

ANZSI NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, number 10, November 2008

From the President



Since this is the last newsletter for 2008 I take the opportunity to wish all ANZSI members the compliments of the season and success in 2009. What follows is from the annual report presented at the annual general meeting on 23 October. It records an undramatic year and some matters in progress.

ANZSI, as every healthy association, is in a continual state of evolution. Beginning as AusSI in 1976 with 55 members it has grown to the present 200. Although this grew to over 230 in 1997 and 2004, with subsequent culling of unfinancial members it has held around the 200 mark since 1990. However the functions and activities of the society have expanded and what was originally a largely Victorian body now covers two countries.

This year has seen two expansions in coverage. The Queensland Branch was established and ANZSI achieved a branch or contact person or group in every state and territory of Australia and in New Zealand. Two areas could still benefit from local contacts – North Queensland, based in Townsville, and the South Island of New Zealand, possibly based in Christchurch.

Branches

The branches continue to carry out the main activities of the society by organising courses, seminars and conferences and the regular meetings. Each branch issues its own report while the Council takes responsibility for matters in common. Some of this is done by delegation, e.g. to the Registration Committee, the Awards Committee, the Newsletter Editor, the Web

Manager. These and other functions are spread throughout the membership: registration to the ACT, awards to New South Wales, newsletter in the ACT, and the website in Victoria. Organisation of the 2009 conference is with the New South Wales Branch.

Council

A continuing concern for Council is to find ways to operate effectively in view of its membership being spread over two countries with members up to and over 5000 kilometres apart. This is the subject of a discussion paper to be circulated in the near future.

There are several other ongoing matters which are the subjects of discussion papers and considerations. They include the question of whether to incorporate and under what conditions, the future form of the society's archives, the registration of database indexers, the proposal to create an award for an outstanding annual report index, the appointment of a new mentoring coordinator.

There are many members who have contributed to the work of ANZSI during 2008. In particular the branch committees should be recognised for their work, especially those branches with particular difficulties – New Zealand and Queensland with scattered membership and few experienced members. Indeed even in the whole society there is a limited number of experienced members to fill the considerable number of positions which need them. Fortunately there are those who are willing to learn.

John E. Simkin, ANZSI President

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Deadline for the next issue: 30 January

Receive your ANZSI Newsletter early – in four easy steps.

1. Login to the Members section. (Top right menu on the website – contact the membership secretary if you have forgotten your password.)
2. Select Update your details.
3. Under ANZSI inclusions, tick 'Receive Newsletter via Email'.
4. Scroll down and save details.

This is checked at the beginning of each month. The pdf version of the Newsletter is sent to you via email as it goes to the printer, so you'll have it days earlier than by post.

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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, .doc files or .rtf, but NOT .html or .pdf. And please, no images or footnotes in Word files.

Next deadline

30 January for the February 2009 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\$70 per year from 1 Jul 2008.

Institutional membership \$95.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$55 p.a.

The Indexer

(international indexing journal)

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To subscribe at the special rate for indexing society members, go to <www.theindexer.org> and click on the subscriptions link.

Registration

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Indexers Available

<www.anzsi.org/site/Indexers_available.asp>

ANZSI Annual General Meeting 2008

The ANZSI Annual General Meeting was held on 23 October. There were 25 members attending the joint Council/Vic Branch AGMs over dinner at the Elsternwick Club in Victoria, and 20 apologies were received.

Minutes of 2007 AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted. A matter arising from the Minutes was the 2008 Indexers' Tour of Europe which had been cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

President's report

John Simkin presented the President's report.

Treasurer's report

Margaret Findlay presented the audited Treasurer's report.

Council for 2008-09

The new Council members were elected unopposed.

President: John Simkin

Vice President: Mary Russell

Secretary: Alan Eddy

Treasurer: Margaret Findlay

Members: Anne Dowsley,

Michael Ramsden.

Amendments to the Constitution

The meeting voted on two of the proposed amendments to the Constitution detailed in the September Newsletter. Resolution 3 was withdrawn.

Details of the votes are:

Resolution 1: That in Section 4, Register of Indexers, the highlighted words be inserted.

Votes for: 10. Votes against: 28. Abstained: 1. Resolution defeated.

Resolution 2: That in Section 4, Register of Indexers, the highlighted words be inserted.

Votes for: 21. Votes against: 17. Abstained: 1. Resolution carried.

ANZSI Medal 2008

Alan Eddy reported that no announcements of winners can be made yet.

ANZSI 2009 Conference

Madeleine Davis, head of the Conference Committee, reported on progress in organising the Conference. A 'Call for Papers' has been put on the Website and is included in this newsletter.

Anne Dowsley, outgoing ANZSI Secretary

ANZSI Conference, Sydney: 15-17 October 2009

The practice of indexing

Call for papers

The theme of the 2009 ANZSI conference is the practice of indexing. Papers are invited on broad topical areas such as: the theory, history or future of indexing; publishing innovations; information industry trends; professional issues; and the economics of indexing, as well as on practical matters. The Conference Committee will particularly welcome practical, 'how to' presentations on any indexing topic, both familiar and innovative, such as basic indexing skills, methods and techniques for beginners, and technological developments and specialised types of indexing, to assist experienced practising indexers.

Further details are available on the ANZSI website:

<www.anzsi.org/site/2009_conference.asp>

Expressions of interest in presenting a paper, or participating in panel or round table discussions are due by 28 February 2009.

Sherrey Quinn, on behalf of the Program Committee

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

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FINANCIAL REPORT for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

INCOME

| Jul 2006 – Jun 2007 | ITEM | Jul 2007 – Jun 2008 |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7,880.00 | Membership | 17,318.27 |
| 2,110.00 | <i>The Indexer</i> subscriptions | |
| 40.00 | ANZSI Newsletter subscriptions / advertising | 1,125.00 |
| 120.00 | Registration fees | 80.00 |
| | Mentoring scheme fees | 3,250.00 |
| 560.31 | Bank and investment interests | 667.50 |
| 8,332.48 | Web Redevelopment Project state/region contributions | 493.00 |
| 541.67 | Conference Profit - from Victorian Branch | 500.00 |
| | Training / workshops | 5,685.00 |
| | Publications | 68.45 |
| \$ 19,584.46 | TOTAL | \$ 29,187.22 |

EXPENDITURE

| Jul 2006- Jun 2007 | ITEM | | Jul 2007 – Jun 2008 |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| \$ | | \$ | \$ |
| 5,648.95 | ANZSI Newsletter | | 6,400.76 |
| | | <i>Postage</i> | 1,729.52 |
| | | <i>Preparation</i> | 2,085.00 |
| | | <i>Printing</i> | 2,586.24 |
| 2,847.43 | <i>The Indexer</i> subscriptions | | |
| 1,655.00 | Per Capita grants to Branches | | 1,705.00 |
| 888.65 | Awards Medal – calligraphy, preparation | | 636.45 |
| 3,989.32 | Web Redevelopment Project / Hosting | | 8,121.02 |
| 300.00 | Honoraria (2005/2006) | | |
| 652.37 | Administration/sundries | | 638.63 |
| 498.67 | Bank fees/ credit card facilities | | 503.58 |
| 1,709.56 | Games Meeting/ AGM | | |
| | Members Survey | | 537.94 |
| | Publications | | 160.16 |
| | Training / Workshops | | 6,859.02 |
| | Mentoring Scheme | | 1,575.00 |
| | Registration Program | | 27.25 |
| | Public Liability Insurance / Incorporation preparation | | 4,520.00 |
| 1,785.00 | Conference Sponsorships | | |

ASSETS

| 30 June 2007 | ASSET | 30 Jun 2008 |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| \$ | | \$ |
| 6,320.90 | Westpac Cheque account | 6,453.45 |
| 5,000.00 | BT Financial | 2,369.86 |
| 5,000.00 | St George Bank | 5,000.00 |
| \$ 16,320.90 | Total | \$ 13,823.31 |

Margaret Findlay, ANZSI Treasurer 2007–08

Victorian Branch AGM, 23 October 2008

President's report

Our Branch is a very active one and this year has been no exception. We now have 74 members, including two from the NT and three each from SA and Tasmania. The year's program included the following activities.

Training

There were four training events during the year. Two of these were the introductory and intermediate indexing courses, run by Max McMaster and Karen Gillen. Glenda Browne came from NSW to run a course on web indexing, while for something different, Karen Gillen took a follow up/refresher workshop.

Events and activities

We have enjoyed a wide variety of activities, organised largely by Jenny Restarick, our events manager, and Alan Eddy.

In November we spent a weekend in Colac where we met the members of the Colac Historical Society and presented the completed index of *The Historic Homes of Colac and District*, the subject of our DIY indexing project Mark II, written by Keith Chambers. We had a wonderful time touring around with Keith, meeting farmers, sharing morning teas, picnics and dinners, and the Hitchings' unforgettable natural icecream.

In March we explored the Victorian Jazz Archives in Wantirna with Ray Sutton, General Manager, as our guide. Graham Coyle entertained us on the piano as we enjoyed our afternoon tea, hosted by volunteer members.

An interesting development has been our foray into the bush for committee meetings followed by a 'meet the committee' lunch. The Courthouse Café in Warragul and the Yarragon pub have been very enjoyable sites so far. Country meetings suit country members (petrol costs and road running) and city members (the fun of a V/line train ride and a day in the country)

In June we held a cookbook indexing workshop in the Kew Anglican Church hall. The evening began with sherry and 1960s canapés, followed by a browse through a pile of cookbooks, a discussion on the ways we organise our cookbooks and recipes, then a series of exercises led by Max McMaster.

In August we invited Pam Peters to Melbourne to speak on the changes taking place in British and American English 'style'. Held at the Amora Hotel in Richmond, a familiar site to conference goers, the seminar proved to be most interesting and entertaining.

Indexers tour to Europe

A three-week tour of the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and England, timed to precede the Indexers conference in Winchester in June, unfortunately did not attract sufficient numbers to take off. It is hoped that it may succeed in the future.

Victorian Branch committee

NSW Branch legal indexing workshop and panel discussion

On a beautiful September day in the green surrounds of Callan Park, a group of indexers gathered at the NSW Writers' Centre to learn about legal indexing. In the afternoon, a panel of legal editors, a law librarian and a legal taxonomy specialist gave their perspectives on indexes and took questions from the floor.

The workshop provided an introduction to the special requirements of subject-indexing legal materials, including books, periodicals, looseleaf services and databases. It also covered indexes specific to the legal world, such as the compilation of Tables of Cases, Tables of Statutes and Words and Phrases indexes.

Alan Walker, an experienced indexer of legal materials, covered the unique issues that arise when indexing law. Though index styles have changed over the years, legal indexes and tables are still traditional in comparison with general materials. The room was a mix of experienced indexers, law librarians, lawyers interested in legal indexing, and professional legal indexers. This made for some interesting points of view when comparing our work on the exercises.

Alan's experience and knowledge was a great comfort to the inexperienced. Primary materials, such as cases and legislation, are often present in works of legal commentary, presenting unique challenges for the legal indexer. Where a general subject index might err on the side of caution with passing references,

legal indexes need to identify every mention of primary materials. It just may point to the kernel of gold that will win your case! Alan also addressed the issue of filing order, which takes on a whole new level of complexity in a Table of Cases. How would one file cases beginning with numbers, or phrases such as 'ex parte', 'in the matter of', or simply 'R' (which represents The Crown)? While the standard rule of consistency applies, there are specific legal conventions of which an indexer needs to be aware.

After a pleasant lunch on the wide colonial verandah, Alan Walker chaired a panel of Natasha Naude (Legal Editor, Thomson Reuters), Rowena Oldfield (Managing Editor, Encyclopaedic Works, Lexis Nexis Australia), Melanie Elron (Library Services Manager, Blake Dawson, Sydney), and David Low (ex-legal editor in charge of legal taxonomy at Thomson Reuters - now with Synercon Management Consulting).

The panel had a lively discussion and took questions from the floor. It was useful to hear the editors explain how their publishing process works and where indexing fits in. The editors from both Lexis and Thomson talked of indexing as something that is essential, but unfortunately comes last in both time and budget to meet tight publishing deadlines and marketing schedules.

(continued on page 9)

Queensland Branch regional meeting in Townsville

Townsville, in far North Queensland was the setting for the Queensland Branch regional meeting on 20 September. It was a glorious spring day for a 'Meet and Greet' luncheon.

Moira Brown, Branch President, aims to meet all the Branch members. She flew to Townsville to meet the four members who live there and, hopefully, to make the local community aware of ANZSI's existence.

Jean Dartnall provided her home as the venue for this function and entertained seven for lunch. The North Queensland members included Jean Dartnall and May Abernethy (both zoologists) and Ken Hogan (an archaeologist working with the mining industry). The fourth Queensland member, Suzie Davies, was speaking at a conference in Fiji. She sent her apologies, as did Audrey Shamier.

The members were joined by Ann Robinson, who attended indexing courses with Max McMaster in Melbourne a few years ago; Ann does database indexing. We also met two librarians, Jackie Wolstenholme and Nina Schonfeldt.

The gathering became animated over several issues raised by Jean Dartnall. The first was the cancellation of the mentoring scheme. Two members present had been about to join the scheme, having completed indexing courses with Max McMaster some months before, and being keen to consolidate what they had learnt with help from their more experienced peers. Moira explained that John Simkin, ANZSI President, had announced that the scheme was being examined and an effort made to re-start it. Members hoped to hear that it will be commencing again very soon.

A second issue concerned who could provide indexing training for ANZSI members. Jean felt that the Society is not offering a sufficient range of training itself, but should be in a position to influence who offers training.

Jean is an indexing trainer for CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) and has done a number of introductory indexing and bibliographical database courses for

them with the Singapore National Library Board. She would like to offer training in Queensland under ANZSI auspices, but is uncertain how this might be done. She suggested that the Society should have some form of 'accreditation for trainers' as quality assurance, and would be happy to be an ANZSI trainer in Queensland. Moira said that this training would be on the usual Branch training lines, with any proceeds going to the Branch to benefit all members. This proposed training initiative by a local Townsville person was warmly welcomed by those present.

The third issue discussed was the relative non-existence of indexers and ANZSI in relation to the publishing industry and the community at large, and the vital need for a marketing campaign. The meeting was unanimous that this was needed, but how? Should ANZSI use a marketing strategy or company, print media and/or the internet to raise awareness? Could this become a national campaign with consistent weekly

advertising in a variety of forms. Surely this would get through to the authors, publishers, editors and the public at large that indexers do matter! The meeting asked Moira to further these ideas with the ANZSI Council.

Queensland Branch has two experienced and two less-experienced members in Townsville, who are all keen to get indexing jobs and make a living from indexing. Moira pointed out that good training and continual practice build confidence in oneself and form a good indexer. Any assistance and direction from experienced indexers in any Branch of the Society would be most appreciated by new members starting out. Queensland Branch has many new-to-the-industry members; it intends to persevere, to build a solid wing of ANZSI in Queensland.

Our sincere thanks to Jean Dartnall for her generosity in providing her home and the lunch. Thanks also to the Townsville members and industry associates who attended the luncheon, for their warm welcome.

Moira Brown, President, Queensland Branch



At the lunch in Townsville. Back row: Ken Hogan, Jean Dartnall, Moira Brown; front row: May Abernethy, Nina Schonfeldt, Jackie Wolstenholme.

Branch activities

| <i>Date & time</i> | <i>Organiser</i> | <i>Name of activity</i> | <i>Venue</i> | <i>Contact details</i> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Tues 11 Nov 6.00 for 6.30 pm | Victorian Branch | Gary Presland: 'Indexed datasets' | Kew Library, Civic Drive, Kew | Jenny Restarick Ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539; or email <cliffres@connexus.net.au> Details on <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=54> |
| Sat 29 Nov | NSW Branch | Informal end-of-year lunch | Glenda Browne's house, 32a Ross Crs, Blaxland | RSVP by 26 Nov to Glenda Ph +61 2 4739 8199 or <webindexing@optusnet.com.au> . Details on <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=59> |
| Tues 9 Dec | Vic Branch | Festive season get-together | 208 Kooyong Road, North Caulfield | Jenny Restarick Ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539; or email <cliffres@connexus.net.au> <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=60> |

From the literature and other thoughts



More anti-censorship librarians

I wrote last month about Mike Moore's gratitude to librarians for fighting censorship. It seems that librarians are fighting the battle all over the place. *The Good Weekend* (11 October 2008) noted that Sarah Palin asked the city librarian, Mary

Ellen Emmons, if she would be 'all right' with censoring library books (including, apparently, *Pastor, I Am Gay*), should she be asked to do so. Emmons said she would definitely not be 'all right' with it. A few months later, Palin fired Emmons – 'although the censorship issue was not mentioned as a reason for the firing' (p.26). The story later notes that Emmons was reinstated due to public protest (p.28).

A Way With Words radio show

A long while ago there was a discussion among indexers in which the index to the *Chicago Manual of Style* was criticised because the user couldn't find a pointer to the discussion on whether she should capitalise, say 'western' in 'western Sydney'. Where would **you** index a discussion of that question?

I felt sorry for the indexer, because this is one of those concepts that could be sought in so many places, including the entries place names, geographic names, directions, adjectives, capitalisation, cardinal points, points on a compass, compass points, and so on. Other people have also wondered about the naming of compass points. For a podcast on the topic, go to <www.waywordradio.org/podcast-points-on-a-compass-the-saga-continues>.

Wired collection

Enjoy the pictures and envy the possessions in 'Browse the Artifacts of Geek History in Jay Walker's Library' by Steven Levy in *Wired Magazine*: 16.10. Walker's personal collection – in specially built rooms inspired by Escher's work – includes a Sputnik, books bound in rubies, and a chandelier from a James Bond flick <www.wired.com/techbiz/people/magazine/16-10/ff_walker?currentPage=all>.

Online Currents again

Fans of *Online Currents* will be interested to hear that ANZSI member Madeleine Davis and her colleague, editor Anne Parbury, have taken over as editors of *Online Currents*, following on from Francis Johns, who took over from ANZSI member Pamela Johnstone, and Elizabeth Drynan. You can find old issues of *Online Currents* on Pandora, the National Library of Australia's journal archiving site <pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/11941/20060111-0000/www.onlinecurrents.com.au/static/index.html>, and current publication details at <www.thomsonreuters.com.au/catalogue/shopexd.asp?id=7623>.

Servuction and funistrada – what are they?

When checking an index I asked the indexer what 'servuction' was, and they replied 'I've no idea'. I looked it up, and it is a word (albeit a very ugly one), meaning all parts of a service experience – environment, service providers, and other consumers. Most of us have probably indexed words we do not know, or

are not entirely familiar with, assuming that we have understood enough from the context to select terms appropriately. Not checking, however, can be risky, as you never know what words have been wrongly used.

Bill Bryson reports that the U.S. Army made up a food called *funistrada* as a test word in a survey of soldiers' dietary preferences. Although non-existent, it ranked higher than lima beans and eggplant ('which seems about right to me, at least as far as the lima beans go' commented Bryson in *Mother Tongue: The English Language* Penguin Books London 1990, pp 70-71.

Sidelights, Spring 2008

Thanks to editor Janet Reed (not to be confused with deputy editor, Jane Read!) I now have a pile of *Sidelights* to catch up on. Some excerpts from the Spring 2008 issue are included below, and others will be covered in the next issue.

Janet Reed, in her editorial, shared her experiences using a **refillable highlighter pen** <www.thewritingdesk.co.uk>. She soon reverted to her normal disposables, largely because of the time taken to refill (not ideal when busy), the too-narrow nib (although others are available) and the squeaky pen.

Executive Board Report: 'The Executive Board continues to cut down on travel expenses by replacing one meeting each year with a conference call. The use of Skype will be investigated for the next conference call meeting which could reduce costs even further.'

Consultative Council Report: 'Work is progressing on the content management system. This means that everyone will have their own password/profile and will be able to modify pages of the website that they are responsible for.'

A survey on **rates of pay** will appear on the website ... Marketing wish to get publishers to update their guides to indexing (aimed at authors). Please send examples of publishers' indexing guides to Ann Kingdom.

Working for middlemen: Middlemen include packagers, typesetters and overseas outsourcers. It was agreed that the main problem is their lack of knowledge about indexing. Marketing will look into a version of 'Last but not Least' for middlemen, possibly in the form of an A4 sheet for indexers to send out.

Information Exchange: A means for members to exchange information in confidence, without having publicly to reveal their names. In the last 12 months, information on at least 25 publishers or other clients has been exchanged. Issues covered included indexers being asked to take indexing tests; indexes being rejected; publishers not keeping to their own schedules; and unacceptable clauses in contracts.

Linked In (www.linkedin.com): John Welford discussed Linked In, a professional networking site, noting that he had 'plenty of interesting contacts but no actual work as yet'. He notes: 'One question I asked was "Fill in the blanks: A book without an index is like a ___without a ___". The most interesting answers I had were "a bird without webbed feet" ("some need them, most don't." Hm!); "a grocery store without aisles"; "a puzzle without a clue"; and the most intriguing of all, "a woman without a lipstick".'

Glenda Browne

Lynn Farkas – an appreciation

Little did we know when Lynn Farkas became a member of AusSI ACT Region Branch in 1994 how much she would contribute to the Society over the next fourteen years. In February 1996 Lynn joined the Branch committee. Her first contribution to the Society was as convenor of the most successful and enjoyable conference 'Indexing in the Electronic Age', a joint conference of the ACT and NSW Branches. Eighty indexers, editors, publishers, librarians and others from all the eastern states of Australia as well as from New Zealand participated. What was to become a hallmark of Lynn's contribution to the Society was evident at this conference: her ability to identify a contemporary issue of interest to indexers, to run with it and to provide superb leadership in doing so.

In March 1998 Lynn was elected President of the ACT Region Branch. During her period as Branch President, from 1998 to 2002, she regularly attended meetings of the National Committee in Sydney and so began a long period of active involvement at the national level.

In 2001 Lynn was co-convenor of the national conference 'Partnerships in Knowledge' held in Canberra, and again a joint venture, this time with the Canberra Society of Editors. This conference served to raise the profile of indexers, particularly where editors were concerned.

In early 2002 Lynn was elected National President of AusSI and together with Penny Whitten as Treasurer and Shirley Campbell as Secretary the executive operated from Canberra. During her tenure as National President Lynn always attended the ACT Branch committee meetings and so was fully conversant with local issues. It would be impossible to cover in this tribute all Lynn's achievements as National President so some highlights of her tenure will provide a snapshot.

In March 2003 an Outlook Workshop was held in Canberra attended by all members of the National Committee, including corresponding members. The idea of the workshop was to identify issues for action, to decide how they would be addressed and to set a timeline for carrying them out. So an action plan was developed. Lynn became responsible for initiating and managing the redesign of the Society's website. Her business background was immensely valuable in drawing up the tender documents and evaluating the responses received. She also worked on the Education Subcommittee which looked at training and allied issues.

In September 2004 the NZ Branch was formalised. Lynn had oversight of the subcommittee which drafted the consequent changes to the Society's constitution. A major change was the name of the Society, which became the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, ANZSI. The financial year for the Society also changed, from the calendar year to the customary financial year July to June. The new constitution was accepted in November 2004.

Following the 2005 conference in Melbourne Lynn chaired a post-conference meeting of the full ANZSI committee. The executive and all elected committee members were from the ACT and met monthly but the ex-officio members were from outside Canberra and so were usually unable to attend. This

opportunity for the officers to meet regularly face-to-face was invaluable. High on the agenda was the updating of the action plan. The inclusion of a new Branch in a different country highlighted how much of our operating procedure was based on history, tradition and undocumented decisions. It was agreed that we needed to better document our operations, both to standardise processes and to ensure consistent and transparent management of the Society. It was therefore agreed that the committee adopt as a matter of priority in its Action Plan for 2005-06 the development of administrative guidelines to accompany the new constitution and the upgrading or development of role statements for key society and committee positions.



This became the focus of Lynn's commitment to the Society until she handed over the position of President at the end of 2006, a focus which involved hours and hours of work. This was no small commitment for someone who operates her own business. The revised and newly developed documents were discussed at the GAMES meeting attended by the full national committee in Canberra in May 2006. Many documents were accepted as presented with others requiring final revisions. Two areas where significant changes were made were Registration and Mentoring. The

final documents were endorsed by the National Committee prior to the annual general meeting in 2006.

A very important issue at this time and which was also discussed at the GAMES meeting was changing the name of the governing body from 'National Committee' to 'Council' to remove confusion with Branch committees. This change required a change to the constitution. This occurred at the AGM in October 2006 where for the first time members unable to attend the AGM were able to register proxy votes.

In her capacity of National President, Lynn attended international meetings at indexing conferences both in Australia and overseas. In 2006 she attended conferences in Toronto in Canada and Durham in England and although the Society contributes to the cost of such attendance there is still considerable additional financial and personal expense.

Lynn's tenure as National President ended in October 2006 at which stage she rejoined the ACT Region Branch committee. In 2007 she took on the role of Mentoring Coordinator for the Society.

Lynn has made a significant and selfless contribution to the success and good governance of ANZSI over many years. Her great skill in being able to get the gist of issues, to summarise and express ideas succinctly either verbally or written, was a gift much appreciated by committee members. Her ability to think on her feet made her an excellent leader at conferences, which she saw as a great opportunity for participation by all members of the Society and she particularly ensured that the NZ Branch was represented. We wish to acknowledge Lynn's contribution and we regret the circumstances that have led to her decision not to renew her membership of the Society. We wish her well in the future.

ACT Region Branch Committee

ACT Region Branch: President's Report 2007-08



ACT Region Branch has had a busy 2007-08, beginning in November with a visit to the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Here a group of members was given a very interesting demonstration of the working of the three thesauri created and developed by the AIATSIS Library.

Our annual Christmas barbeque brunch was held down by the lake at Lennox Gardens on 2 December. It was only a small gathering but, as usual, we had a very good time. I hope more members will be able to come and join us this year.

On 4 March we held another 'Show and Tell' meeting, which as always demonstrated the wide variety of work indexers do. Each person at the meeting talked about a recent project and answered questions on their work – a very illuminating session.

We held a Saturday workshop on indexing annual reports, conducted by Michael Harrington on 10 May. Those who attended reported that it was a very worthwhile event, with many practical lessons on indexing government reports. Our thanks go to Michael for sharing his expertise again.

As we had decided not to join the New South Wales Branch in putting on the 2009 conference, we thought it would be good to do something else together. So we held a joint 'Evaluating Indexes' forum on 21 June at Craigieburn Resort in Bowral. Some stayed overnight, extending the discussion and socialising with the NSW Branch members. It was a very instructive workshop, led by Michael Harrington as Chair of the Registration Panel; Alan Walker from the NSW Branch and the Medal Committee also made a significant contribution. Thanks again to Michael Harrington.

On 29 July a group of us went to Parliament House to find out about the indexing of Hansard. You may remember that the previous Federal Government had wanted to stop indexing Hansard to save money, but sense finally prevailed. We were first shown over the Parliamentary Library and then heard a presentation on how Hansard is indexed. It was a very informative evening.

In September we proposed a Thesaurus Development Workshop, to be run by Lynn Farkas. Unfortunately there weren't enough participants to make the event viable, so it had to be cancelled. We are hoping to put it on again next year, as Lynn's workshops have been much appreciated in the past.

In regard to activities of the Society outside the Branch, we began the year with an email to the Council asking why the two amendments to the Constitution which we had put to the AGM had both been defeated. We received nothing more than an acknowledgement. After some time, I wrote an open letter to Newsletter Editor asking for a response to my earlier email. This letter had the added advantage that it let the membership at large know why registered members had not received the registration certificates they had been promised. The council should have done this, but there was only silence from them.

The Committee felt they needed some outside advice or even just someone to listen to our concerns. So we invited NSW Branch President Madeleine Davis to attend our

Committee meeting on 8 April, which she did. We had a very useful discussion with Madeleine, which continued over a very pleasant meal after the meeting. We agreed to wait and see how the Council proceeded.

Earlier, in January, the Committee informed the Council and the NSW Branch that we couldn't go ahead with organising the 2009 Conference. There just weren't enough members willing to participate. The NSW Branch decided to take it on themselves. Two of our Committee members, Sherrey and Eleanor, have joined the planning committee, so that we still have some input.

The other item of importance to the Society is the question of incorporation. Earlier in the year, after discussions on the Committee, we put a series of questions about incorporation to the Council. We also urged the Council to provide the membership as a whole with information, possibly through briefing visits, before any decision was taken. We got an acknowledgement but no substantive response.

A couple of months ago the Committee received an information document setting out the pros and cons of incorporation. Unfortunately, the document treated the subject very broadly and did not provide information specific to the circumstances of the Society. We send back a further series of questions (and a copy of our earlier questions, which were not addressed in the information document). We hope to have more specific information soon. This afternoon I received draft minutes of the Council meeting of 7 October, stating: 'Answers to many of the questions are included in material already circulated', which is not the case, otherwise we wouldn't have asked them.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the members of the Branch Committee – Eleanor, Sandra, Geraldine, Sherrey, Shirley and particularly Edyth, who not only welcomes us into her home for Committee meetings but also reports on our activities to the Newsletter. And especially thanks to Lynn, who won't be on the Committee for the coming year – for the first time in 14 years. Her contribution to the Branch will be greatly missed. As will her contribution to the Society as a whole. Thank you, Lynn.

Barry Howarth

New Zealand Branch



NZ Branch members (from left): Nancy Fithian, Jill Gallop, Robin Briggs, Jill Mellanby, Tordis Flath.

ACT Region Branch Annual General Meeting

The ACT Region Branch held its AGM on 21 October at the Austrian Club at Mawson. The 2007-08 committee was returned, except for Lynn Farkas who did not seek re-election. An appreciation of Lynn's extensive contribution to ANZSI over a period of 14 years is given on page 7. After the AGM we enjoyed a delicious dinner with distinctive Austrian touches such as schnitzel and apple strudel.

Ian Warden, one of Canberra's most popular journalists, and who has lived in Canberra for more than 30 years, was our guest speaker. For most of these 30 years Ian worked for the local newspaper, *The Canberra Times*, but in the last few years he has worked as a freelance writer, taking on other jobs such as working on radio, conducting a journalism course at the University of Canberra, and conducting oral history interviews for the National Library.

It was about the oral histories that Ian spoke. He takes this very seriously, doing his own research as well as reading the background information provided to him by the Library. He has chosen to interview people who formerly excelled in sport, but who are now retired, and whose bodies may be showing the effects of their former exertions. When people agree to be interviewed, they know they are elderly!

Richie Benaud, for one, has refused to be interviewed, perhaps not wanting to tempt fate. His was the only name that Ian mentioned; he referred to his interviewees by their previous sport. Some of them were members of happy families, but are so no longer; some have succumbed to drink; one boxer, who never lost a match, was struck down by a car which did permanent damage. It has changed the way Ian thinks about people participating in sport and the wear and tear it wreaks on their bodies. He said it is always useful to note details of the environment in which the interview is carried out, as this provides a clue for added questions. For example, how is the room furnished? Is there a pet? If so, what kind? Some sports people are used to the gutter press, and not to the questions

(Legal indexing workshop, continued from page 4)

As the index-user representative on the panel, I put forth the case for indexes as untapped gold in the online world. The idea that full-text searching would end the need for indexes has turned out to be a premature assumption. Human indexing and metadata add a level of intelligence and context that is essential to save the legal researcher time. It was heartening to hear David Low describe Thomson's work on applying a taxonomy to their entire online database.

The day was a wonderful balance of learning, discussion and opportunities to meet with other ANZSI members. Many thanks to Alan Walker and Madeleine Davis for sharing their expertise, and for making the day both enjoyable and informative.

Melanie Elron, Library Manager, Blake Dawson, Sydney

that an oral historian will ask. Ian has to fight not to be too reverential.

After 30 years of working in newspapers and radio, Ian still loves it, but he has discovered that some of the views he held to and fought for strongly in the past are now wrong. For example, he did not believe in the establishment of the Australian Institute of Sport, but has changed his mind on this issue. He talked about amateurism vs professionalism at the time some of his interviewees were at the peak of their performance. At this time many athletes from Communist countries (particularly the Soviet Union) had access to specialised institutes of sport. Ian told the story of one Australian sprinter who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962. This sprinter, at his own expense, had a pair of running shoes specially made for running on cinders, only to discover when he arrived in Perth that the track was a synthetic surface. Today with the facilities and information available to elite athletes this situation would not arise. Against all odds this Australian athlete won a bronze medal.

Ian's advice to us was to evangelise. The National Library is paying people for interviewing other people's families, but we should really be interviewing our own. He especially encourages grandchildren to interview grandparents. The difference in generations means differences in lives. Genealogical research is all very well, but the personal touch is needed; voices can tell so much. It was a most interesting talk, as we had known it would be.

Edyth Binkowski

Tips and hints

How to get into the publisher's office

I usually offer to collect and deliver direct from publishers, if they are based in Melbourne – that gets me into their offices and starts or repeats a face-to-face collaboration – often the person who contacts you regarding jobs moves on to another publishing house (hopefully with your contact details in their little black book), but if the second in charge remembers your name or face or (good) behaviour, you might still stay on their list of indexers for future jobs. This applies to all publishers, whether they be corporations, government departments or authors self-publishing.

Another suggestion is that well worn catchphrase 'get networking'. Attend meetings of organisations related to ANZSI, and also meetings of your community clubs, groups etc. You never know what businesses their members might operate, what societies they may belong to that could be looking for someone to index the club's newsletter, index their collection of historical photographs etc. Take along the ubiquitous business card, if you have one, be proud of your skills and profession and keep alert to any possibilities that could interest you and assist others.

Jenny Restarick

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