



**Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers  
New Zealand branch**

**President's report 2010**

Welcome to the sixth annual general meeting of the branch.

I don't have definitive membership figures yet after the recent annual renewals, but I believe we have about the same number as a year ago, which was 24. At least two did not renew but four new members joined. [As at 18 Sept the number was 22, with one more expected to renew.]

We've had some specific achievements during the year.

After the suspension of the general ANZSI mentoring programme, we revived our own branch scheme to help new book indexers at the stage after their first training courses. This got under way early this calendar year and three members are working on projects at present. Our thanks to Tordis Flath as mentor, Susan Brookes as coordinator and the branch treasurer, Jill Gallop, for implementing the programme.

ANZSI's new education committee is charged with reintroducing mentoring programmes at two levels, one basic, which they mean to call tutoring, and a higher level of "mentoring and professional development". I am a member of that committee, and would be happy to receive any comments that branch members feel like making. For the immediate future, we will continue our own programme, and later in this meeting we will discuss its development.

The branch also completed the second New Zealand freelancers' directory and sent it by email to more than 60 people in the publishing industry. Tordis and Julie Daymond-King did most of the work to complete the 2010 edition. We will discuss its frequency and other aspects later in the meeting. The committee would welcome information from all indexers in the directory on how fruitful it was.

The committee has also worked to raise the profile of professional indexers among record-keepers and users. In December Tordis and I spoke at a session of the annual gathering of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand in Wellington. Last month the branch conducted a session on indexing on the "workshop" day before the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand's annual conference. Pam Strike supported me there and Nancy Fithian wore her National Library hat in a presentation of its Index New Zealand database operations.

We've had a good relationship with the ANZSI council during the past year. The council approved a distinctive recommended rate for indexing in New Zealand of NZ\$65 an hour and a lower membership subscription for New Zealand members. Both reflect the lower rates paid to indexers by New Zealand publishers and other employers. The \$65 rate is higher than most of us are being paid, but it is a target to work towards. The skills of good indexers should be rated as highly as those of copy editors. I would welcome information from members on pay rates for themselves and other publishing industry workers.

During the year, the ANZSI council came up with a new way of incorporating the society, by doing so in the state of Victoria. This seems to have no negative effects on the New Zealand branch and your committee took a neutral position on it. The committee sees no need to incorporate in New Zealand, where the Accident Compensation system means we avoid some of the Australians' concerns, and our financial commitments are very limited.

ANZSI is examining the whole range of its educational activities – course curricula as well as the mentoring and professional development areas I mentioned earlier.

A report has also been drawn up on the registration system and we expect that branches will be asked to comment on that.

Our finances are still limited, but the committee plans to acquire more books for the branch library. Jill Gallop has compiled a list, with assistance from other committee members, and we hope to have some available about the end of the year.

During the year, members who live in the Kapiti region have got together several times and I'm told the informal meetings were useful as well as friendly. We have a fair number of members in Wellington, and if any of them cared to initiate similar meetings it could be worthwhile. Some of us from Kapiti and the Wairarapa might attend too.

The branch has not held a training course this year, but several members have flown to Australia for courses there. We need to cater for members working in the database areas as well as back-of-book indexers, and we hope to provide something for them in Wellington early next year..

Finally, I thank Tordis for hosting this meeting, and all my fellow committee members – in suitably alphabetical order Jill, Julie, Pam, Susan and Tordis – for their support during the year. There are handicaps in operating a body whose membership and leadership is scattered, but we have had our achievements and I look forward to more in the next 12 months.

Robin Briggs