda Browne. Further details from Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>

# From the literature and other thoughts



## First names first?

Generally-accepted indexing practices have changed over the last few decades, largely in response to sorting by computer, which led to the abandonment by many indexers of complicated filing rules.

There are still a few remaining areas where the principle of 'file it as it is, character by character, in the order it naturally comes in' is not yet the majority rule, although I predict that the trend is that way, and in 20 years time we will have adapted further. These areas include inversion of names and filing of numbers in numerical order rather than digit by digit.

It is a basic indexing principle that we write entries in direct order, e.g. 'hospital libraries' rather than 'libraries, hospital' (with the option to add a double entry or cross-reference from the inverted form). With personal names, however, we automatically invert the entry to put the surname first. One major imperative for this is the weight of tradition behind organisation of names in telephone directories, bibliographies, library catalogues, and so on. Another is the feeling that last names are somehow more permanent, important or good at distinguishing between different people than first names are. In addition, inversion of names means that (some) family members file together.

It has not always been this way. In writing about the *Bibliotheca Hispana*, Wheatley notes, 'The system upon which the authors' names are arranged is one that at first sight might seem to give cause for ridicule; for they appear in an alphabet of Christian names, but when we consider that the Spaniards and Portuguese stand alone among European nations in respect to the importance they pay to the Christian name, and remember further that authors and others are often alluded to by their Christian names alone, we shall see a valid reason for the plan. Another point that should not be forgotten is the number of Spanish authors who have belonged to religious orders, and are never known by their surnames. This arrangement, however, necessitates a full index of surnames, and Antonio has given one which was highly praised...'

Inversion of names also doesn't seem to come naturally to children. One correspondent to Index-L a few months ago noted that she was wondering about indexing multi-part surnames and had asked some children where they would look for the explorer Hernando de Soto in an index. They answered neither 'd' or 's' but 'h'! On a related note, many of my students say they would look for Queen Elizabeth under 'q' and for Harry Potter under 'h'. Being a fictional character that makes sense, except the same people say they would look for Hermione Granger (his fellow-student) under 'g'. When I ask them why, they say 'Harry Potter' has become like a brandname, but Hermione Granger remains, for them, the name of a person.

Modern trends in web-based indexes and pseudo-indexes are towards the use of direct order of names. For example, the automatically-generated indexes to wikis have names in direct order because people usually title pages with names in direct order. There are exceptions, however, as more bibliographically-oriented wikis such as the 'Golden Age of Detective Fiction' wiki (run by Jon Jerney) still title pages with names in inverted order.

The index to the Australian Government Culture and Recreation portal <[www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/stories/alpha.htm](http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/stories/alpha.htm)> contains the following entries:

'[www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/donbradman/](http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/donbradman/) Bradman, Don

'[www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/brettwhiteley/](http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/brettwhiteley/) Brett Whiteley

'[www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/bush/](http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/bush/) Bush, Australian

'[www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/music/bush/](http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/music/bush/) Bush songs and music.

At first I thought they had inverted names inconsistently, but then I discovered that they had covered all bases and entered names in both direct and inverted order. This is one user-friendly approach, especially in the web arena where there is not one single standard.

## Glenda's blog

Go to <[www.webindexing.biz](http://www.webindexing.biz)> and click on 'Glenda's blog' to see my new blog. I've started it with some pre-existing content, some of which is an expanded version of bits I've put in 'From the literature'. I hope to add to it fairly regularly, and to set up an RSS feed to make it easy for readers to get updates.

## Open Publish conference

Powerpoint files from the Open Publish conference are available at <[www.openpublish.com.au/presentations.html](http://www.openpublish.com.au/presentations.html)>. This is the second year I have been to the Open Publish conference. It provides an interesting collection of papers on the broad publishing environment. The keynote speech by Paul Jenson was of interest because it examined the future of publishing in a number of specific fields. He discussed his predictions within a change model. Other talks that stood out for me were 'Using business requirements for successful content management projects' by Peter Meyer from Elkeru and 'Implementing a Learning Object Repository' by Alexander Roche.

The paper that was most new to me was one on 'Microformats – a more semantic web today' by John Allsopp of Westciv. He described the use of microformats to provide a standardised way of presenting structured information such as contact details on the web. It is an exciting step towards the semantic web, and one which can be implemented quickly and cheaply when compared to alternatives such as RDF (Resource Description Framework).

*Glenda Browne*

## DIY indexing Mark II – comparisons and comments

Indexing for fun? You bet! The Victorian branch members, not wishing to rest on their laurels, have just undertaken their DIY Mark II indexing project. The subject this time was *'The Historic Homes of Colac and District'*, a 60 page booklet produced by the Colac and District Historical Society.

There are two steps to the project. The first is to invite members to index the item, the results of which are converted into a 'super index' by John Simkin. The second step is to meet the relevant historical society members, present the index and spend time touring around the subject which could be a mine, museum or in this case, the historic houses of Colac. A visit to Colac has been planned for the weekend of 16–18 November.

About 15 ANZSI members and one representative from the Victorian Society of Editors gathered at the Kew Library on 11 September to enjoy snacks and drinks while commenting on the eight indexes pinned onto noticeboards. It was heartening to see that a couple of new members joined in for what was a wonderful way to gain feedback for their efforts.



*Kerry Biram and John Simkin discuss the indexes*

The exercise concluded with a formal discussion led by Max McMaster. Who would be the potential audience? Think of locals, tourists, descendents and students looking at social and historical factors. Two pages, one of which included one or more photographs were allotted to each house in the booklet.

A miserly index might only feature house names and owners plus a few notable features such as architectural styles. Others, more generously proportioned, included building materials, windows, fireplaces and multi-seated privies to name but a few. Considering that most houses featured bluestone (is this a brick?) it was a challenge to index without resorting to endless locators. Should houses be listed under locations in the interests of tourists? How to index 'The Hill'?

Sometimes photographs require interpretation, which also needs to be indexed. The urge to edit the manuscript was raised and discussed.

Jenny Restarick closed the meeting with plans for our impending Colac visit. Special thanks to Alan Eddy who arranged the venue and refreshments.

*Jane Purton*

## DIY indexing Mark II – visiting the historic homes of Colac

Well, as Jane has told us, our comparison meeting has come and gone, with pegboards and whiteboard covered in print-outs of the various indexes submitted, some even flowing to the floor. Now comes the challenge of cooking up a 'perfect fit', which we shall present to the members of the Colac and District Historical Society on Saturday, 17 November.

We were delighted to receive index entries from members far and wide and invite all our entrants, together with those who have made greatly appreciated comments and all those who would like the opportunity of spending a weekend in Victoria's wonderful Western District, to join us there for a day or two.

Our plan includes visits to some of the historic homes listed in the book, plus other scenic attractions of the area as well as the official handing over of THE INDEX at a specially convened afternoon tea, where we hope to meet some of the nearby community who are interested in family and local history, and who might become members of ANZSI or spread the word about the value of indexing any publication.

We have a list of accommodation options ranging from on-site caravans through cabins to B & B establishments, motels and apartments. More information from Jenny Restarick on +61 3 9528 2539 or email <cliffres@connexus.net.au>.

*Jenny Restarick*

### *(Society of Indexers conference 2007, concluded from page 3)*

I was invited to sit in on *The Indexer* Editorial Board Meeting. The discussion centred on the problems raised by moving to a quarterly timetable and the logistics of distribution. Some questions seem still unresolved. I expect Glenda Browne, as a regular contributor and more in touch than I in this area, will be involved in these questions.

After the conference I hired a car and wandered. I had planned to visit 13 towns and cities but because there were heavy rains and some flooding I only visited two which

were south of the rain band – Ditchling in Sussex and Bath, with a brief stop in Salisbury on the way. Otherwise I spent two periods of about ten days in London staying in the Kings College Hall at Denmark Hill. I recommend college accommodation as an economical way to stay in this most expensive city. The tariff was £18.50 (about \$46) for bed and breakfast.

*John E. Simkin*

# Proposed amendments to the Constitution

The ACT Region Branch has forwarded to Council the amendments listed below to be voted on at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 24 October 2007. Members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting can vote by proxy, using the form below.

## ***Resolution 1. That in Section 4, Register of Indexers, the words in italics be inserted.***

The Society will establish a Register of Indexers recording those who have been assessed by peer review as meeting the Society's registration criteria. The inclusion of a member's name in the Register will entitle that member to be known as a Registered Indexer of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers so long as he/she remains a financial member of the Society *and satisfies such other conditions as are determined.*

**Reason for amendment:** Under the guidelines for registration adopted at the GAMES Meeting in Canberra in 2006 registration is now granted for a fixed period of time after which renewal of registration must be applied for.

This change was prompted by a number of factors, the most important being the strong belief that Registration should be a recognition of quality in indexing rather than a 'base' qualification, and the concern that the Society had no provision for ensuring that indexers, once granted Registration, maintain that quality over the years. Being a registered indexer implies a level of competency and the process of renewal of registration is a method of ascertaining that competency is being maintained.

The 'other conditions' in the wording of the amendment are spelled out in the guidelines which accompany the Constitution and will be published on the website. Any changes in the future to the guidelines will not necessitate a change to the Constitution.

## ***Resolution 2. That in Section 6 Council Subsection (d) 'Executive' be replaced with 'Council'.***

Casual vacancies in any of the offices will be filled by invitation of the *Council* and the persons filling such vacancies will hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting.

**Reason for amendment** The ACT Region Branch believes that filling vacancies by invitation of the Council rather than of the Executive will result in a wider canvassing of possible candidates to fill casual vacancies.

## Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers ANZSI COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2007 Appointment of a proxy

The Secretary (Proxy), Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers  
PO Box 5062, Glenferrie South VIC 3122

**Proxy forms to be returned by 23 October 2007**

I < *name* > .....

of < *address* > .....

am a member of ANZSI and wish to make the following arrangements for voting at the AGM on 24 October 2007.

### Please choose ONE option

[ ] I appoint <*name*> ..... to act as my proxy and to vote as they see fit  
OR

[ ] I appoint the Chairman of the Meeting as my proxy to vote as they see fit [ ]  
OR

[ ] I instruct the Chairman of the Meeting as my proxy to vote in the manner directed below [ ]

	For	Against	Abstain
Resolution 1	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Resolution 2	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

## Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

PO Box 5062 Glenferrie South VIC 3122 AUSTRALIA  
email: <secretary@aussi.org>; website: <www.aussi.org>  
(ABN 38 610 719 006)

### ANZSI COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2007

#### Nomination form

We, the undersigned members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, nominate the person named below for the position indicated (please tick one only).

President [ ] Vice-President [ ] Secretary [ ] Treasurer [ ] Committee member [ ]

Name of person nominated .....

Name of nominator .....Signature.....

Name of seconder .....Signature.....

Signature of nominee .....

Nominations must reach **The Secretary (Nominations)** by Wednesday, 10 October 2007 at:

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, PO Box 5062, Glenferrie South VIC 3122

Please submit one form per nomination.

## Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

### Victorian Branch elections 2007

#### Nomination form

We, the undersigned members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Victorian Branch, nominate the person named for the office indicated for the year following the 2007 Annual General Meeting:

Name of person nominated: .....

Office (please tick one only):

President [ ] Vice-President [ ] Secretary [ ] Treasurer [ ] Committee member [ ]

Signature of nominator: .....

Signature of seconder: .....

Signature of nominee: .....

Nominations must be returned by 12 October 2007 to:

Returning Officer, ANZSI Victorian Branch, PO Box 1006, Caulfield North VIC 3161

# ANZSI and Branch Committee contacts

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Postage  
paid

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