



Newsletter of the [Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers](#) Inc.

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## From the President



I am writing this report early as I'll be away when the deadline arrives. My first pleasure is announcing the new Council (with thanks to Returning Officer, Alan Walker). No positions were contested.

President: Glenda Browne (NSW)  
 Vice-President: Lindy Allen (ACT)  
 Secretary: Kerry Anderson (NSW)  
 Treasurer: Michael Wyatt (NSW)  
 Committee: Terri Anne Mackenzie (Vic)  
               Judy Richter (SA)  
               Mei Yen Chua (Tas)  
               Elisabeth Thomas (NSW)

Once again, it is nice to see a geographic spread of members. Thanks to the new Council members for joining us, and to continuing Council members for carrying on in the same roles, or trying out something different. The elected Council is complemented by the five Branch presidents as *ex officio* members. These are: NSW – Mary Coe; Qld – Jane Douglas; ACT – Denise Sutherland; Victoria – Nikki Davis; New Zealand – Julie Daymond-King.

The ANZSI Annual Report is available on the [ANZSI website](#). Thanks to Mei Yen Chua who ably coordinated the construction of this report, to all those who contributed content and advice, and to Alan Eddy for perceptive proofreading.

The ANZSI AGM was held on 2 October 2014 at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts in Pitt St, Sydney, and was followed by the ANZSI NSW AGM and dinner at Lynn Shanghai restaurant. Thanks to NSW Branch for hosting the night. Thirteen people attended. Most of them were from Sydney or the Blue Mountains, but others came from regional NSW, the ACT and Tasmania. It was great to have this representation and a face-to-face handover from the outgoing Secretary to the incoming Secretary. Our quorum is 12, so without the travellers we would have not had enough members for a formal meeting. For future meetings we will investigate the use of teleconferencing.

Other business at the AGM included approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Melbourne on 2 October 2014, approval of the Annual Report 2013–14 and approval of the audited financial reports.

In addition, we reported to the meeting that the Grievances portion of the Model Rules has been explicitly included in the Constitution as requested by Consumer Affairs Victoria. Thanks to Michael Ramsden for seeing through these changes.

At this stage we expect to continue meeting every six weeks, with the first meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 November 2014. Please contact your Branch president or any Council member if you have any questions, or if there are any issues you wish to raise.

When I wrote my From the President column for the October *Newsletter*, I forgot that the Annual President's Report from the AGM would be published in this *Newsletter*. I am sorry for any duplication, but I will be reproducing the ideas from my AGM talk here for the record.

### **President's Report, ANZSI Council AGM October 2014**

The highlights of the year are all recorded in the ANZSI Annual Report, so this evening I have selected a few issues to discuss, especially those where



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significant change has occurred or is expected. This doesn't mean that the others are less important, but they are perhaps more straightforward and settled.

### New Council

This year started with the double challenge of moving to electronic meetings and a new Executive, meaning that we were developing processes on the run. We still have to refine our meeting procedures and document communication and storage but, overall, we have managed to successfully work as a multi-location Council. For this I would like to thank all members of Council (elected and *ex officio*), as well as past Council members and ANZSI office holders, for their hard work and commitment, and ANZSI NSW for financially supporting our teleconferencing system. Although we haven't used it to its full potential, it has enabled us to get together reliably and to record meetings. ANZSI is a remarkable community of talented and helpful people and I'm grateful for their support.

### ANZSI restructure

A Victorian Branch suggestion for the restructure of ANZSI, including dissolution of Branches, met with strong support, leading to the creation of a Working Party to write a paper on the options.

ANZSI membership is in decline, as is membership in the other older, English-speaking indexing societies. We don't know the reasons but it is likely due to changes in the publishing industry as a whole. Many Council procedures relating to consultation with Branches were set up by the previous Council at the request of branches such as NSW. This consultation was valued and formed the basis for democratic decision making. The move to a multi-location Council has opened up possibilities for changes to the way ANZSI works. These changes would not have been possible a few years ago when our only option was face-to-face meetings.

Although all crucial positions have been filled this year, there is no competition for positions, and many people would be happy to step down if they thought there was a person who could replace them. Our current structure requires more volunteer energy than we have, and long-term volunteers are getting burnt out.

The Branch structure also puts extra demands on the time of Council members. For example, for the Annual Report the Secretary and Treasurer both have to gather and consolidate five Branch reports, along with writing the general Council one. The Branch structure also means that decision making is very slow. I personally think that a move to the simplest possible structure commensurate with good decision making is absolutely essential for ANZSI. If we avoid some of the paperwork we will have more time to address indexing-related issues.

### Conference post-2015

Plans for the 2015 conference are progressing well with Tracy Harwood as convenor and Shirley Campbell regularly reporting to Council.

I received a phone call from a Tasmanian tourism operator, which reminded me that it would soon be time to start discussions about conferences after Canberra 2015. If you'd love to work on conference planning, and have any ideas, let us know.

### Newsletter

The *ANZSI Newsletter* went through a number of changes this year, starting with the planned move to an electronic-only publication with simple formatting. The *Newsletter* is now available in PDF, EPUB and mobi formats. Thanks to Peter Judge, and to Michael Wyatt and Denise Sutherland who took on *Newsletter* roles after Peter's resignation, and welcome to the new editor, Katie Millar.

## Budget

It was disappointing that despite all the financial savings ANZSI made last year, including a reduction in the cost of the *Newsletter*, and no spending on a full Council meeting, we still ended up spending more than we took in. This is largely due to the reduction in membership numbers and Council reluctance to increase fees.

## Centralised education

If we restructure and dissolve branches the education role of ANZSI will have to move somewhere else, most likely to Council. It would be a huge task for a centralised Education Committee to organise training all over Australia and New Zealand. When the restructure document comes out for comment please carefully consider the way education could work within a new structure. It might be that centralised coordination and local action could be the way to go.

## Non-book accreditation

Council continues to think about ways of implementing non-book accreditation, with the possibility that any indexing with clear provenance (that is, where one person does one independent chunk of work) could be evaluated within the current system. This idea is still at the early stage of germination.

## Indexers Available/website

The redevelopment of Indexers Available is progressing well. A survey has been sent to editors about what they would like to get from the site. Revised quotes based on the new requirements will be sought. Thanks to Madeleine Davis and her group for their work on this important project.

We have heard that our website host, Link Digital, will not be supporting our website after the end of 2014. This means we have to quickly work out an alternative solution, especially for online payments, for which we need the most support. At the next Council meeting we will probably establish a Working Party to look into our options.

## Other positions and committees

The achievements of other ANZSI committees and officers are highlighted in the Annual Report. There are many people who work to keep ANZSI running smoothly. Fundamental to our members is the work of Karen Gillen as Membership Secretary. The website is essential for ANZSI transactions and the presentation of information. This year Mary Russell is moving on after many years as web manager. Thanks to her for such prompt updating of content and her regular contact with our host, Link Digital. Welcome to Ali Bell who has taken on this role.

Over the last year we have also been well served by our Promotions & Publicity Committee, Board of Assessors, ICRIS representatives and archives team. Thank you all.

Glenda Browne  
President





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## ACT Region Branch news

The ACT Region Branch AGM and dinner was held on 21 October. We gathered at our favourite venue, The Brassey of Canberra, just around the corner from Parliament House.

With 11 members in attendance, the AGM went off smoothly and quickly. The new committee is:

President: Denise Sutherland

Secretary: Shirley Campbell

Treasurer: Sherrey Quinn

Committee members: Geraldine Triffitt, Barry Howarth, Edyth Binkowski

The President's Report is available on the [ANZSI website](#), if you'd like to read it.

A bouquet of native flowers was presented to Shirley to thank her for her five years of dedicated service as Branch President. Sherrey cleverly hid the bouquet in plain sight until it was time to present it by putting it in the empty fireplace — making it look like part of the décor!

A very pleasant and delicious dinner followed our AGM, with good conversation and company. Our branch looks forward to an interesting and challenging year ahead, hosting the national conference in May 2015, and seeing how the proposed restructuring of ANZSI pans out.



*L to R: Lindy Allen (ANZSI Vice-President), Denise Sutherland (ACT Region President), Susan White, Tracy Harwood, Karin Hosking, Sherrey Quinn, Edyth Binkowski, Shirley Campbell, Barry Howarth, Geraldine Triffitt.*

*Denise Sutherland  
ACT Region Branch President*

## News from New Zealand

A successful day of meetings was held in Raumati on 19 October. We had a record attendance, with members from Dunedin and Auckland as well as the Wellington region. The day started with impressive detailed work by the records sub-committee and when I turned up with Daphne for the shared lunch, much behind-the-scenes work had taken place to smooth my way in particular, as I had been out of touch for a couple of days beforehand! Our AGM was an excellent meeting and we covered quite a bit of ground and made some plans. You can spot the happy crew in the picture.

I can also report that membership has again started to increase, by three so far since the start of the financial year.

My thanks to all.



*Top row (L to R): Judy Graham (Librarian), Michael Steemson (our records expert), Tordis Flath (Vice-President), Rae Foster (Secretary), and Jill Gallop (Treasurer).*

*Bottom row (L to R): Daphne Lawless (Committee), Julie Daymond-King (President), Nelly Bess (Committee) and Robin Briggs (Committee).*

*Julie Daymond-King  
New Zealand Branch President*

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## ANZSI NSW Branch AGM

The ANZSI NSW Branch AGM was held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts on 2 October, following the ANZSI AGM. We reviewed branch activities and finances for the past year and began planning for 2015.

The NSW Branch President's Report can be found on the [ANZSI website](#). The NSW Branch committee for 2014–15 is:

President: Mary Coe

Secretary: Elisabeth Thomas

Treasurer: Anna Farncomb

Committee members: Alexandra Bell, Glenda Browne, Blossom Fernandes, Jon Jermey, Michael Wyatt

Welcome to our new members! And, thank you to Madeleine Davis for her many years of service on the NSW Branch committee. Madeleine has retired from committee work but will continue to assist with the redevelopment of Indexers Available.

*Mary Coe*  
*ANZSI NSW Branch President*

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## From the website

The latest Council and branch documents can be viewed on the [Council minutes](#) page in the Member's area and on [individual branch](#) pages. Contacts for the [2014–15 Council](#), [ANZSI officials](#) and new committee members for NSW, ACT and QLD branches have been updated. Make sure to check the [events](#) calendar for any upcoming gatherings with your local branch. I welcome any suggestions for updates or changes from members, so please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#).

*Alexandra Bell*

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## Council bios

### Kerry Anderson, ANZSI Secretary



Indexing has interested me ever since I attended an ePub workshop given by Glenda Browne to a group of editors from the Canberra Editors' Society in February. I have recently graduated from UNE in Armidale, NSW, with a degree in English and Writing, and my appreciation of excellent indexes stems from wading through the backs of many books and journals as I did all the acres of research necessary to complete assignments.

Becoming the Secretary for ANZSI has been an amazing process which began by attending a workshop, taking part in an Introductory Course in Indexing and being present at the annual ANZSI Conference. Learning about my new secretarial duties has, so far, been really rewarding, although I am certain my education is not over yet. Another interesting aspect of being Secretary is that I get to meet other ANZSI members.



Communication has always been my passion. When I was nine months old I won a competition (run by the *Sydney Morning Herald*) for being the youngest child able to make conversation. My Mother, now 94, insists that I have never stopped doing just that – talking. When I lived in London for 15 years, I trained in beauty therapy and happily combined my interest in people with giving presentations, training other therapists and making up models for fashion shows in London department stores.

I have also written a number of short stories, winning a few prizes here and there. I do enjoy being a writer – it is a peaceful form of communication. I am fortunate to have two writers' groups near where I live. Some years I have attempted to write a 50 000 word novel during NaNoWriMo, which is held every November around the world – the completion date arrives too soon for me to finish even a novella.

I live in the Southern Highlands of NSW and operate two businesses concurrently. One is called Heaven Sent, which has employed me, and other therapists, for 13 years. My other business is called Biographics. I began it several years ago with the intention of writing biographical accounts of people's lives, and after increasing my skills with a degree and a Diploma in Editing and Publishing, I have expanded this business to include writing, editing and indexing. Words have always delighted me. When I see a brilliantly executed phrase in a well-written book, it is almost akin to witnessing magic taking place (and being able to write that good book would be better still).

I have read somewhere that editors are frustrated writers, so authors beware. In reality, however, editors *must* be writers before they can even begin to understand editing. I was just thinking, that person must have a very peculiar image of indexers ...

### Lindy Allen, ANZSI Vice-President



I grew up near the Hunter Valley in NSW. An only child, books were my constant companion, so I was destined to work in a book-related field. I became a library technician in a small public library back when catalogues were on cards that we typed. At TAFE we were tested on getting the dots, dashes and spaces just right.

Upon moving to Canberra in 1988, I discovered 'library automation' meant a huge machine into which you fed long 'punch cards' bearing 'cypher' holes. Lynn Farkas taught me indexing at Canberra TAFE. I worked in serials, enquiries and acquisitions, and enjoyed cataloguing. I worked at the ATO National Office Library for several years, with stints at the National Library, Parliamentary Library and others.

I studied information management (including more indexing) and print journalism at the University of Canberra. I took the first course on the new thing, the wide wide world of web. The reading list included a relatively slim yet ambitiously titled volume, *The Whole of the Internet*.

The journalism studies led to proofreading and communications opportunities at the ATO and, later, publications work at the ANU. It was sobering to see the first book I edited and indexed in a bookshop remainder pile only months after publication. I did freelance editing, typesetting and indexing for a few years, and was briefly editor of *Incite* (ALIA's magazine).

Back at the ANU, I'm the associate editor of a history journal, part of the new Australian Centre on China in the World, which has an in-house dragon. I edit and typeset for a research area on Melanesia, and I do back-of-book indexing.

The variety of publications work appeals to me (e.g. tax law, dance magazines, memoirs, the 'soft power' of 'Gangnam Style', witchcraft in PNG, China current affairs and Asian 'history wars' to name a few topics).



It bothers me that most publishers do not cover indexing, leaving authors to pay for it or do it themselves, yet it is so important to scholarship.

In early 2011 I underwent major neurosurgery for a rare brain condition called Chiari Malformation, and I'm still adjusting to living with the condition and consequences of the operation. Some days I'm amazed I'm still alive. I enjoy word puzzles, reading, knitting, watching thrillers and history documentaries, a spot of gardening and (gentle) bushwalks. I'm trying photography and am studying the economics of the international art trade with Sotheby's London. I have a husband named Howard and a dog named after Oscar Wilde.

I joined ANZSI back when it was AUSSI. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be Vice-President and to be able to contribute more to the society now. I appreciate the collegial nature of ANZSI, particularly at regional gatherings and conferences.

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## Etcetera



### e-books on mobile phones

According to a [recent article on the Good e-Reader website](#), around half of UK e-book customers are reading their e-books on the small screens of their mobile phones. Of these, 50 per cent are using a Kindle app and 31 per cent are using Apple's iBooks, followed distantly by the Kobo and Nook apps. The survey also revealed, however, that people using a mobile phone read less frequently and for shorter periods than when reading a print book, or on a tablet or e-reader.

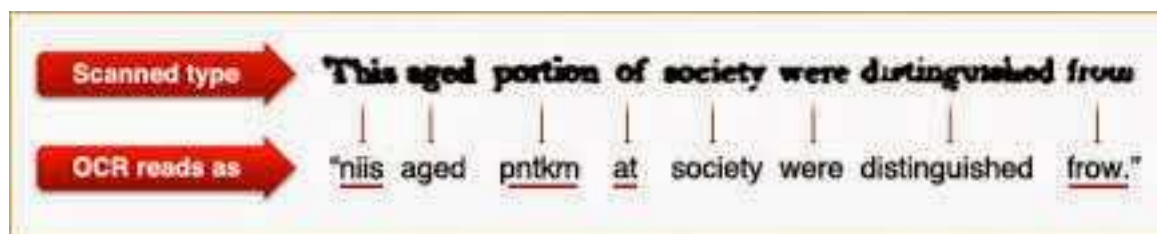
### reCAPTCHA

Did you know that when you're doing certain things online, like commenting on blogs or signing up to certain websites, you're helping to correct millions of pages of digitised books and scanned documents?

[Optical character recognition](#) (OCR) is the method used to digitise printed material — old newspapers and books can be scanned using OCR technology to provide online access. The National Library of Australia uses OCR for the [Trove](#) database, for example.

The problem with OCR is that it's not always very accurate, especially from older printed source material with yellowing paper and faded or smudged ink. It is a lot better than it used to be, but is still far from 100 per cent accurate — 80 per cent accuracy is more typical. So the resulting scanned texts have a lot of errors.

Here's an example:



We can easily read the top sentence of scanned type (*This aged portion of society were distinguished from ...*), but a computer has a lot of trouble distinguishing the letter patterns, as you can see from the second line. The human eye is better at seeing those word shapes and letters.

So, there's a problem. We have millions of pages of scanned text with 20 per cent errors. This makes them difficult to read, search and use.

Now, you'll be familiar with CAPTCHA technology already. CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart. It includes those 'verification' boxes that pop up when posting on a blog or registering for something online. You might need to type in some letters, decipher a mangled or warped picture or do some sums to prove that you're a real person using the site and not a computer being used by spammers to abuse online services. You're doing something that a computer can't do.

Some bright lads over at the [Computer Science Department at Carnegie Mellon University](#) (PA, USA) came up with a clever tool to help solve this problem of errors in scans of old texts. They called it [reCAPTCHA](#).



This is an example of a reCAPTCHA entry box, where 'distorted' words are presented for you to retype. They are words from actual scanned texts which were unrecognisable by OCR. Readings for these distorted words need to be agreed on by several users before they are cleared as being accurate.

In their *Science* paper [reCAPTCHA: Human-Based Character Recognition via Web Security Measures](#), the scientists say that reCAPTCHA is proving to be highly effective and accurate. More than 200 000 websites currently use it.



So whenever you enter text into a word verification box with this logo on it you're helping to correct the vast quantities of scanned books and other texts for all! We're all helping to improve information and assisting in a massive complex process. And every one of us is contributing, whether we know it or not! You can read more about reCAPTCHA on [Google](#) and [Wikipedia](#).

## Embedded Indexing in InDesign

The ASI is running a new Online Training program. The first one was a three-part series in October on [Embedded Indexing in InDesign](#) with Lucie Haskins. We can access these webinars via the ASI website for a fee (US\$249 for members). To obtain a \$50 discount, log on to the ANZSI website, go to the [ICRIS page](#) and search for 'purchase now'.

Denise Sutherland

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## Events

- Wednesday 5 November: **Victorian Branch** Committee meeting at 4:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church Opp Shop, Kew.
- Wednesday 5 November: **Victorian Indexing Club** meeting, 6:00 for 6:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church Opp Shop, Kew. The structure of ANZSI and the Victorian Branch. Contact [Ray Price](#)
- Sunday 16 November: **ANZSI NSW Branch social lunch**, 12:00 for 12:30 pm at Mary Coe's house in Killarney Heights. Bring drinks and a plate of food to share. RSVP to [Mary Coe](#) or telephone on 0401 832 865 by Friday 14 November. Spouses and partners are also welcome. Killarney Heights is in northern Sydney and accessible by bus or train. There is ample street parking available if you are coming by car. Please contact Mary for details of public transport options or driving directions.
- Wednesday 3 December: **Victorian Branch** Christmas meeting, 6:00 for 6:30pm at Holy Trinity Church Old Opp Shop, Kew. [An ANZSI Christmas recipe book](#). Members are asked to bring along their favourite Christmas recipes to combine into an indexed recipe book. (Full details are not yet available on the web site.) Contact [Ray Price](#)
- 6–9 May 2015: [Write | Edit | Index](#), a **national conference** for editors, indexers, and publishing professionals, Canberra.

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## ANZSI Newsletter

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### About the Newsletter

The *Newsletter* is published monthly 11 times a year, with combined issues for January and February. Opinions and statements expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society.

### Newsletter schedule

The next *Newsletter* will appear in December 2014. The contribution deadline is Friday 28 November. Please send contributions by email to the editor at [anzsi.editor@gmail.com](mailto:anzsi.editor@gmail.com).

## Advertising rates

For current advertising rates, please [visit our website](#).

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## ANZSI contact information

ANZSI's general email address is: [ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org](mailto:ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org)

Further contact details in PDF format are available on the [ANZSI website](#).

### ANZSI Council

President: [Glenda Browne](#)

Vice-President: [Lindy Allen](#)

Secretary: [Kerry Anderson](#)

Treasurer: [Michael Wyatt](#)

Council members: Judy Richter and Terri Mackenzie

Branch Presidents (*ex officio*): Denise Sutherland, Nikki Davis, Julie Daymond-King, and Mary Coe

### Branch and regional contacts

ACT Region: [President, Denise Sutherland](#)

New South Wales: [President, Mary Coe](#)

New Zealand: [President, Julie Daymond-King](#)

Northern Territory: [Contact, Frieda Evans](#)

Queensland: [President, Jane Douglas](#)

North Queensland: [Contact, Jean Dartnall](#)

South Australia: [Contact, Jane Oliver](#)

Tasmania: [Contact, Christopher Brennan](#)

Victorian: [President, Nikki Davis](#)

Western Australia: [Contact, Shelley Campbell](#)