ANZSI NEWSLETTER

ANZSI News – Education Policy Committee

The Education Policy Committee, chaired by me, Michael Ramsden, was set up last year, 'to develop a draft policy framework for the provision and quality assurance of professional education in indexing. The policy should encompass generalist and specialist courses and all modes of delivery, including courses and mentoring.'

The members of the Committee were Glenda Browne, Max McMaster, Sherrey Quinn and Michael Ramsden. Their report was tabled at the March 2010 Council meeting and comments from Council members were considered at the May Council meeting. The full report, numbered 34/035, can be found in the members' area of the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/council_mins.asp>.
Here is a summary of the main points of the report and recommendations.

Education Committee

Council has established an Education Committee to be responsible for monitoring and developing policy over the entire field of education and for oversight of courses offered by the Society. I have been appointed as Chair of the Committee and will be forming a Committee. The Chair of the Registration Committee and the Training Coordinator will be ex officio members of the Committee.

Education policy

The objectives of the education policy will be to:
(a) take people who are untrained in indexing and bring them to a level where they are in a position to apply for registration;
(b) provide tuition in specialised or advanced areas of indexing;
(c) ensure that tuition is of a satisfactory standard; and
(d) maintain the integrity and standing of any qualification(s) awarded by the Society.

Courses

• The Society should offer, or arrange the offering of, the following categories of tuition:

(a) Introductory courses, i.e. courses for students with no previous knowledge or experience in indexing.
(b) Advanced courses covering a more extensive range of knowledge and expertise.
(c) Refresher courses, covering the advanced course material in a quicker way, for persons who have been out of the profession and wish to update their expertise.
(d) A process whereby indexers who have completed the Society's courses (or their equivalent) may be assisted to achieve registration.
(e) Specialised courses, i.e. courses in specialised applications of indexing, e.g. database indexing, particular forms of material (e.g. journals) or particular subject areas (e.g. law).

• When offering courses organisers will be asked to give consideration to how remote members might be assisted to attend.

• We will continue to offer occasional courses, as at present, to assist members to reach the level of competence necessary for the production of a basic index.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Deadline for the July issue: 30 June

The Indexer . . .

Eating humble pie

No, not those ISC/SCI magpies – and I hope you've all ordered your pins – just the plain, ordinary humble pie of the humiliated. Back in the January/February ANZSI newsletter I expressed dismay at the tiny proportion of ANZSI members who subscribed to *The Indexer*. The figures got even worse as the renewal season came and went. What had I done to put you all off?

Quite simply, the renewal reminder system I thought to be automatic turned out not to be automatic at all, so those of you who had subscribed were not being reminded that it was time to re-subscribe. I hope we've got that sorted for the future, and (now that reminders have gone out) you are all rushing to sign on the dotted line. To whet the appetites of both old and new readers, here's the contents list for the June issue:

Maureen MacGlashan
Editor, *The Indexer*

Footnote: Maureen also told ANZSI that the March issue of *The Indexer* would be sent to all those people who have now renewed but missed out earlier through no fault of their own.

If you have not yet received it and are impatient to read the latest articles by Glenda Browne et al. you can download it from <www.theindexer.org>. Click on 'Online Issues'. Don't be put off by the sentence saying the latest issues are only available to those whose subscription includes online access via *Ingenta*. Take a note of the username and password offered and follow the instructions to use the *Ingenta* facility.

NSW and ACT Branches of ANZSI invite members
to participate in a one-day Conference
Recipes for success: indispensables in the office and the kitchen

Cooks who index, indexers who cook: an interactive workshop

Saturday 24 July, at the Craigieburn Resort

Centennial Road, Bowral, NSW

11.45 for 12.00 start (includes working lunch of sandwiches and drinks)

Sherrey Quinn and Lynn Farkas outline their session in these words ...

Don't be misled – this workshop will primarily address basic indexing principles and practice. It will be invaluable to all indexers, not just those interested in cooking. We have planned a very practical session around what we (and the participants) as cooks think would be useful in cookbook indexing, augmented by advice from the experts who actually do it!

In the introductory session we will introduce the general principles of indexing (especially as they relate to cookbook indexing) and criteria for good cookbook indexes. There will be group discussion of content, style, presentation, entry points etc, with reference to cookbooks that illustrate the principles, have different styles of index or don't seem to conform to any standards.

During a practical session we will ask small teams to index a selection of recipes, then we will compare approaches and results. We'll collate your favourite recipes to distribute to all participants as the ANZSI Workshop Cookbook – complete with the index you have created!

Following afternoon tea, **Essential ingredients: a panel session for all participants** will challenge you to reveal the indexing aids you could not live without. In the evening, participants are welcome to bring spouses/ partners to dinner at Montfort's, the Craigieburn restaurant. There will be opportunities for informal discussion and networking with other ANZSI members.

You can find the complete program and full details on the ANZSI website at
<www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=147>
Inquiries to Sue Flaxman, +61 2 4861 3589, <sueflaxman@bigpond.com>.

Branch events

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Wed 7 July 6.00 pm	Vic Branch	The VIC: *The Argus* indexing project	Kew Holy Trinity Anglican Church	details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=141>
Sat 24 July	ACT and NSW Branches	Recipes for Success Conference	Craigieburn Resort, Bowral	Contact <sueflaxman@bigpond.com> Program and full details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=147>
Wed 4 Aug **2.00 pm**	Vic Branch	Visit to Museum Victoria	Royal Exhibition Bldg, Carlton	details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=142>
Wed 1 Sept	Vic Branch	ANZSI AGM and Vic Branch AGM	to be confirmed	details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=146>

- The Society will draw to the attention of members, through the website, professional level courses available through reputable educational institutions or professional societies but without recommending them as having been assessed by the Society, since the Society does not have the means to assess or accredit courses.
- The Education Committee will have responsibility for laying down a broad curriculum for each course offered by the Society, but delivery of the content will be at the discretion of individual trainers.
- Trainers of ANZSI-run courses will seek feedback from students and the results will be made available to the Education Committee.

Mentoring now Tutoring Scheme

The topic that occasioned most discussion in the Committee was that of mentoring, and no less than 22 paragraphs of the report are dedicated to this matter. In 2009 the Council put the mentoring scheme on hold pending receipt of recommendations from the Education Policy Committee. However, the New Zealand Branch has been operating a scheme not unlike one of the recommendations that has emerged from the Committee.

The Committee thought the Mentoring Scheme has merit, especially for members in remote areas, and has chosen to seek to remodel the scheme. As part of the re-modelling the scheme will be re-named 'Tutoring', which more accurately conveys its purpose. The objectives of the Tutoring Scheme would be:

(a) to assist members who have reached the level of being able to produce a basic index to reach the level of professional competence necessary to achieve registration, by improving their work and skills to the level where they can submit an index of a commercially acceptable standard. It is not, however, designed to assist in the production of an index for submission;

(b) on a targeted basis, i.e. dealing with specific issues as they arise; and,

(c) established with limited central control.

The Society should recognise two levels of tutoring:

Level 1 Tutoring would not seek to achieve a commercially acceptable index. It should seek to reinforce basic indexing skills and knowledge learned through earlier training courses, either those offered by the Society or other approved alternatives. This level should aim to provide some practical indexing of a real world title, but in a non-commercial manner and within a time frame which, while strict, would be more generous than would apply in the commercial world.

Level 2 Tutoring would aim to achieve a higher quality of index than Level 1. Its objective should be to assist students to achieve a level of expertise appropriate for the production of an index of a commercially acceptable standard.

Full details of the proposed Tutoring Scheme are outlined in paragraphs 40-55 of the report. Council accepted this recommendation and a working party will be set up to develop the details of a scheme.

Professional development

The Education Committee has been requested to examine the feasibility of a scheme with a focus on professional development and specialised areas of indexing.

Registration

There is overlap between education and registration, so some aspects of the Education Policy Report have been deferred pending the receipt of a report which has been commissioned from the new Chair of the Registration Committee.

'Registered Indexer' or 'Professionally Qualified Indexer' or ?

With the introduction of Database Registration there has been a lot of discussion regarding nomenclature to be used as the indication of competence for indexing print material, and its equivalent for database indexing. This has lead to further discussion over the term 'Registered' and its meaning, particularly to those outside the profession. Is 'Professionally Qualified Indexer' a suitable alternative? This discussion is still open and has been referred to the newly established Education Committee.

Indexers Available

As part of the updating to *Indexers Available*, provision will be made to enable members to specifically list their indexing qualifications, in addition to their academic qualifications.

Fellowship

If the Society is to operate as a professional society it would be appropriate to recognise members who have extensive experience and/or have contributed significantly to the profession of indexing. Many professional associations, such as ALIA, do this by the award of Fellowship and, as members may be aware, this path will now be followed by SI. ANZSI may wish to consider following this precedent. The Committee thought that any award of Fellowship (or other high recognition) should be in recognition of accomplishment which could be measured by extensive experience in producing indexes of a commercially acceptable standard and contribution to the development of the profession by means of training and/or publication. The award would be separate from the award of honorary life membership. Council did not commit itself to adopting the idea of a Fellowship but did agree to consider the suggestion in the context of a review of membership structure which it plans to undertake next year.

I urge all members to read the report, which is available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org/site/council_mins.asp>. Anyone who has any comments is very welcome to contact me. My email address can be found in the list of contacts on the back page of the *Newsletter*. I will be pleased to hear from you.

Michael Ramsden

Membership dues for 2010–11

Membership dues for 2010–11 will be:

Australian members	$75
New Zealand members	A$68
Student members	$40
Institutional members	$100

New Zealand membership dues have been reduced to bring them more into line with the NZ dollar.

Half-year membership to be calendar year membership

- Many new members wait until January to pay the half-year rate so they can get concession rates on training courses.
- In 2009 half-year memberships represented about 25 new members.
- Half-year membership often involves more administration work, as members sometimes pay $70 and have to be reimbursed for $35 and, as they only joined to get the member's price for the courses, they often don't renew their membership in July.
- In previous years some members doing courses in March/April have been offered 14/15 months membership for the price of one year.

Council has decided to abolish half-year membership in favour of calendar year membership for new members.

- It is hoped that having been members for a bit longer than with the present scheme before having to renew, they see the benefits of the ANZSI membership and will renew their membership.
- This would mean in the future there would be some members renewing Dec/Jan and others June/July.
- For current members there will be no change, your membership will still be due June/July.
- There would be income to Council in Dec/Jan and June/July instead of just June/July.
- Branches will still get their per capita payments based on the numbers of members as at 1 October.
- Currently Branches do not receive funds for the half-year member who chooses not to renew in July, even though they have had access to branch services, because they have joined and left before October membership figures are noted. With the calendar year system the Branches will get their per capita payment based on true Branch membership numbers.
- When memberships fall due, the online database flags members whose membership is due. A program is run that sends to each member a unique secure payment link. Most members renew their membership by using the secure link. They then receive an automatic receipt. Those choosing to pay by cheque or mail order have their payment ticked off on the database and then receive an automatic receipt. For the Treasure and Membership Secretary this automatic renewal process has resulted in a huge reduction in their work load. So having to run the renewal program twice a year will not involve much extra work, as the database will keep track of when members joined and hence when their membership is due.
- To abolish the half-year membership option and instigate the new calendar-year option requires constitutional changes that need to be voted on at the AGM on 1 September.

Rejoining fee

When I was reviewing the membership dues I discovered there was a provision for a rejoining fee. It appears that this has never been charged and is therefore redundant in the Constitution. The removal of this will also be added to the proposed constitutional changes.

Constitutional changes

At the AGM on 1 September in Melbourne these proposed changes will need to be voted on. The actual wording of the changes will be discussed in the *Newsletter* near the time of the AGM.

Other ways to raise funds

While these changes will increase Council's revenue, Council is looking at other ways to raise funds. Some suggestions include:

- Branches sponsoring projects for the benefit of all members. For example Victorian Branch has printed the ANZSI bookmarks.
- Selling the *Indexing your annual report* booklet.
- Perhaps charging members a fee for having a detailed entry in *Indexers Available*.

I welcome any additional suggestions from members.

The full Membership dues report, numbered 34/035, can be found in the members' area of the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/council_mins.asp>.

Mary Russell

Indexing degustation

Indexing on the Book Show!

Our own Mary Russell appeared on Ramona Koval's Book Show on ABC Radio National, as part of their Book Makers series. Mary was interviewed on indexing, a subject that will come as a great surprise to some listeners, and a reminder of the value of a good index to others. Let us hope the interview generated a surge of interest in indexing out there in the wilderness. The interview was aired on 18 May, but if you missed it, the podcast is available at <www.abc.net.au/rn/bookshow/stories/2010/2901716.htm> (and see page 10).

The Argus goes online

The National Library of Australia is digitising more than 100 Australian newspapers, one of which is Melbourne's defunct *The Argus* (1846–1957), which will be online at the end of May. A group of volunteers has been working at the State Library on an index for *The Argus* archives, parts of which are already online. When the index is finished, it will be the first complete index of an Australian newspaper. An article in *The Age* alerted me to the latest on the project at <www.theage.com.au/victoria/bodies-babies-and-barneys-available-as-argus-goes-online-20100508-ul2v.html>.

For further information, look at the NLA's page on the project at <www.nla.gov.au/ndp/>.

Standard Business Reporting (SBR)

Reporting and regulatory requirements for businesses and other agencies will be simplified in July 2010 when Australia adopts the Standard Business Reporting (SBR) model.

The Australian SBR program follows the Netherlands' model, which involves collaborating across agencies to agree to develop a single set of definitions and language for the information reported to government.

At the heart of SBR is a unique and specific Australian taxonomy, harmonised across participating entities to simplify business reporting in a standard language which can be communicated electronically from a business's accounting software using a single sign-on, both externally to government and other agencies and internally between departments.

The collection of agreed reporting terms is called the SBR Taxonomy, and has been developed in a technology standard called XBRL, or eXtensible Business Reporting Language.

The SBR Taxonomy is a dictionary of harmonised language, a much needed item The harmonisation results in the identification of terms which mean the same thing but have different names, then agrees on a single name, and to identify terms which have the same name but have different meanings. For example, the term 'employee' has more than 50 legal definitions in Australia. Even worse, there were nine different names to describe the ABN.

The SBR will be adopted in New Zealand and in 2009 Australia and New Zealand formalised a Memorandum of Understanding on Standard Business Reporting, and have ensured that there is an alignment between the two taxonomies.

The use of the SBR is voluntary but there is no doubt that the benefits are many. These include a single reporting language, cost reduction in providing data, single secure sign-on, opportunity to streamline data across internal departments, increased interoperability of information across finance applications, and improved data quality.

Read more of Paul Madden on the SBR at <www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1633/PDF/1_SBR.pdf>.

Certification for indexers

There is a move afoot in America to set up a certification process for indexers. It was a surprise to me to learn that American indexers do not have a registration or certification scheme as we do. The Institute of Certified Indexers (ISI) has been created to remedy this: <www.certifiedindexers.com/index.html>

According to the ISI, certified indexers have had their work and experience reviewed by the ICI, prepared a test index on a complex text, and demonstrated knowledge of and adherence to indexing best practices. Certified indexers must take part in continuing education and be recertified every three years.

The founders of the venture are Enid Zafran, Frede Leise, Kate Mertes and Pilar Wyman. Denise Getz conducted an interview with Pilar Wyman about the formation and purposes of the ICI which is posted on her *'See also'* blog on her website: <www.access-indexing.com/>.

Government 2.0

On 3 May 2010, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation released the Government Response to the report of the Government 2.0 Taskforce – *Engage: Getting on with Government 2.0.*

You can find the Government's Response at <www.finance.gov.au/publications/govresponse20report/index.html>.

But what is Government 2.0? According to the Taskforce, Government 2.0 promises to make our democracy more participatory and informed and to improve the quality and responsiveness of services. Citizens' enthusiasm will be harnessed and together with the government the people will be able to participate in

Tips and hints – paper size

Software packages come with default settings. These can be frustrating things as they require you to explore the hidden depths of the package to learn how to change them. One default setting that particularly annoys me, because I often seem to have to change it, is paper size.

You prepare an index, print it off and then wonder why it does not go the full length of the page. You go back and look at the paper settings and find it is set at Letter size, not A4. This is of course assuming your printer can cope with printing Letter size documents. Some printers are prone to have a 'hissy fit' and refuse to print the document unless you change the paper in your printer to Letter size.

Many of the software packages we use were developed in the USA and hence the default paper size is Letter. Letter size paper is very slightly wider then A4, but not as long. To be precise, Letter size is 21.59cm x 27.94cm compared with 21cm x 29.7cm for A4. Since A4 paper is used in Australia, it is important to always check that the settings on your software packages are set at A4. Some software packages, such as MS Word, remember if you change your default settings, but others do not. I use SKY Index software and, unless I use a preset template, I have to change the paper settings for each new index.

So check the paper size of your index before you send it out and do not subject your poor editor or publisher to a printer 'hissy fit'.

And, by the way, if your software offers a choice of language, make sure you aren't working in the default 'English (US)' or your spell checker will drive you mad!

Mary Russell

(*Indexing degustation*, continued from previous page)

decision-making. The Government set up a blog, AGIMO (Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO)) so that people could comment on the Taskforce's proposals at

New words from AskOxford.com

Emulsion: a fine dispersion of one liquid or puréed food substance in another: ravioli with pea and ginger emulsion. And I thought emulsion was painted onto a wall. I shall go no further. For more new words look at <www.askoxford.com/worldofwords/newwords/?view=uk>.

Jane Parton

NSW Branch intermediate practical book indexing course

A NSW Branch intermediate indexing course was held on Saturday 8 May at Thomas Routers, Pyrmont. Participants had been working for a month on indexing 'Bitten by a Penguin: Linux for Windows users' by Jon Jermey, with the help of an online collaborative forum guided by course co-ordinator Glenda Browne.

The course focused on the practical application of indexing principles. Some of the online discussions included issues such as planning and quoting, style, cross-referencing, using the metatopic, and various discussions on terminology. We also discovered first hand, some powerful and useful functions of the software available.

Using excerpts of the indexes prepared, the face-to-face workshop was a review of issues faced such as size, style, audience, entry points etc. plus some invaluable information on business aspects of freelance indexing.

The group then enjoyed lunch, where discussions were continued and we were able to get to know the participants and the organisers. We were also given a demonstration of a working Linux system which was of keen interest to the group.

Thanks to Glenda Browne, Lorraine Doyle and Madeline Davis for a first class training experience. I think all participants were definitely bitten by the indexing bug and perhaps some of us may have been bitten by the 'Penguin' itself.

Sarah Anderson

That NSW indexing course – one attendee thinks back

I found this course, run by Glenda Browne in May, challenging but exceedingly helpful, having never indexed a thing before in my life, not even a shopping list.

It is all very well to read, make notes, talk to people and attend a course (the introduction to indexing also run by Glenda earlier this year), but the actual production of an index, using, for the first time, the designated software, really imprinted on my mind the 'how-to' of basic indexing and tested just how well I had understood and assimilated the text and course material.

As it turned out, I had neatly passed over some basics and in particular had enough 'orphans' to set up my own orphanage, or even adoption agency.

The concept of 'direct entry' also took me some time to come to terms with, having as I seem to, a penchant for classifications and lots of subheadings. Thinking oneself into the shoes of an index user, if you will pardon a kind of bastard metaphor, became a bit of a game, with the ghost of the user peeking over my shoulder in a rather proprietorial fashion, as if to say 'well, I'd never look under that heading'. So then I would have to think of something else. In the beginning it seemed to me that I was cheating in using the precise language of the text.

The text itself was another challenge, being a guide to Linux for Windows users. Not being big on computer operating systems, the jargon was something of a hurdle for me. However, by the time the assignment was due, the penguin and I were, if not intimate friends, then something more than mere acquaintances. (The title of the text was *Bitten by a Penguin*, by Jon Jermey)

It was wonderful to have guidance from someone as experienced – and as patient – as Glenda and then to be able to discuss the whole exercise with the other participants at the face to face session at Thompson Reuters. I realised that there is no absolutely right answer to many indexing questions, and that there may be as many acceptable views on a subject as there are indexers – or even Fairy Penguins – in the room.

Helen Enright

At the course, from left:
Glenda Browne, Madeleine Davis, Sarah Anderson, Chris Roberts, Helen Enright and Ava Shifreen. Photo by Lorraine Doyle.

Playing football for the Cockroaches: the history of Queensland's southern border

Queensland Branch's guest speaker for 18 May was historian Bill Kitson (pictured) from the town of Ayr in North Queensland. Bill started his career as a surveyor for the Main Roads Department. A surveyor's life some 40 years ago was often out in the bush, mixing it up with the wildlife, forging tracks and roads through dense bushland hampered by heavy equipment.

Bill had come to speak to us about his charmed life and how it included tracing the southern border of Queensland. He started his presentation with the 1836 map of the Royal Geographical Society, which subdivided Australia into nine or ten states – the powers to be had no idea of what was in the middle of Australia in those days.
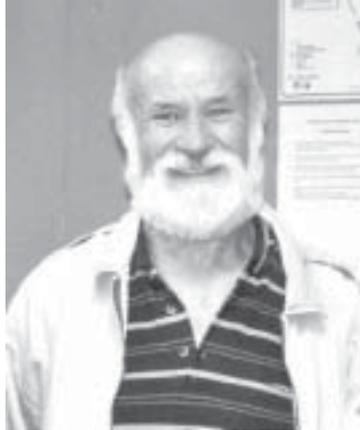
In 1846, the southern boundary was situated at 26 degrees latitude on the east coast. This was traced by Colonel Engineer George Barney and verified in the following year in our own Queensland Government Gazette, which was hand-written in Gladstone. In 1850 the border was moved to 30 degrees latitude; all land north was called Cooksland and settlement there was favoured by the yeoman Protestant farmers from Denmark, Germany and other European states. The border was returned to 29 degrees latitude some nine years later in 1859.

The western boundary underwent similar changes. Instead of going straight up from New South Wales and South Australia, it was decided by Surveyor Augustus Charles Gregory in 1862, to bend it to where it is at present. This has turned out to be a fortuitous decision for Queensland, because the originally proposed border would have had the rich mining towns of Mt Isa, Mary Kathleen and many more recent finds within the Northern Territory's border.

To mark a border needs two surveyors and their teams from each state, to meet at a point on the east coast, in this case Point Danger, from whence they would all climb to the highest point of the mountain ranges and mark off the border with the very basic instruments which they hauled up and down the hills via horses. These instruments were usually navigational in origin (i.e. taken from ships); they were often rudimentary but in the right hands could be highly accurate. Surveyor Roberts (Qld) and Surveyor Roland (NSW) set out along the southern border, but fell out and went their separate ways, doing two separate surveys between 1863 and 1866.

In 1985, Bill Kitson was awarded a fellowship from the Royal Geographical Society to research the Queensland New South Wales border, to verify where it really did lie. So 100 years later Bill and his team checked Roberts' and Roland's measurements using satellites and modern equipment. They found that the measurements of Surveyor Roberts of Queensland were the more accurate.

However, it was not only the hundreds of horses who aided the early surveyors and their teams through the dense Australian bushland. The friendly Aboriginal people in the area also provided crucial help to the surveying teams. The Aboriginals were skilled in climbing trees. Once up there, the surveyors then directed them to cut certain angles in branches and also mark 'Broad Arrows' within the bark of the trees, showing the direction of the border. There is an *Aboriginal Dictionary of Trees* left to us from these early expeditions to mark the southern border. The Aboriginals aiding the surveyors were paid cash for their invaluable help. At O'Reilly's Guesthouse there is such a marked tree from these expeditions and the town of Stanthorpe has a 'cairn' erected where an original 'Broad Arrow' tree had stood.

Valuable lessons were learnt from the original surveyors. Bill Kitson and his team from Queensland carried out their re-survey over five years. Being locals, they were aware of the severe summer heat of Western Queensland, so the team only carried out their surveying checks during the cooler winter months.

There was a second survey to finish the original marking of the border and the very talented Surveyor John B. Cameron (NSW) and Surveyor Watson (Qld) were commissioned in 1879. They started their survey at the town of Baragan, south of Cunnamulla. Again they struggled through the summers and came to blows, with Watson withdrawing from the scene. Bill Kitson and his team found original marks made by Surveyor John B. Cameron, which Bill proved to be perfectly exact. The professionalism of these early surveyors was remarkable, considering their equipment and the harsh terrain and conditions.

Bill Kitson went on to be the Curator of the *Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying*, where he built an amazing collection of surveying instruments, artefacts, diaries, artwork and thousands of photographs, together with the biographies of every surveyor who worked in early Queensland. However, the Toad Warrior Historian made no mention of playing football for the Cockroaches.

We hope to invite Bill Kitson back to speak to us at another meeting, on the passion of his life – the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying.

Vicki Law and Moira Brown

Indexing *see* Change: ANZSI Conference

Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 September 2011, Brighton Savoy, Brighton, Victoria

A change is as good as a holiday! This conference is providing the change by being different and doing things differently. Conference papers will be spread over the three days. Short workshops will also be integrated throughout the conference, rather than being held on a specific day. The workshop sessions and the conference dinner will be included in the price. Topics covered will be a change. There will be changes in indexing, changes in the types of material being indexed and changes in what you might consider to be indexing.

Brighton is a bayside suburb about 13 km from the centre of Melbourne on the Sandringham train line. The Brighton Savoy is just across the road from the beach and the colourful bathing boxes. You can see them (in colour!) on the conference webpage at:

<www.anzsi.org/site/2011Conference.asp>.

The call for papers will appear later in the year.

ANZSI Medal 2010

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 2006. It must have been compiled in Australia or New Zealand, even though the text to which it refers may have originated elsewhere. The index 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 all interested people may nominate indexes, and indexers may nominate their own work. A nomination form is available from the Society's website <www.anzsi.org>.

Entries close on 31 July.

Contact Alan Walker, Convener, Awards Committee
email: <alan.walker@s054.aone.net.au>
telephone: +61 2 9368 0174

Indexing on the ABC Book Show

Mary Russell was approached by the ABC Radio National Book Show to be interviewed on Indexers as part of their Book Makers Series.

During the interview, with Anita Barraud, Mary managed to highlight what constituted a good index; the pitfalls of searching for keywords; the process involved in producing an index; how indexes were compiled before software packages; how the lack of an index can cause an outcry and even lead to indexes being published on blogs; the occasional censorship of indexes; acknowledgement of indexers and even the use of humour of indexes.

Anita had asked for some suitable music, and Mary suggested *Indexers Lament* by Hazel and Aiden Bell. Some members may remember the song performed, during the 2009 Conference dinner. Hazel was delighted at this and also provided Anita with additional information on the history of indexing from her book *From Flockbeds to Professionalism: A history of Index makers*.

The interview was aired on 18 May, but if you missed it, the podcast is available at <www.abc.net.au/rn/bookshow/stories/2010/2901716.htm>.

There have already been several expressions of interest in indexing and indexing courses as a result of the interview.

Membership Renewals

Members are reminded that the ANZSI financial year is July to June, so your membership subscriptions are now due. You will be sent an email reminder containing a personalised secure link to the payment facility to enable you to pay via credit card. There will also be a link to the membership form that can be downloaded if you wish to pay by cheque and post to the Membership Secretary at the address on the form. Only members without email or those with bounced emails will be posted a renewal form.

If you have any questions about the renewal process, please feel free to contact the Membership Secretary, Joanna McLachlan, at <bandoola1@bigpond.com>.

Mythical creatures at The VIC

Can you tell the difference between a wyvern and a dragon? This was one of the challenges facing attendees at the May meeting of The VIC. Max McMaster presented a list of 40 mythical beasts. The initial challenge was to work out what the beast looked like, so the books borrowed from libraries were put to good use. Then we needed to group the beasts, with the aim of applying the basics of thesaurus construction introduced at last month's meeting on database indexing. Reptiles and winged creatures were easy, but what to call the part human beasts caused quite a discussion. 'Mini-monsters' was suggested for trolls, gremlins, gnomes etc, but then that changed to 'little people' when 'fairies' was added to the list. 'Giant people' was chosen for yetis, bigfoot, etc, but what do you call the in-between group of nymphs, mermaids, etc? 'Humanoids' was suggested. Time ran out before a satisfactory conclusion could be reached for these headings.

In the second half Mary Russell introduced the concept of heraldry. Heraldry has its own language, for example describing a shield is called 'blazoning a complete achievement'. Mythical creatures are used and have specific meanings in heraldry. For example, a centaur is used for those who have been eminent in the field; a mermaid is for eloquence; and Pegasus is for poetic genius and inspiration.

Very specific terms are used to describe the position of the creature. For example, a creature standing up rearing on one leg is called rampant; standing on three legs with one raised as if walking is called passant; while standing on all four legs is called statant. The challenge was then set to describe a few shields using heraldic terms.

By the way, a wyvern is a dragon with only two legs and a barbed tail – the picture shows one holding a fleur-de-lys.

Mary Russell

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