



Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.

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From the President

Life Membership

We haven't had a meeting since my last 'From the President', but there is one bit of news that wasn't reported earlier.

I am delighted to announce that Shirley Campbell has been awarded Life Membership of ANZSI, in recognition of her long service and major contributions in many different areas. For details see elsewhere in this newsletter.

Council has now put revision of the Life Membership policy on the agenda to ensure that we have the capacity to recognise those members whose service makes them eligible for the award.



ANZSI website

You will have received several emails about the hacking of the ANZSI website. Financial payments are managed through a separate system, so have not been compromised. We are not sure whether passwords were accessed, so we recommend changing your password to be certain. If you use the same password for other logins, we recommend changing it there too. Thanks to Ali Bell, Denise Sutherland and her husband Ralph for spending



much of their weekend investigating and fixing this problem.

The Autumn issue of *Sidelights* (the newsletter of the British Society of Indexers, available in the members' area of the ANZSI website) notes 'Julian Menes, as webmaster, reported on the hacking of the Indexers Available pages of the SI website', so it seems this is not an isolated problem.

President's informal report

When you read this I'll be in England, preparing for the Society of Indexers conference, where I will be attending the ICRIS meeting of international indexing society representatives, and presenting a paper on ebook indexing with Pilar Wyman from the United States. Thanks to Vice-President, Lindy Allen, who will be chairing the Council meeting on 1 September.

I will write a formal President's Report for the AGM, and for publication in the newsletter. As I will not be standing for the position of President, for this issue I have a more personal President's Report, in which I reflect in general on my two years as ANZSI President.

Over the last two years ANZSI has transitioned from having a Council based largely in one state (on a rotating basis) to a multi-location Council which holds electronic meetings accessible by telephone or Skype to members from anywhere in Australia and New Zealand. This change made possible the restructure of ANZSI, including the dissolution of branches and their replacement by more informal regional and interest groups. The group structure enables the grass-roots development of communities of indexers, based on both physical location and common interests.

It was the best of times, and the worst of times

For me, the last two years as ANZSI President have been the best of times, and the worst of times. I have been fortunate to be involved in major, positive changes to the organisation, working with a group of people I like and respect. To see the restructure vote pass unanimously at the Special General Meeting in May was wonderful, and to be on the podium at the Write | Edit | Index conference was an honour.

On the other hand, being President is one of the hardest things I have ever done. It has taken a huge amount of time, and the work has seemed never ending. On a personal level, I seem to have offended a number of people, and I have received a fair amount of criticism.

I have learnt that you can't do everything that people expect of you, and that somebody is likely to disagree with a good many of the decisions that you make.

As President you have to take into account a variety of views, rather than focussing on issues only from your own perspective. Not all of the decisions that Council has made over the last two years are ones that I would have made if working alone, but I support them, as the outcome of careful thought and a democratic process.

My main wish from the restructure is that it will continue to increase the contact between indexers from different locations, and strengthen bonds across the organisation. Very often we understand best those with whom we meet face-to-face, and discussions surprisingly often divide along regional lines.

ANZSI never sleeps

Work load

When I stood for Council a second time I was aware what I was committing to ... or thought I was. Little did I know then that before we had fully adapted to the new ways of meeting, and a largely new Council, we would be starting an even bigger reform — the restructure.

When you take on a position in ANZSI, you take on not only the tasks you envisage, but a large number of extra tasks as well. It is to the credit of all participating ANZSI members that they have taken all these changes in their stride.

Our Secretary said to me: 'ANZSI never sleeps'. This is very true. There have been few days in the last two years when I haven't had at least one email relating to ANZSI business. Much of this has related to the changes we have made to the way ANZSI works, and I hope that the demands will decrease in the coming years.

Volunteer labour

From memory there has never been an ANZSI election of Council members (or in earlier times, National Executive members) at which a vote has been needed. A good number of people on the last two Councils have stood for these positions because they were personally invited to, and they graciously filled the need.

ANZSI at one time had 230 members (perhaps more); it now has about 160. In addition, the demographics are such that many of these are long-standing members who are starting to step away from ANZSI positions. Yet others are new members, often working full-time in non-indexing jobs. We just don't have the volunteer labour available to do all the tasks people would like to see done, in the way they would like them done. Indexers are often perfectionists, but this trait is best directed towards one's own work rather than towards the work of already-stressed volunteers.

We need to recognise the work people do within the constraints that they face. Feedback is valued; criticism is not. If we complain too much to our officials we may well end up with no officials, rather than better ones.

I had hoped that the restructure would free up enough volunteer labour for all the tasks required, but it may be that it has instead freed people to take a well-earned break from ANZSI volunteering. However, perhaps some people may return to volunteering again with a new Council.

Less is more

Elizabeth Swan once recommended that in a library each year you should stop doing ten per cent of what you do. This frees you up to do the tasks you keep doing very well, and to innovate. This is not easy for ANZSI to do, as it would mean cutting established programs that have filled a need, many of which are considered necessary for a professional organisation. Nonetheless, the harsh reality is that something has to give; either the quality of implementation of all these activities, or the number of activities.

ANZSI will be weakened if the demands on volunteers are so great that working indexers can't afford the time to take on Council and other roles.

The benefits

I stood for ANZSI President for a second year because I thought we had made remarkable changes in one year, and I wanted to help consolidate these. There were a lot of new members on Council and continuity was needed; I also knew of no-one else who was keen to stand.

It has been a privilege to be ANZSI President over the last two years. I do not regret taking on the role, although I do regret the way some things have turned out, and I am very much looking forward to having fewer constant demands on my time.

Most importantly, I value my time on Council for the working relationships and personal friendships that have developed. I made new friends, and strengthened existing friendships. I depended hugely on many Council members and ANZSI officials, for advice, support and plain hard work. We have melded into a great team.

To all the people who have worked for ANZSI, who have stuck by me through this adventure, and have offered their support, thank you.

Glenda Browne — ANZSI President

If you haven't renewed your ANZSI membership yet, this will be your final issue of the newsletter. You have until 30 September.

ACT Region Branch winds up

An AGM, a dinner, and a presentation

On Tuesday, 18 August the ACT Region Branch held its final AGM, followed by a most enjoyable dinner. This was held at the very swish Hotel Realm. We had a delightful evening, and a great turnout, with 20 members, past members, and partners attending.

Our AGM went off smoothly; my President's Report is up in the Branch minutes section of the ANZSI website <<http://anzsi.org/member-area/official-documents/branch-minutes/>>, if you'd like to read it. The motion to dissolve the branch was passed unanimously.

Highlights of the evening were the awarding of Life Membership to Shirley Campbell, and a Powerpoint presentation of photos from the many years of branch activities, collated and presented by our first president, Geraldine Triffitt, ably assisted by Sherrey Quinn.

We also had some lively discussions about the new group for our region, its name, and what sorts of activities we'd like to hold. Stay tuned!

Denise Sutherland — Past ACT Region Branch President



The final ACT Region Branch AGM L > R: Barry Howarth, Susan White, Lynn Farkas, An van den Borre, Michael Harrington, Tracy Harwood, Steven Cremer, Denise Sutherland (President), Carolyn Page, Lindy Allen, Shirley Campbell, Geraldine Triffitt, Alison Sloper, Prue Deacon, Kym Holden, Cathy Brown, Sherrey Quinn. Photo by Ralph Sutherland

Shirley Campbell — an appreciation

Tonight's gathering is an appropriate time for reflection on what the ACT Region branch has achieved, and to recognise someone who has contributed to both the ACT and national indexing community for many, many years.

Like most indexers, Shirley Campbell had a career prior to becoming an indexer. In fact, she had two. She worked as a medical microbiologist at the Royal Hobart Hospital and at the University of Western Australia Medical School prior to becoming a school librarian in Perth and Canberra. But not *just* a school librarian. She became active in the Australia Library and Information Association and other library forums, including serving on councils, contributing to seminars and working on a peer-reviewed journal. This was a sign of things to come.

For Shirley, like a lot of us, library work led to an interest in and a progression to indexing. She attended an indexing workshop run by Alan Walker in the early 1990s, and joined the newly established ACT Region Branch of the Australian Society of Indexers in 1993 and has been a member of AusSI/ANZSI continuously since then.

Shirley has been a freelance indexer since 2000, and has indexed many technical reports, annual reports and scholarly books. She became a registered/accredited indexer in 2008.



Shirley Campbell, photo by Denise Sutherland

To say Shirley has been an active member of ANZSI is certainly an understatement. Back in April 1998 Geraldine Triffitt wrote:

... where would we be without the executive skill of Shirley Campbell? Actually we found out when she was away and we went into a somewhat dormant period.

To pick up on the word 'dormant' I'd like to use a horticultural analogy, which is probably drawing a long bow to Shirley's science background. From reviewing all of Shirley's achievements and her persistent enthusiasm and contribution, I hope she won't mind me describing her as a good-quality, slow-release fertiliser that continues to provide sustenance and maintain life.

I was staggered to learn that since joining in 1993, she has served on branch and national committees for almost the entire period of her membership. This includes:

- Secretary for periods totalling about twelve years
- President for about five years
- Returning Officer for the Accreditation Committee for around nine years.

Shirley has also organised or co-organised numerous workshops, seminars and conferences — most recently she was on the organising committee for the successful Write | Edit | Index conference.

She has been at the forefront of technological change, organising or speaking at events about new technology metadata, and indexing in the electronic age

Shirley has been instrumental in major change in ANZSI, including:

- being a member of the Website Redevelopment Working Group
- working Party on the Re-structure of ANZSI
- drafting procedures and guidelines, constitutions.

To return to the horticultural analogy, Shirley has helped things blossom. In particular she has been a helpful and generous mentor, described as calming and providing sensible guidance. She provides common-sense advice in an informal mentoring capacity to both new and more-established indexers.

In advocacy, she has continually represented the interests of indexing and indexers superbly through her networking with other groups, and answering questions from authors, publishers, and government employees about the value and processes of indexing, and how to locate and select an indexer.

Shirley, I am delighted tonight to tell you that your peers have recognised your tireless contributions and thank you by enabling me to award you Life Membership of ANZSI for outstanding service to the Society and for services to indexing.

Lindy Allen — ANZSI Vice-President, and Sherrey Quinn — Past ACT Region Branch Treasurer

Farewell to the Victorian Branch

On Saturday, 8 August, former Victorian Branch members and friends gathered at The Langham for the 2014–2015 Victorian Branch AGM, followed by an elegant High Tea to celebrate the Branch's achievements between 1991 and 2015.

Special tribute was paid to Max McMaster, the Branch's inaugural President, who went on to give an astonishing 24 years of unbroken service to the Branch. And a modest Jenny Restarick was genuinely surprised to be acknowledged for her 11 years of service, as well as big-hearted hosting of many a Branch Christmas party in her home.

We were especially delighted to be joined by a number of committee members from years gone by, including inaugural Treasurer, Joyce Gillespie, who filled the role until 2000. She surprised us by removing her Life Membership pin from her blouse, and generously donating it for archival purposes (see photo, right. Photo by Sid Davis).



Karen Gillen's kind offer to draw on her skills as the former ANZSI Membership Secretary in order to research some information of the Branch, enabled me to present the following potted history which gave us much to reflect on.



From the beginning to the end. Inaugural President Max McMaster and members and friends acknowledge Alisa Dodge as being the very last ANZSI member to join the Victorian Branch. Photo by Sid Davis

Establishment of the Branch

Although AuSSI was formed in 1976, the first Branch (NSW) was not established until 1990. This was closely followed by the establishment of the Victorian Branch in 1991. It was formed at the AusSI AGM, on 27 February 1991, with 26 votes in favour, and interestingly, one against. There were seven votes by proxy.

Membership

At the time that the Branch was formed in 1991, there were 96 members (i.e. 51% of the total AusSI membership of 188 members). Branch membership numbers peaked the following year (1992) at 101. Prior to the dissolution of the Branch on 30 June 2015, ANZSI had five Branches, and approximately 172 members. Of these, 50 were members of the Victorian Branch (i.e. approximately 29% of the total ANZSI membership). Over the life of the Branch (1991–2015) there were approximately 350 different individual members.

Governance

At the time that the Branch was formed, AusSI was governed by a National Executive, and in 1991 this was based in Victoria. The National Committee doubled as the first Victorian Branch Committee until the National Executive moved to NSW in 1997. From that time onwards, there was a separate Victorian Branch Committee.

In 2002 the National Executive moved to the ACT; in 2006 it moved briefly to a NSW-led attempt at a distributed Council; and it then moved back to Victoria at the start of 2007. When the National Executive/Council returned to Victoria in 2007 (remaining here until the establishment of a geographically distributed Council in late 2013), the Branch maintained a separate committee, although there was some overlap with a number of individuals serving on both committees.

Committee Members

Over the life of the Branch, 41 individuals have served on the Victorian Branch Committee, (i.e. 12% of the total membership [350] over time), 14 (i.e. 34%) of whom attended the final AGM including:

Inaugural President – Max McMaster

President: 1991–92; 2004–06

Vice President: 1996–2001

Treasurer: 2007–12; 2013–15

Committee Member: 1992–96; 2001–04; 2006–07; 2012–13

Inaugural Treasurer – Joyce Gillespie

Treasurer: 1991–2000

Both have been awarded Life Membership.

Life Members

Life Membership has been awarded to nine ANZSI members — four of whom were Victorian Branch members.

1998 Joyce Gillespie

Announcement in *Newsletter* Vol. 22, No.1, Jan/Feb 1998, p.2

1998 Jean Hagger (d. 2008)

Announcement in *Newsletter* Vol. 22, No.1, Jan/Feb 1998, p.2

2002 John Simkin (d. 2014)

Testimonial by Jean Hagger:

<<http://anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Life-Membership-Simkin.pdf>>

2009 Max McMaster

Citation for Life Membership award:

<<http://anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Life-Membership-McMaster.pdf>>

Conferences

Of the 12 conferences that have been held by ANZSI, five were organised and run by the Victorian Branch: Marysville 1995; Hobart 1999; Melbourne 2005, 2007, 2011.

Nikki Davis — Past Victorian Branch President

Zakuski

Welcome to another morsel, and my penultimate column.

Yes, *Zakuski* has simply run out of puff,
And I have just had enough,
I have been writing *Zakuski*,
For not one year but three,
I think that is enough for me,
I have enjoyed writing this little blog,
But time has come to say so long!

Doctor Bibliotherapist

This is just hot off the press. In *The Age* (24 August 2015) booklovers can hire a bibliotherapist to advise them on what to read. At \$160 a pop, bibliotherapist Sonia Tsakalakis gives a one hour head-to-head consultation on clients' reading needs.

In this session, the client is prescribed six books with detailed notes on why these books would suit their needs. The sessions are run at The School of Life Café in Bourke Street, Melbourne. They are also holding sessions at the Melbourne Writers' Festival. While I personally would not need these sessions, it could be useful for someone who does not read much, and wants to get back into reading and finds going to a library or a bookshop daunting.

Bookings can be made through The School of Life website:

<<http://www.theschooloflife.com/melbourne/shop/classroom/bibliotherapy.html>>

Terri Mackenzie

ANZSI events

Meetings

Keep an eye on the *Events Calendar* on our website <http://anzsi.org/events/> for events being run by new groups!

Wednesday, 7 October

Melbourne Indexers: Corporate bodies

<http://anzsi.org/event/melbourne-indexers-corporate/>

6–7:30 pm, The Old Op Shop, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kew

6–6:30 pm, Indexing clinic — free indexing advice

6:30–7:30 pm Discussion

All indexers and friends from Melbourne and beyond are welcome to attend.

Company names, organisations and even military groups can pose a challenge to indexers. Michael Ramsden will lead a discussion on how to index the different types of corporate bodies.

Tues, 13 October

ANZSI Council meeting

Tuesday, 20 October

ANZSI Annual General Meeting

<http://anzsi.org/event/anzsi-council-agm-2015/>

6:30–8:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend. The meeting is being held by teleconference, so anyone can join in, no matter where you are! For the details of how to join the teleconference (rest assured, it's as easy as dialling a phone number, and entering a code), please contact ANSI Secretary Kerry Anderson at <poppyesmerelda@gmail.com>.

Web Training & Tips

PDFs in the Indexing Process: Maximising Your Efficiency, Connie Binder

This fast-paced webinar from the American Society for Indexing explores the use of Adobe Reader, Acrobat Standard/Pro, and Margaret Berson's Megabit Macros in the indexing process, with the goal of increasing data-entry speed and accuracy. The code to use on the ASI site, for ANZSI members to get member pricing, is available in the Member area of the ANZSI website, on the ICRIS Links page.

Website tip

If you wish to include your Indexers Available profile on printed material, you may notice that the URL includes %20 in it – for example: anzsi.org/profile/Mickey%20Mouse/

It's important to retain this funny %20 code — it is the ASCII code for a space. Removing the %20 from the URL and replacing it with a space — even though it will look nicer — may break the link, and make it impossible for people to access your profile. *Some* browsers (Firefox, mainly) will handle the space, but you can't be sure that everyone entering the URL will be using the same browser as you, so best to be safe, and keep the %20 in there.

Denise Sutherland – ANZSI Webmaster



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Contact information

ANZSI's general email: ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org

ANZSI Council

President: **Glenda Browne**

Vice-President: **Lindy Allen**

Secretary: **Kerry Anderson**

Treasurer: **Michael Wyatt**

Council members: **Judy Richter**, **Terri Mackenzie**,
Elisabeth Thomas and **Mei Yen Chua**

Group contacts

Please consult the [ANZSI website](#) for details of new regional and interest groups.

Newsletter

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About the Newsletter

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Opinions and statements expressed in the Newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society.

Schedule

The next Newsletter will appear in October 2015.
The contribution deadline is **Friday 25 September**.

Please send contributions by email to the editor, Denise Sutherland, at
denise@sutherland-studios.com.au.

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