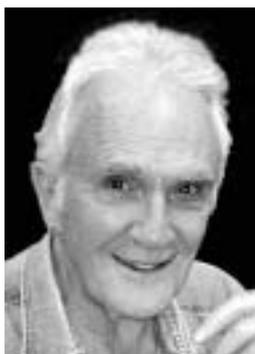## From the President

Professions may be grouped broadly into two categories – remedial and creative. Remedial professions are those which restore the status quo after a period when things have gone wrong. Examples of these are medical, including surgery and dentistry, and legal. In many instances these professions are concerned with handling crises of physical health or human relations. It is notable that they are routinely highly paid. Some surveys show dentistry as top of the range. I experienced this when I was being treated by a young dentist for some reconstructive work. Several times during pauses he made ostentatious calls to his stockbroker and on another occasion negotiated the purchase of a new yacht. Although his work was sound. I soon arranged to transfer to a more modest executant.

Creative professions are those which take things as they are and develop them. These include the knowledge professions, which create and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and which enhance life through arts and literature. Most members of these professions – teachers, librarians, artists – with a few exceptions, are the lowest paid.

In this classification, indexing clearly falls into the creative category. Hence, although we indexers contribute to making knowledge accessible, we may not expect to be rewarded at a level which represents our true value, or at least not until attitudes change. Imagine an indexer breaking off his work, which almost certainly will have a deadline, to juggle his share portfolio!

AusSI first recommended an hourly rate for indexing a 'standard' non-fiction work almost 30 years ago, in December 1980 (*AusSI Newsletter*, vol. 4, no. 4, 32–37). That rate was set at $12.90, based on calculations made by Robert Croll, comparing indexers with librarians, scientific services officers, accountants, journalists and translators, together with bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Robert argued his case in some detail. He did not consider database indexing since it had hardly come into existence, nor journal indexing.

In a paper presented to ANZSI Council in October 2007, Don Jordan suggested an hourly rate of $65. However he also stated that, applying the CPI changes between December 2004, when the previous figure was promulgated, and June 2007, the figure would be $60. This is the figure which Council decided to recommend on the understanding that individual indexers will set their fees with regard to a range of factors specific to their own situation and type of work.

The Society has not yet been able to recommend fees for database indexing. This is part of a problem which includes the setting of criteria for the registration of database indexers and the general questions of how to develop training in indexing to an more advanced level.

John E. Simkin, ANZSI President

Indexers tour to Europe

Around Christmas or New Year, members should have received a flyer from Harvey World Travel about the 2008 Indexers tour to Europe, UK and Ireland – a 19 day group tour departing 22 June 2008 *(see also the Nov/Dec 2007 Newsletter).*

If you did not receive a flyer, or have lost the flyer and would like another, please contact Harvey World Travel Carnegie by phone on: +61 3 9572 5858 or by email at: <carnegie@harveyworld.com.au>. Remember, we need at least 20 passengers travelling to make this tour a success. Final payment is needed by 9 April 2008.

Max McMaster

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal 2008

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal is offered annually for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand.

The index must be in print and published after 2004. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere. It should be substantial in size; the subject matter should be complex; and the language, form and structure of the index should demonstrate the indexer's expertise, as well as serving the needs of the text and reader.

The publisher of the winning index will be presented with a certificate recognising their promotion of work of outstanding quality. The judges may also make 'highly commended' awards.

Nominations, with bibliographical details and a copy of the book (which will be returned if requested) should be sent to the address on the nomination form. Publishers, indexers and other interested people may nominate indexes, and indexers may nominate their own work.

Entries open on 5 May and close on 14 July 2008. A nomination form is available from the Society's website at <www.aussi.org> or from Alan Eddy, the Returning Officer, Awards.

Contact Alan by phone on +61 3 9853 0991 or by email at <aeddy@surf.net.au>.

Alan Eddy

Training activities in Queensland

Date & time: Monday 10 March, Tuesday 11 March, Wed 12 March 2008
Organiser: Max McMaster and ANZSI Qld contact

➲ **Basic Book indexing training** (1 day / $250 members; $270 Nonmembers)

➲ **Intermediate Book indexing training** (1 day / $250 Members; $270 Nonmembers))

➲ **Journal indexing training** (half-day / morning / $125 Members; $135 Nonmembers)

➲ **Annual Reports indexing training** (half-day / afternoon / $125 Members; $135 Nonmembers))

Venue: The Marque Hotel Brisbane
103 George Street, Brisbane
(between Mary & Charlotte Sts)

(Half-yearly ANZSI Membership $35. Discount applies to Members.)

Contact details: Moira Brown <brown5moira@yahoo.com.au>
Phone: + 61 7 3893 1252 or 0416 097 629

Brisbane indexing event

Date & time : Monday 10 March 2008, 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start
Organiser : ANZSI Qld contact

➲ **Nuts & Bolts of Indexing** with Max McMaster

Venue : Salisbury Hotel, 668 Toohey Road, Salisbury

Contact details: Moira Brown <brown5moira@yahoo.com.au>
Phone: + 61 7 3893 1252 or 0416 097 629

Victorian Branch President's Report, 2006–07

Our branch is a very active one and this year has been no exception. This has been reflected in our membership which has increased by nearly 25% since last year and now stands at 71.

Training

Five well-attended training days for book indexing were held throughout the year, at introductory and intermediate levels. Student numbers totalled 35 and 29 respectively. A beautiful set of numbers as a certain person said. Max McMaster and later Karen Gillen ran the classes which did much to attract new members. The article published in *The Age* on the value and nature of indexing resulted in a demand for the third pair of courses in June. The mentoring scheme is still operating and some indexes were published.

ANZSI Conference, 'The Indexing Life', 15–17 March, Amora Riverwalk Hotel

The Victorian branch once again organised the conference. A conference committee, consisting of Margaret Findlay, Jenny Restarick, Mary Russell, Max McMaster and Karen Gillen worked very hard and produced another great success. As well as the usual programme we were treated to a session of exercises, urged on by an instructor who showed no mercy. In addition, a number of workshops were held, both at the hotel and Swinburne University.

Events and activities

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

- Kathy Simpson, who worked at Sensis at the time, arranged a visit to the offices to demonstrate the various products Sensis has to offer. They are not all Yellow Pages.
- 'Where's the gold in them thar hills?' signalled a gathering at the Women's Health Victoria offices to listen to a presentation about Data Metallogenica mineral deposit database by staff from AMIRA International. This is a searchable web database of over 45,000 images of rock samples. Their admirable vision is to build the world encyclopaedia of mineral deposits for reference, training and education as a not-for-profit self-funding business.
- In February we visited the Salvation Army museum and archives in Bourke St, Melbourne. Who would have believed that the Salvos were pioneers in film making and may have created the world's first dedicated film studio?
- The State Library Map Collection, which we visited in April, holds 100,000 maps arranged using the Boggs and Lewis classification scheme. That's a new one.
- DIY Mark II – The Historic Homes of Colac and District. Another successful project, similar to our 2004 venture featuring the Wonthaggi coal mines. On 11 September we met at the Kew Public Library to discuss and compare eight indexes. The exercise concluded with a formal discussion led by Max. John Simkin is putting together a 'super' index which will be presented to the Colac Historical Society when we visit them in November. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the exercise, especially Jenny who arranged the Colac visit and Alan Eddy who organised the Camberwell Library site and snacks.
- Heritage walk and talk. A pleasant walk which included stops at jewellery shops and the Town Hall preceded a talk at the Heritage Council and dinner in the kitchen at Pellagrini's.

Victorian branch committee

I would like to thank the existing committee for all their hard work during the past year.

As you know, I have been Acting President since Karen Gillen resigned. My task has been made easier due to the great job Karen performed as president and all the help and support I have received from the committee. Kathy Simpson will be missed too. However, we have recently welcomed Susan Hacker to the committee. And without Max's generosity we would not have a meeting place. We have had a great year. Thank you.

Jane Purton
October 2007

ACT Region Branch President's Report, 2006–07

Last year, 2006–07, was quite a busy one for the ACT Region Branch, right from the annual Christmas barbeque brunch held in Telopea Park in December.

The problems a lot of us have during the annual report season were raised on the Committee and it was decided that a letter should be sent from the Branch to departments alerting them to the problems they create for indexers — by not understanding the process of indexing and not meeting their own deadlines. The letter came from both the Society of Indexers and the Canberra Society of Editors. It was sent and received a positive response from Dr Shergold (Department of PM&C), who has passed the letter on to departments urging them to take note of the issues raised.

The ACT Region Branch proposed to the Council that we would organise the 2009 Conference and would provide them with a concrete proposal that could be announced at the end of the Melbourne Conference. Discussions were held and the NSW Branch agreed to come in on what would become a joint project by both branches. The basic idea for the conference was communicated to the Council before the commencement of the Melbourne Conference. It met with a decidedly lukewarm reception. Enthusiasm among members of the Branch Committee for organising the 2009 Conference has since dissipated, in part because other events that I shall address later

in this report. It was decided to leave further decisions about the 2009 Conference to the new Committee.

The ACT Region Branch was well represented at the ANZSI Conference, *The Indexing Life*, in Melbourne in March. It was on the whole well received.

After the Conference we hosted a visit and workshop by Frances Lennie, which was very interesting and useful.

A further Conference follow-up event was the Conference feedback on 4 April in the Friends' Lounge at the National Library.

We held a 'Show and Tell' session on 13 June in the Friends' Lounge at National Library. This was only a small meeting, so everyone present had to 'show and tell'. It was a very interesting session and it was very good, and informative, to hear what projects members had been working on and discussing problems and interesting aspects of those projects. On 5 July the Branch, and the Society as a whole, lost a distinguished indexer, a long-standing member and a true gentleman: Robert Hyslop. It was a privilege to know him and he is greatly missed.

On 24 July the Branch held a purely social event: a Christmas Eve in July dinner at the Canberra Club.

We made a visit to the War Memorial on 15 August. War Memorial staff introduced us to the War Memorial's vast collection of objects and records and also to their control systems. It was a very interesting evening, not only because the collection is fascinating, but also because of the many analogies with indexing that were apparent in the way their systems worked.

Before finishing I feel I must comment on some aspects of what has been happening at Council level since the 2006–07 term of office began. First a little bit of background.

Traditionally the Council (the old National Committee) has been based in one of the Branches — first Victoria, then NSW and then the ACT. Towards the end of the ACT-based Council's term, a meeting was held in Canberra on 27 and 28 May 2006 attended by representatives of the three Australian branches and the New Zealand Branch. What was on the agenda was discussion of the Guidelines and Procedures drawn up by Council members to aid the incoming Council and also the matter of how that Council would be constituted. No-one expressed any misgivings or criticism about the Guidelines and they were endorsed by the meeting. As none of the branches was willing to become the base of the new Council, it was decided that the Council would consist of representatives from all branches and that communication would be via the internet.

So, at the ANZSI AGM in October last year a broad representative Council was elected. Now, in my opinion, the internet is a very clumsy instrument for democratic and transparent decision-making, but it can work. Unfortunately in this case it was mishandled and things became a shambles. President Jon Jermey then resigned (14 December 2006) and the Victorian Branch took over the Council.

The old ACT-based Council then came in for some very harsh criticism, and not just from one quarter. Much of this was aimed at the Guidelines (and by implication those who were instrumental in drawing them up). The criticism was not based on fact: guidelines are just that, something to guide and help the administration of the Society; they are not part of the Constitution, which is the rules by which the Society must abide if it is to keep functioning. This was clearly not understood by the critics. No criticism had been raised at the May 2006 meeting: perhaps courage was lacking at that time. Instead the critics simply denigrated the good intentions and the very hard work of the ACT-based members of the Council and proposed nothing positive or sensible. It was, to my mind, a sorry episode in the history of the Society and probably had a lot to do with the loss of enthusiasm of Branch Committee members for organising the 2009 Conference.

Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the Branch Committee for their great work on behalf of members over the past year

Barry Howarth
October 2007

Jazz from the archives
Victorian Branch visit, Saturday, 1 March 2008

Since the mid 1990s jazz enthusiasts have realised the importance of preserving Australia's jazz heritage. The Victorian Jazz Archive Inc. (VJA) was incorporated in October 1996, specifically to preserve all forms of Australian jazz music and associated memorabilia. VJA is recognised by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia as being part of the national distributed collection of audio-visual material.

The prime focus of the Archive is to identify, collect, document, and exhibit all types of Australian jazz recordings, musical instruments, videos, photographs, publications, and historical memorabilia. Details of the Collection are being constantly added to a central local-community database accessible on the World Wide Web.

The current exhibition is called 'The Fitzgibbon Dynasty', honouring the Fitzgibbon family – arguably one of Australia's most prominent families in entertainment circles including music and stage.

Victorian Branch members and friends are invited to a private fully-escorted tour of the collection and database, followed by afternoon tea in the Waterfront Café, serenaded by beautiful jazz.

Venue: 'Koomba Park', 15 Mountain Highway, Wantirna, just around the corner from Burwood Highway, in the Park directly opposite the Nutri-metics Head Office Building – Melways ref. 63 C 8.

Time: 2.00 pm. Cost: $5 per head
RSVP : Jenny Restarick by 20 February
Phone/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Email: <cliffres@connexus.net.au>

Victorian Branch Visit to Colac

The Victorian Branch Indexers' visit to Colac, on the weekend of 16–18 November, proved most enjoyable. Setting off with Jenny Restarick and passing the Frenchman's Inn Hotel in Cressy (closed), built by Frederick Duverney adjacent to a ford in the river, we drove into Beeac for a snack in a delightful little café /curio/ second hand goods shop. Onward then to Colac, where the surrounding lakes (many of them salt) create a beautiful backdrop for the town. Every garden was a delight, with roses in abundance.

We drove up to the front door of 'Balnagowan', which features in *The Historic Homes of Colac and District*. 'Balnagowan' has recently been sold and there are plans to develop the grounds for retirement accommodation. We learnt that the area had been called Limeburner's Point and the Aboriginals held ceremonies there. On Friday evening we enjoyed a meal at one of the local motels as the rest of our party joined us.

On Saturday morning we met Keith Chambers, the author of *Historic Homes*, his wife Elizabeth, and Gladys Hester, who had been Jenny's very helpful contact from the Historical Society. Keith has a wealth of knowledge, which he enthusiastically passed on to us as we drove round the district. We set off in convoy to visit the dairy farm 'Mamre', home of Mick and Loretta Roache, whose family have run the property since the 1920s.

We were joined by Rob and Gay who live in the Stoney Rises Homestead, one of the last homestead stations typifying the style of home built by settlers as they progressed from bark hut to stately mansion or townhouse.

Our next destination was 'Corunnun', where the original kitchen had an atmosphere of a Welsh or Scottish cottage. Shirley Burns, who lives at 'Corunnun', has written a history of the area called *Onion People : the history of onions in Victoria*. Her book does not have an index, so this may be a reason to return! Shirley's sister-in-law Beryl recalled how the onion growers improvised corrugated iron 'raincoats' and kept working during downpours in the onion beds.

Then to the Red Rock Lookout, from which Lake Colac stretched out beneath us in a long sweeping arc. In WWII the lake was used to practice navigational skills and bombing runs and the fuselage of one aircraft can still be seen in the water. The local Aboriginal tribal name was Coladjin and remains of their middens can be found there. Lake Colac is only two metres deep but is said to be the only inland lake to have a shipwreck – a steam boat which broke free early this century.

On returning to Colac as we crossed over the river, Keith told us that traditionally pubs were built each side of the river as travellers were often stranded due to floods. Colac still has one of these pubs on the edge of the creek, but unfortunately it was not open.

Further on we drove past 'Thornbank' which features in the book. We also passed 'Derrinook' which was originally a private hospital but is now divided into flats. Nearby were two houses built by John Pell, whose bricklaying firm was responsible for building many houses in the area, and who used these houses to show off his different styles. One house is still as it was, but the other has been painted white with blue trimmings – it seems the wife did not like the coloured bricks and had the house painted while her husband was in hospital!

We passed the Bulla cream factory which exports products as well as supplying the local and interstate markets. Other notable names were those of Murray and Foster Fyans, once a dreaded name to convicts. Mt. Hesse and Gellibrand Forest were named for two pioneers who disappeared whilst exploring the country for potential settlements. Keith also drove us through 'Colanda', built as a mental institution but now virtually empty, although the huge grounds are beautifully maintained.

In the afternoon we visited the Colac Historical Society, where a huge library of information is available. A chandelier from 'Cororooke House' hangs above the displays. We were given a very warm welcome plus a marvellous country afternoon tea, and John Simkin presented the society with our combined index in various formats to suit every researcher.

Our dinner in the evening was in a delightful old building which had been converted from its original function as the IOOF Hall.

On Sunday morning we visited 'Irrewarra' which is also a dairy farm, also called 'Whitehalls' in the book. Margaret and Garry Hitchings, the present owners, explained that the grand homestead called 'Irrewarra' was pulled down earlier this century, and that their farm 'Whitehalls' is now called 'Irrewarra' in memory of the original house. 'Irrewarra' means sandy bank. Margaret and Garry make their own natural icecream, which is distributed around Australia, predominantly to health food outlets. After tasting, we were unanimous in recommending 'Irrewarra' brand icecream.

It was time to head back to Melbourne, stopping at Birregurra to meet up with Peg Anthony, who has been living there since her retirement from the State Library twenty years ago. We also called in to the Birregurra Historical Society, which has a large collection of information and memorabilia.

'Barwon Park' is a National Trust property on the outskirts of Geelong, built by Thomas and Elizabeth Austin in 1871. It was Thomas who introduced rabbits into Australia for sport— on one occasion the Duke of Edinburgh killed 500 rabbits in one shooting expedition. Mrs Austin later sold the house to the Batson family, who lived in just a few rooms as the house was too difficult to keep warm. They lived there for sixty years without gas or electricity, until the sole survivor, Sidney Batson, bequeathed it to the National Trust.

Our sincere thanks to Alan Eddy and especially Jenny Restarick who organised a most enjoyable and informative weekend. Keith Chambers had explained to us that there are many more properties he could have included in the book, but apart from space constraints he also stayed within the shire boundaries. Many homes are privately owned and the families wish to maintain their privacy. We were very fortunate to have been able to have a glimpse into some of the homes and to learn something of their past and present owners.

Bev Mills
(But, alas, abridged to less than half its original length for lack of space. Ed.)

From the literature and other thoughts

Intelligent life/Sydney Cohen

Thank you to Elizabeth Wood-Ellem for forwarding details of an article in *The intelligent life* on 19 December 2007 called 'My time in the indexing trade: memories of an ancient kingdom' (<www.more intelligentlife. com/node/735>). The author, Enid Stubin, had worked for the Sydney Wolfe Cohen indexing service in New York City. See also the comment by Sydney Cohen at the bottom of the page, and a blog entry on the article at <papercuts.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/01/04/the-index-kings/#more-273>.

Reviews of indexes

Thank you to Jenny Restarick for the following mentions of indexes in book reviews in the *Royal Historical Society of Victoria Newsletter* # 269, June/July 2007.

Joy E. Rainey. *Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags* ...Kurrajong Press. Berwick, Vic., 2006. 'There is a reliable index but no pictorial content.'

John G. Jennings and Jim Zentveld. *Seymour Golf Club 1906-2006.* Seymour, Vic. 2006. 'Well illustrated and indexed.'

Gillian Hibbins. *Sport and Racing in Colonial Melbourne,* Lynedoch Publications, Melbourne, 2007. 'Handsomely produced and illustrated with an excellent index.'

And from in the *Royal Historical Society of Victoria Newsletter* # 272, Nov/Dec 2007 (<www.historyvictoria.org.au/pdf/history_news.pdf>).

Allan C Jones, *Beaumaris Newsletter Index* January–June 1953 Volume 7, 2007, pp. 25. 'This is an index of the journal of the Beaumaris and Citizens Association at the time before the massive suburbanisation of this area from the 1960s. It is a model of index presentation and a valuable reference tool for the papers themselves that are held by the State Library with microfilm in local and other sites.'

We wonder whether any of these were indexed by ANZSI members?

Indexing volunteers in libraries

inCite (v. 28, 10 October 2007) had a special issue on volunteering and retirement. The article 'Volunteering in retirement' (p. 31) mentions some volunteer experiences, many of which involve indexing. 'Neil Radford tells us he volunteers at this local public library indexing a 19th-century local newspaper on microfilm. At the same library, a retired librarian volunteers by cataloguing or indexing old photographs for the local studies section. The volunteers from the J S Battye Library of West Australian History contributed 3882 hours. They worked on indexing projects in the oral history collection, writing synopses and tables of contents, as well as organising unprocessed collections and donations of interviews. In Preservation Services, a volunteer has prepared descriptions of images from the negative collections to assist the Historical Records Rescue Consortium project. In the State Library of Queensland an unusual project saw two dedicated volunteers, who are themselves car enthusiasts, index car workshop manuals for an online resource of the John Oxley Library of motoring.'

Lost in a good book

'What are you up to Uncle?'

He handed me a large book.

'Enhanced indexing. In a Nextian dictionary, godliness can be next to cleanliness – or anything else for that matter.

I opened the book to look up trout and found it on the first page I came to.

'Saves time, eh?'

'Yes; but – '

Mycroft had moved on.

Fforde, Jasper. *Lost in a good book*. London: New English Library/Hodder & Stoughton, 2002.

ASAIB Newsletter No 24, September 2007 (<saindexers.blogspot.com>)

In the *ASAIB Newsletter* Jackie Kalley noted an article on Karen Sparck Jones, who died on April 4 2007 aged 71 (<www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/04/12/db1201.xml>). She was Professor of Computers and Information at Cambridge University from 2000 to 2002, and had spent more than half a century working on information retrieval and natural language processing (NLP), fields in which she influenced a generation of computing scientists. 'She completed a doctorate which was published as "Synonymy and semantic classification", a paper later recognised as having been well in advance of its time in its use of both statistical and symbolical techniques in NLP.'

Key Words v.14 n.3 July – September 2006

This issue of *Key Words* contains a wide range of interesting conference papers and workshops. The session on parliamentary indexing mentioned the indexes to the British Columbia Hansard Debates which are online at <www.leg.bc.ca/hansard/8-2.htm – they provide excellent, easy access to a range of topics including air quality and Alzheimer's disease.

Richard Shrout spoke at the Society for Technical Communication (STC) conference about Microsoft's Unique Identifier Indexing (UID) System (<uidindexing.spaces.live.com/PersonalSpace.aspx>). This system uses a macro to embed MS-Word index entries containing UIDs into document source files at the beginning and end of every paragraph. Indexers use these UIDs instead of page numbers or other locators. A second macro replaces UIDs with page numbers, while a third one can 'automatically' insert the index entries from the indexer's file back into the tagged Word file. This means that indexers do not have to have 'live' files to work on.

Glenda Browne

Indexing the NZ Woman's Weekly

Indexes are food and drink for genealogists, so when I was made redundant by a long-time employer, I quickly knew that I wanted to be an indexer, to use my database experience in a different way and to open up a new resource for family and social historians and biographers. I chose the *NZ Woman's Weekly* because I knew it held interesting material often considered 'trivial', such as social columns and children's pages, and I wanted to record the New Zealanders who were mentioned therein. I also reasoned that the magazine, which had a history of nearly 75 years, would however be of low priority in the drive towards digitisation.

I quickly found out that a search engine would be unhelpful, as there were so many inconsistencies and errors in the text. It would have been impossible, I felt, to copy the errors and cross-reference all the corrections, so I aimed for a database that could approach an authority file, with duplicate individuals removed.

I also quickly chose Inmagic's DB/Textworks as my database, because it had the desirable flexibility in record size, which meant that my Name field could hold just the one person mentioned in an article, or the entire list of those present at a gathering; this function could keep families or networks together in one record. It was also the software of choice of the Auckland City Public Library, where I went to work on the index, reading the microfilms and parking my laptop there. Checking my work each night and keeping track of progress were important disciplines, and of course there were many moments of enjoyment at finding wonderful material about people, and even a classic serendipity such as genealogists hope for when they suddenly turn up something for the person sitting next to them.

I did manage to keep to my estimated timeline in indexing the first eighteen years of the magazine, (late 1932 – early 1951) which I considered to be its first phase, when up to six different social columns were published each week in separate North and South Island editions. I had however not quite visualised what over 100,000 names would look like on paper. I needed that hard copy to compare the Macs with the Mcs, and so on. By squeezing six columns to a landscape format, and using up a printer cartridge, I got around 300 pages of printout for the further edit, and realised I'd underestimated that part of the project and had no hope of being ready for the 2007 NZ Society of Genealogists Conference.

Actually the hardest names to work with proved to be the Nicol, Niccol, Nicoll, Niccoll, Nicolle, Nichol, Nicholl variants. Add an 's' to all of those as well! After nine long weeks of checking I knew that there would probably be no end to the process of reducing duplicate individuals. I ended up with 94,000-odd people who were mentioned in the magazine. Many of those people had multiple entries as well, so the actual count of names is very much higher. Several websites were particularly useful in the editing process, particularly the NZ Electronic Text Centre's War History Project, the Dictionary of NZ biographies and the DBNZ database list, the Anglican clergy directory, and the obituaries in the *NZ Medical Journal*; also my copy of the *Great Australian and NZ Book of Baby Names* by Cecily Dyson was surprisingly valuable.

About half way through the project, I was pleased to attend Max McMaster's excellent training courses in NZ in 2006, and felt affirmed in what I was doing. It was not indexing by subject matter, but article headings or subheadings were picked up, and I had added a comment field where I could input extra information when that helped identify the names. So searching and browsing can be done for subject matter, as well as for creators of records, like the children who regularly sent in submissions under their own names. There are some 2700 individuals who sent in their own work to the magazine in its first phase. I guess I'm sorry that most adults used noms-de-plume for their paragraphs and their recipes, but otherwise the project would have been huge. Adult poets, journalists, photographers and story writers were included.

Currently there are six libraries in the country that hold the microfilms of the *NZ Woman's Weekly*. I have licensed the database to 'The Knowledge Basket' for corporates, but have been encouraged to discover that libraries also want to install a CD in one of their computers for independent researchers. So I hope to also sell some CDs, although I know that my costs won't be recovered. Programming a front end to the CD, designing the covers and so on were all new experiences. I did want to get a start in the field, and have now done my first back-of-book job as well. It is a pleasure to be involved in work where you can learn so much.

Julie Daymond-King

The Indexer subscriptions

Although the *ANZSI Newsletter* provides useful information on what is happening within ANZSI and the general indexing scene in Australia and New Zealand, we are only a small (but valuable!) part of developments in world indexing. To discover what is happening in the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, China and elsewhere you need to subscribe to *The Indexer: the International Journal of Indexing*. New or renewing subscriptions MUST be received by 1 March to guarantee a hard copy of the March issue. *The Indexer* as of March this year will appear quarterly, with current issues available to subscribers on-line in addition to their hard copy.

To subscribe at the special rate for indexing society members see *The Indexer* details on page 2 of this newsletter. And please don't be put off by the Paypal icon – payment can be made by the usual range of credit cards, in dollars.

Any questions? Contact <editor@theindexer.org> or <subscriptions@theindexer.org>.

Max McMaster

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