From the President

I am sitting at my desk with my long-awaited parcels of conference material from Toronto and Durham surrounding me. I have re-read my notes, re-lived the sessions and discussions, and been surprised at how much I remembered, and what I'd forgotten! I've spent hours wondering how to convey to you the 'feel' of the conferences as well as their content, and I've come to accept that all I can do is report the highlights and add my impressions and comments.

My lasting impression was pleasant surprise that two events focusing on the same subject could be so different, and each interesting in their own way. This month I will report on Toronto, and next month on Durham.

Toronto was a multi-faceted conference designed to cater for the members of two indexing societies (The American Society of Indexers and the Canadian society which, at its AGM at the conference, agreed to a change of name to the 'Canadian Society of Indexing and Abstracting'). In addition, it hosted a meeting of delegates from the world's eight indexing groups (Australia/NZ, Britain, Canada, China, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, USA). The conference was large, and busy. Held at a Marriott hotel in the centre of Toronto, adjacent to one of the city's largest shopping complexes, it offered ten pre- and post-conference workshops, four plenary sessions, 20 concurrent 'breakout' sessions and two annual general meetings. Not a minute was wasted: there were SIG meetings held over breakfast, networking opportunities at the cocktail hours, an excellent talk on 'The Lives of Writers' by local radio interviewer Eleanor Wachtel at the Conference dinner, and the presentation of awards, including the Wilson Award, at the Conference lunch.

I didn't attend any of the Conference workshops but if I had unlimited time and money I would have been sorely tempted. In addition to *Indexing for beginners*, which one almost expects to be mounted, the Conference organisers offered the following: *Dancing on cobwebs: Decision-making in indexes; Introduction to information architecture and usability; Indexing the hard stuff: theology, literary criticism and public policy; Developing enterprise taxonomies; Top ten CINDEX tips and tricks for the Macintosh; SKY index shortcuts: Efficient editing;*

> The Toronto Conference offered something for every type of indexer, and was stimulating and thought-provoking.

Creating website indexes; Top ten CINDEX tips and tricks for Windows; and *Solving SKY index puzzles: Connecting with macros and pattern matching.* These workshops were well patronised and seemed to be a strong feature of the American conferences, where they are seen as essential training events.

Although not formally spelled out, the workshops and more specifically the concurrent sessions seemed to follow a number of broad streams: traditional book indexing; special format indexing, web indexing, thesauri and taxonomies, and business aspects of indexing. The session titles were descriptive and in most cases self-explanatory: *Managing large projects; An index comparison project: the effects of indexers diverse backgrounds on creating an index; The glory and the nothing of a name; Usability of web indexes at an academic institution; Indexing and bilingual thesaurus construction; Organising your office systems; Taking charge of the book: using the WordCo approach to avoid common pitfalls in indexing projects; Case studies in HTML indexing; International indexing panel* (focus on multilingual indexing); *In search of excellence; The process of building taxonomies; Parliamentary indexing; Designing for online findability; Ask an indexer panel; Indexing aerospace books; Show me the money: a financial perspective on indexing; Stopping to listen: ethical places, ethical spaces; Evaluating technical indexes: things you can tell by just looking at*

ANZSI Annual General Meeting 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday 18 October 2006 in Canberra. The ANZSI AGM will follow the ACT Region Branch AGM which will commence at 7.00pm.

These meetings will be followed by dinner and will be held at the Zenyai Private Room, 30 Northbourne Avenue, Civic. The cost is $30.00 per person for a banquet plus dessert, tea, coffee, wine or juice/soft drink. RSVP to Shirley Campbell, <secretary@aussi.org> by 13 October 2006.

Election of office bearers for the Society for 2006–07 will be held at this meeting. Only financial members of the Society can stand for office, or vote.

An important item of business at the AGM will be voting on four resolutions to amend the Constitution. The four resolutions and the reasons for proposing these resolutions were published in the September newsletter and are on the website. Members who are unable to attend the AGM are able to register a proxy vote; a proxy voting form is available on the website. Notice of intention to vote by proxy and the choice of nominated proxy must reach the Secretary (Proxy) not later than Monday 16 October 2006.

Calling for volunteers

ANZSI is calling for volunteers to fill non-elected positions appointed by the ANZSI Committee. These positions are Returning Officer for the Registration Subcommittee, Returning Officer for the Awards Subcommittee, and Mentoring Coordinator. Each of these positions is administrative, with the appointee acting as liaison between applicants and the relevant subcommittee. Details of the duties will be provided on request by the President or the Secretary. The positions are not onerous and are an excellent way for newer members to become involved in the Society. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the Secretary at <secretary@aussi.org>.

Sponsorship to attend ANZSI Conference in Melbourne 2007

The ANZSI Committee 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

New Zealand Branch

The training courses at the end of September in Wellington were a great success and we received lots of positive feedback.

The NZ Branch mentoring scheme has finished all its mentoring projects and now awaits the start of the ANZSI mentoring scheme.

Our AGM was held in Wellington on 29 September with a good turnout. The following committee was elected:

President: Tordis Flath
Secretary (acting):   Jill Gallop
Treasurer: Jenny Hart
Committee Members: Susan Brookes, Glennis Coote

We discussed the possibility of the NZ Branch organising the 2009 ANZSI Conference and all were in favour. Members then adjourned to Olive Cafe for a lovely dinner.

Tordis Flath, NZ Branch President

Society of Indexers
50th Anniversary Conference
London, 13–16 July 2007

The 50th anniversary of its founding, 2007 is an important year for the Society of Indexers. To celebrate, the Society is holding a special conference in London, at Roehampton University, the site of SI's first International Conference in 1978. A three-day event has been planned, running from the afternoon of Friday 13 July to lunchtime on Monday 16 July 2007.

Highlights of the weekend include a banquet on Saturday evening in a converted Jesuit chapel and visits to Kew Gardens and the National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office). All of this will be based in a beautiful location overlooking Richmond Park.

For further details of the conference, please contact Howard Cooke at <2007conference@indexers.org.uk>.

Calendar of forthcoming Branch activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
16–17 October	Vic Branch	Indexing Training (Introductory and Intermediate courses with a historical focus)	Holmesglen TAFE	Max McMaster tel/fax: +61 3 9500 8715 email: <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
18 October 6.30 pm	Vic Branch	AGM and dinner	Elsternwick Club 19 Sandham St Elsternwick VIC	Jenny Restarick tel/fax: +61 3 9528 2539 email: <cliffres@connexus.net.au>
18 October 7.00 pm	ACT Branch	AGM and dinner	Zen Yai private function centre, 30 Northbourne Ave	Edyth Binkowski <geoffb@webone.com.au>
25 October 7.00 for 7.30	NSW Branch	AGM and dinner	Golden Cinnamon, Upstairs, 767-769 George St, Sydney	Lorraine Doyle <lorraine.doyle@thomson.com>
4 November 9.30–12.30	NSW Branch	Indexing Software training by Garry Cousins - CINDEX	Parramatta Library Computer Training Room	Jon Jermey <jonjermey@optusnet.com.au> $150 members. Nonmembers can join at door. Both courses $270
11 November 9.30–12.30	NSW Branch	Indexing Software training by Jon Jermey - SKY Index	Parramatta Library Computer Training Room	Jon Jermey <jonjermey@optusnet.com.au> $150 members. Nonmembers can join at door. Both courses $270.
Late January 2007	NSW Branch	Post-Xmas recovery lunch	Details TBA	Details TBA

National events

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
18 October 7.00 pm	ANZSI Committee	ANZSI AGM and dinner	Zen Yai private function centre, 30 Northbourne Ave	Shirley Campbell <secretary@aussi.org>
16–17 March 2007	Vic Branch	ANZSI Conference	Rydge's Riverwalk, Richmond, Melbourne	Margaret Findlay <conference@aussi.org>

them (unfortunately this session was cancelled); *Painless indexing editing, Indexing your life: creative applications of indexing skills.*

I indulged my personal interests and focused on web indexing and thesaurus development. I attended an interesting report of an Alaskan university research project on how users react to back-of-book style indexes on websites. Despite discovering that they found information quicker and more easily when using such indexes than by other means, the majority of those surveyed still preferred navigation or site search engines! This research expanded on similar studies presented at the 2005 Canadian conference, and hopefully the author Ilana Kingsley will continue it to try to find out why there is such strong negative reaction to our traditional indexing style.

In another session, Merel Alakus took us through her experiences creating a Women's Studies thesaurus in Turkish and English. I thought I was fairly *au fait* with all the issues involved in thesaurus construction, but discovered a whole world of new pitfalls for those hapless developers who must deal with bilingual thesaurus creation. In the '*Case studies in HTML indexing'* session, five panellists spoke on the following: the creation of a bilingual website index; the creation of an intranet index; the conversion of a book index to an online format; the creation of an online periodical index using an add-on product to CINDEX; and the use of the dedicated web indexing software package XRefHT32.

After lunch, I rounded out the day with a workshop-style session on designing information architectures and felt very proud to have the presenter Fred Brown note that Australian websites are some of the best indexed in the world. I finished the day with a bit of fun, in a session at which Kate Mertes explained how she uses her indexing software for everything from organising her invoices to arranging her collection of knitting patterns, and even for creating a gardening taxonomy for her father's flower club!

An impressive array of awards from the two Societies were presented during lunch. The American Society also initiated a number of members, and all the International Representatives (myself included), into its 'Order of the Kohlrabi' and presented us with lapel pins in the shape of that vegetable. Why the Order? Apparently at one of the earlier ASI conferences indexers were asked 'if indexers were vegetables, what vegetable would they be?' The group nominated the kohlrabi, because (like indexers) 'no one knows what it is'. Thus the Order was born.

The final day of the Conference was devoted to plenary sessions and business meetings. The current state of affairs regarding indexing in various countries was covered in plenary talks by the Dutch and Chinese society representatives, and some novel solutions explored – for example, the Chinese indexing society (which seems to incorporate librarians, cataloguers and other information professionals) is trying to lobby the government to ensure that all academic texts must, by law, contain indexes.

It was interesting to note that many of the same issues we are confronting in our Society are being discussed by others.

Education and training are items of priority, as are the basic skill sets needed by indexers. The American Society of Indexers has included an 'Indexing body of Knowledge' section on its website, which details the basic mental skills and attitudes of indexers, the functions of an index, indexing tools needed, and the steps in the indexing process. They are also offering an Americanised version of the (British) Society of Indexers training course to their members. The Canadians face the same problems of sparse membership spread over a vast country that we know in Australia and New Zealand. They cope by doing much of their Society business remotely, using email and phone conferencing – an option we are hoping to use more in the coming years.

The one disappointment of the Conference was that there were so many interesting sessions running concurrently, and I could only attend a small number of the total on offer. Some of the presenters left extra copies of their papers for pick-up on a 'first-in, best dressed' arrangement and thus I was able to read a fascinating account of the differences in the final product when the same item was indexed by a scholarly indexer, technical indexer and new indexer. (A short summary will illustrate: the scholarly indexer created a 7-page index of 1,218 entries in 20.5 hours; the technical indexer had a 10-page index of 886 entries in 19 hours; and the new indexer prepared a 3-page index of 205 entries in 12 hours.) However, there are no plans to publish proceedings of the conference – cost being a major factor – and non-attendees must console themselves with summary reports in the two Societies' newsletters.

The Toronto Conference offered something for every type of indexer, and was stimulating and thought-provoking. I was tremendously glad I attended, and looked forward to the British conference in Durham three weeks later. I'll report on that conference next month. Until then, happy indexing!

Lynn Farkas, ANZSI President

The Annual Report song

(sung with difficulty, but much feeling, to the tune of *Now is the month of Maying.* The clients' names have been suppressed to protect the ~~innocent~~ guilty.)

> Now's the time of reporting
> With annual reports aborting
> With pagination up the spout
> Important facts left out.
>
> The CEO has signed it
> The editor's consigned it
> The indexer has made a start
> Without the financial part.
>
> The work is running late
> The designer's in a state
> And all subheadings will delete
> The botched job is complete.

Geraldine Triffitt

From the Literature and other thoughts

Too little work? – outsourced and reused

Last month I heard that production of a periodical Jon and I have worked on for many years has been outsourced overseas (by a government department!). We don't know whether the indexing has also been outsourced or just won't be done – either way the job has been lost to Australian indexers.

I also heard that my first embedded index has gone to a second edition – updated by the authors. It was a very structured book, and a very structured index. I'm still not convinced that authors or others will be able to easily update complex indexes that they have not created. Nonetheless, this is a timely reminder that one of the major aims of embedded indexing is to save indexing work on later editions. This is fine if indexers are paid adequately for the first embedding. My feeling is, however, that often we are embedding at a discount because we don't like to pass on the full extra costs to the publisher or author.

Libraries are also having problems. The new Vice-Chancellor at the University of NSW aims to improve the student experience... The university has embarked upon a massive restructure of the campus libraries where reference desk services will cease to exist (*Daily Telegraph* 28 August 2006). The NSW Parliament needs to cut 13 positions to meet its budget – two of these have been identified in the library. Over 60 people have applied for redundancies, but the radio didn't mention whether these matched the targeted positions.

These developments would make me despair, except that indexers seem to be busier than ever. One editor told me I was the tenth person she had phoned about a job. Because indexing is such a small profession, it is possible that minor changes in supply (e.g. from having no courses for a few years) may make a big difference in the work available for each indexer. It may also be a symptom of the general skill shortage which is apparently affecting many Australian industries (blamed on government education policy).

Too much work? – you need a break

The *Sydney Morning Herald* (8 August 2006) and *Daily Telegraph* (9 August 2006) have reported research by Sydney University academic Dr Caroline West, published in the *Australian Law Reform Commission Journal*, which analysed a range of studies about working hours over the past few years. She said: 'So long as there's a trend to work these really long hours you'll continue to see the plateauing and decline of people's wellbeing.' She says that 'the concept of the four- to six-hour working day – originally flagged by economist John Maynard Keynes in the early 1900s – would help productivity.' While work delivers self-esteem, income and social ties, more than four to six hours a day can cause anxiety, exhaustion and a poor quality of life.

But, of course, you read about it first here, although people's optimal hours vary. In December 2002 'From the literature' quoted Simo in *The Woman of Andros* (Wilder, 1930) saying 'whereas ... the mind cannot be employed for more than three hours daily over merchandise and numerals without soilure ...', and concluded that if money were no object, three hours work per day might be the ideal.

On the other hand, the workers' dream once was: 8 hours work, 8 hours play, 8 hours sleep and 8 bob a day.

The frustrating thing is that much of the time people spend at work is not productive. David Bolchover has written a book called *The living dead: switched off, zoned out; the shocking truth about office life* (Chichester, UK: Capstone, 2005) in which he discusses the people who sit at work for hours each week just waiting for time to pass.

Improbable research?

An article I wrote for *The Indexer* about indexing and filing 'The' has been summarised by Marc Abrahams in both *The Guardian* (1 August 2006, <education.guardian.co.uk/higher/research/ improbable/story/0,,1834107,00.html>) and a special THE issue of the *Annals of Improbable Research* (July/August 2006, <improbable.com/pages/airchives/paperair/volume12/v12i4/ v12i4.html>). Abrahams describes *The Indexer* as 'the information- and fun-packed publication for professional indexers everywhere.'

The journal article is a bit longer than the one in *The Guardian*, and includes my poem on 'The' (obsessed? me?) and an extract of the entry for 'The' in the index to *Website indexing*. Other articles in the issue address the index to the *Cambridge history of Irish literature*, in which entries starting with 'An', 'A' (also a vocative particle) and 'Na' (the plural form of the definite article) are misfiled; miscataloguing of library books starting with 'Na'; and poor proofreading of the word 'the' (which is not apparently considered to be a word by children up to age seven).

The announcement brought a flood of puns. Martha Osgood, who let me know it had been published, said 'I think you had wa-a-ay too much fun with this "article"', while someone else wrote 'I liked your piece in "The" Guardian'. My sister thought it was 'extra cool that it's the IgNobel guy' (Marc Abrahams also coordinates the IgNobel awards).

Problems with categorising the universe of knowledge

The *Thesaurus of Graphic Materials* <www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1> is used by the Library of Congress and other organisations for image indexing. It is presumably based on literary warrant – it only includes terms that have been needed when indexing the collection. It is interesting to browse and see what concepts warrant indexing terms, and how they have been organised.

There are grouping terms such as 'People associated with education & communication', which includes the narrower terms: Alumni & alumnae, Librarians, Messengers, Television news anchors, and Town criers.

The term 'Men' seems to include as narrower terms only those headings that can't be applied to women, including: Dandies, Gay men, Monks, Princes, Shepherds and Strong men. Actors is given as a related term under the broader term Entertainers.

The narrower terms of People include: Albinos, Black sheep (which has a reference from Sheep, black!), Cave dwellers, Efficiency experts, Firearms owners, Juries (should be Jurors), Losers, Misers, Nudes, Pundits, Punks, and Shellbacks (people who have crossed the equator and been initiated in the traditional ceremony). It feels as if, like Topsy, the list just grew.

Glenda Browne

Victorian Branch visit Sensis

On 26 July last our group of Indexers signed in and were escorted through the new offices of Sensis. The Indexing Team is managed by Steven Haby and comprises two other highly qualified librarians/technicians – Jennifer Gawne and Kathy Simpson, who is an ANZSI Committee member; both are frequent attendees at our meetings and functions. They are a specialist team within Sensis, called in to work on new and existing products, as well as contributing expertise, advice and support as required. Sensis is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telstra. With Stephen busy in Sydney, Jennifer and Kathy led us through a demonstration of the various products Sensis has to offer, both online and in print.

White Pages

The first Australian telephone directory was issued in Melbourne in June 1880. With only 23 entries the phones were typically linked between two places. For example, *The Age* had a telephone link from its office to Parliament House. The online version of the White Pages <www.whitepages.com.au> was the first online phone directory and now has 8 million listings.

Yellow Pages

In 1924 the first paid advertisements appeared in the telephone directories and now there are about 500,000 online listings. Some advertisers are now opting to be listed only in the online version.

Keywords are used to point users to the headings, adPoints are a means to search and refine a search result and synonyms contribute to searching the listing. For example, you can search for florists and narrow the search to those selling native flowers.

The Indexing Team are working on the Browse feature and new Verticals, specialised directories based on buying patterns and trends. They participate in the Yellow Pages National Headings Committee to create and maintain the headings and are responsible for taxonomy of adPoints and synonyms and keywords. The Team also suggests terms for targeted preparation of mock-ups of ads to show advertisers what is covered or allowed in headings.

WhereIs

WhereIs provides the maps that underline the various Sensis products. If, for example, you were meeting a friend for dinner and wanted to take flowers and chocolates, using the map facility on Yellow Pages you could map various restaurants, florists, and supermarkets in a particular area. Based on Universal Publishers' maps and directories, WhereIs also provides information to portable GPS Navigation systems, and exciting developments are being added regularly to assist users of various nonprint media.

The Indexing Team is working on various regions, such as tourist regions, so you will be able to search, for example, on 'wineries in the Yarra Valley'.

CitySearch

Aimed at a youth market with disposable income, CitySearch provides movie reviews, with length of movie, restaurant reviews, TV guides, music videos, news and general activities that are on offer.

The Indexing Team manage the taxonomies, including classifying the 'business finder' headings into the new verticals.

Sensis 1234

Sensis 1234 is premium directory assistance service, based on the White Pages, Yellow Pages, and WhereIs. Not only does it enable you to be connected to a phone number, it also provides general information on opening hours; turn by turn street directions for most addresses in Australia (either read over the phone or to be sent by SMS to a nominated mobile phone); weather reports and warnings; sea conditions for boating and diving; and movie session times. The cost of this service appears on your phone bill.

Sensis.com.au

Sensis.com.au enables you to search through all the products, as well as other useful facilities such as the Macquarie Dictionary and weather. The Team is working on Yellow Pages keywords that are used as part of the search engine functionality.

Go Stay

This is a print and online accommodation guide. Entries from this also appear when searching Yellow Pages. The regions worked on by Indexing Team for WhereIs will also be used for Go Stay.

Link Me

Link Me is an online site that links jobs and CVs.

Trading Post

In 2004 the Trading Post went online, while still producing the printed version. The most popular classifieds are for sales of automobiles. The Indexing team has created a taxonomy to provide a detailed browse structure for Trading Post Online.

With all its various products, Sensis is moving towards greater interactivity between and within sites, eg click to call, make a reservation, etc. If you have any suggestions of improvements or additional functionality, please contact site managers via the 'contact us' facility.

This is only a brief summary of the various products. Jennifer and Kathy did a wonderful job of highlighting the features of all the products and how the Sensis Indexers contribute to them. The products can be used in so many different ways I highly recommend you spend some time exploring the various websites.

Thank you to Jennifer and Kathy for their stimulating presentation.

Mary Russell

ACT Region Branch: What's in a name?

Our August meeting chaired by Shirley Campbell, on the broad theme of 'What's in a name? Problems of indexing names', saw several speakers covering different but related topics.

Alison Sloper spoke first about the *Canberra Community News*, a newspaper which ran to only 24 issues in1926–27. The ACT Heritage Library suggested this for a group mentoring project run by the ACT Branch which could also result in a useful index. The newspaper was inconsistent in how it named people, although 'Mr' plus surname generally indicated an adult male. Military rank was included but not honorifics. Context was included in the index entries, to reduce confusion. Pseudonyms, nicknames and initials were used; but there were many spelling variations and conflicts of names. The electoral roll helped. With business names, it was never clear whether they were the real name or just a local nickname. When finished the index will be available in libraries on disc, and should be useful for family histories and local history.

Edyth Binkowski spoke next, on a similar project, an index of *Nulli Secundus*, a newsletter produced by the Friends of the 2/2nd Infantry Battalion, AIF. This Battalion was recruited from the Newcastle region early in World War II. After the War, it formed a group of Friends who began producing the newsletter in 1950, named for the Battalion motto, 'Second to None'. This documented the wartime and post-war activities of members of the Battalion, with six issues each year. It ran until 2001, when the Friends decided that an index would be helpful. Dr Noel Rutherford, a retired history professor, undertook this task, with the help of his wife Wendy, and three later recruits. They started off with a computer, later buying the CINDEX program, so obtaining help from Frances Lennie. Their main problem was identifying the soldiers, including a few women. They might start with a surname and a nickname, eg., Smith, 'Bluey', then later find that 'Bluey' was also Bill, later still his initials, W.T., then his rank and serial number, so that his entry would read:

Smith, W.T. ('Bill', 'Bluey'), Sgt., NX 0143

The order would be surname, initials, given name or nickname, rank, serial number. Promotions were noted as, e.g., Lieut., later Capt., later Maj. Nicknames were widely used: the many 'Blueys' suggested a lot of redheads in the Battalion! A man called Crosby was of course 'Bing', and men called Bell were either 'Ding-Dong' or 'Dinger'. One man, A W L Adler, was called both 'Tony' and 'Larry', after the great mouth-organ virtuoso, very popular at the time. This index is now available at the Australian War Memorial, and the Imperial War Museum, London, and at a later stage will be available on disc at libraries in places where the soldiers were recruited.

Geraldine Triffitt then spoke on Aboriginal names. She told of visiting an Aboriginal community in 1991, and being given a 'skin' name, so she would fit into the social community. Most members of the community also had European names as well, which could cause cataloguing inconsistencies. Queries arose: Where do you place the skin name? Do you use the European name? Do you use the grammatical markings of the language?

She passed around handouts which showed different methods of cataloguing names. Geraldine also mentioned Fijian names, where the problem is distinguishing people, usually relatives, with the same name. They are either called no.1, no.2, etc., called by their kin term or their names get shortened.

Judith Cannon spoke last, about place names as used at AIATSIS, where she works as an indexer in the Family Unit. The place names she creates go into an ongoing database. She follows international standards and conventions, using research and references to create personal histories. All names are useful – there is no such thing as a passing reference. The context is useful, the 250,000:1 topographical map sheet is the qualifier. The gazetteer is produced by GSI Australia and there is also a convention of dual naming, on the ICSM website. This decides what is produced in English or in dual languages. The biographical information can be used for personal and local histories.

Sherrey Quinn could not attend the meeting, but had worked through Index-L to check what issues were covered. Her list was circulated: it included names other than English, especially those with multiple elements, where in some cases the entry element depends on the language and country of the writer, names and titles in the text, names of companies, and names of imaginary people, e.g. Felix the Cat, entered under F. She also gave a list of references and authorities.

The discussion mostly focussed on Aboriginal names. Asked if there was standard spelling for them, Geraldine answered that there was for most peoples, but some caused controversy, such as the Arrernte and the Wiradjuri in Canberra. Many of the languages have different sound systems from European languages. Judith commented that AIATSIS uses *see* references from different forms of name, has guidelines for skin names and provides links but doesn't make judgments.

Geraldine preferred the use of Aboriginal names rather than European: 'Uluru' rather than 'Ayers Rock'. Judith preferred dual naming, particularly whatever name is in the document. Often the community may change the name.

Geraldine and Judith both spoke of the AIATSIS Biographical Index, started in 1980 by Diane Barwick, which then lapsed, but has been started up again by cataloguers and indexers at the Institute. This is particularly useful at a time when people are reuniting with families, writing family histories, and Aboriginal women are gaining education.

Shirley Campbell thanked the speakers. The dozen or so participants found this an enjoyable and informative occasion and a lively discussion followed.

Edyth Binkowski

ACT Region Branch AGM

Don't forget the Branch's Annual General Meeting at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18 October! It's at the Zen Yai private function centre, 30 Northbourne Avenue!

ANZSI and Branch Committee contacts

ANZSI Committee

ABN 38 610 719 006
GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601
<secretary@aussi.org>

President: Lynn Farkas
Ph +61 2 6286 4818; fax +61 2 6286 6570
<president@aussi.org>

Vice President: Glenda Browne
Ph +61 2 4739 8199; fax +61 2 4739 8189
<vicepres@aussi.org>

Secretary: Shirley Campbell
Ph +61 2 6285 1006
<secretary@aussi.org>

Treasurer: Penelope Whitten
Ph +61 2 6241 4289
<treasurer@aussi.org>

Committee members: T Harwood, L Tunks

Branch Presidents (ex officio):

Geraldine Triffitt, Jon Jermey, Max McMaster,
Tordis Flath

ANZSI officials

Chairman of the Registration Subcommittee:
Michael Harrington
<secretary@aussi.org>

Webmaster: Jon Jermey
<webmaster@aussi.org>

Newsletter Editor: Peter Judge
<newsletter@aussi.org>

Membership Secretary: Joanna McLachlan
<memsec@aussi.org>

Chairman of the Awards Subcommittee:

John Simkin, <awards@aussi.org>

ACT Region Branch

GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601
<actbranch@aussi.org>

President: Geraldine Triffitt
Ph +61 2 6231 4975
<gtriffitt@netspeed.com.au>

Secretary: Edyth Binkowski
Ph/fax +61 2 6281 2484
<geoffb@webone.com.au>

Treasurer: Sandra Henderson
Ph +61 2 6262 1481 (w); +61 2 6231 0303 (h)
<shenders@nla.gov.au>

Committee members: L Farkas,
J Merrell, S Quinn, A Sloper, S White

New South Wales Branch

PO Box R598, Royal Exchange NSW 1225
<nswbranch@aussi.org>

President: Jon Jermey
Ph +61 2 4739 8199; fax +61 2 4739 8189
<jonjermey@optusnet.com.au>

Secretary: Lorraine Doyle
Ph +61 2 8587 7229
lorraine.doyle@thomson.com

Treasurer: Glenda Browne
Ph +61 2 4739 8199; fax +61 2 4739 8189
<webindexing@optusnet.com.au>

Committee member: H Skewes

QLD contact

Contact: Moira Brown
Phone/fax +61 7 3893 1252; mob: 0416 097 629
<brown5moira@yahoo.com.au>

SA Group with SocEd (SA)

Contact: Susan Rintoul
Ph +61 8 8242 0666 (h); fax +61 8 8242 0333
<seaview@seaviewpress.com.au>

Victorian Branch

ABN 58 867 106 986
GPO Box 1251, Melbourne VIC 3000
<vicbranch@aussi.org>

President: Max McMaster
Ph/fax +61 3 9500 8715
<max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>

Vice President: Jenny Restarick
Ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539 (h)
<cliffres@connexus.net.au>

Secretary: Karen Gillen
Ph +61 3 9818 3696
<karen_gillen@yahoo.com.au>

Treasurer: Margaret Findlay
Ph +61 3 9818 1760 (h)
<mafind@bigpond.net.au>

Committee members: J Purton, J Simkin,
C Tully, M Russell

WA contact
Contact: Alex George
Ph +61 8 9337 1655; fax +61 8 9338 9404
<a.george@murdoch.edu.au>

New Zealand Branch

<nzbranch@aussi.org>

President: Tordis Flath
Phone: +64 4 902 0371
<indexing@paradise.net.nz>

Secretary (acting): Jill Gallop
Phone: +64 4 384 8282 (w)
<jmgallop@ihug.co.nz>

Treasurer: Jenny Hart
Phone: +64 9 3737 599 X88053
<j.hart@auckland.ac.nz>

Committee members: S Brookes, G Coote