

ANZSI NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, number 10, November/December 2007

From the President



I am honoured to be elected to this position yet again. I wonder how many times one can or should be recycled!

I first held this office in 1983 and again in 1987 and 1996. In 1983 I gave an address in which I proposed a program for the Society that included the setting up of branches, an outline of a tertiary level course in indexing and an expansion of the criteria for professional accreditation. The highlight of my 1987 term was a visit to the United Kingdom, where Josephine McGovern, then Vice-President, and I spoke to a meeting of the Society of Indexers in London. We issued an invitation to the first conference of AusSI, which was then still eight years in the future.

In 1996 much time was given to liaison with the New South Wales members in anticipation of the national committee moving to Sydney in 1997. Most of these matters came to a satisfactory conclusion.

But the outstanding issues today are in the field of education and training of indexers and their accreditation within the profession. This is vital work for the Education Committee. A good result will change, enhance or even supersede some of the roles of the Registration Committee, the mentoring program and the various branch courses. The strength of indexing as a profession is that it is fundamental to all knowledge while its weakness is that it embraces an ever-widening range of media so that fascination with the media and their technical problems tends to obscure the message which is what indexing is really concerned with.

Indexers' Tour

On page 11 of this issue are details of this project, which has now reached the point where firm indications of interest are called for. The itinerary includes visits to several places of specific indexing interest such as the Mundaneum at Mons in Belgium and the cartoon archive at the University of Kent in Canterbury, as well as visits to places of tourist interest, e.g. the many chocolate shops of Brussels, and other 'in-between' places such as the bookshops of Hay-on-Wye.

The tour is open to all ANZSI members. The travel agent will arrange for us all to converge at a common location and then to travel on together. Since the tour will finish in

Winchester in time for the Society of Indexers' Round Table conference I hope that many of the travellers will be able to stay on for that event and take part in the proceedings.

In my experience conferences of the Society of Indexers are jolly occasions with the right balance of serious considerations and light-hearted socialisation and friendly discussion.

Branches

By the time this newsletter arrives there will have been elections in all branches. The names of the new committees appear on the back page. Considering the area which our Society covers there is a challenge for the Council to keep in touch with what is happening, not only in the branches from which we receive committee minutes and reports of activities, but also in the places where there are no branches. It is only through contacts, formal and informal, in these areas that Council can find out if there are other places where branches should be formed.

Since this is the last newsletter for 2007 and we are entering the holiday season, let us wish each other a happy conclusion to what I trust has been a successful year for all of you.

John E. Simkin
President, ANZSI

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Deadline for the Jan/Feb 2008 issue: 1 February

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It is *your* newsletter, and we are totally dependent on contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact the editor if you have any questions about the suitability of items for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or abridge contributions.

Please send files via email in MS Word, .doc files or .rtf, but NOT .html or .pdf. And please, no images or footnotes in Word files.

Next deadline

1 February for the Jan/Feb 2008 issue.

Graphics

Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. Camera-ready art and photos can be scanned by the editor. Note that photos need to be clear, sharp and contrasty if they are to copy well in black and white.

Advertising charges

Full page A\$175; half page A\$90; quarter page A\$35; full year 10 for the price of 8.

Membership charges

A\$60 per year; A\$35 half year (Jan to June).

Student member A\$35.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$45 p.a.

The Indexer

(international indexing journal)

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Indexers Available

<www.aussi.org/IndexersAvailable>

ANZSI AGM 2007

The ANZSI Annual General Meeting was held on 24 October with 20 people in attendance. The President read the minutes of last year's AGM, which were accepted. There were no matters arising from the Minutes. Max McMaster presented the 2006–07 President's report (see below) and Margaret Findlay the Treasurer's report (see page 4).

The 2007–08 ANZSI Council members were elected unopposed:

President: John Simkin

Vice President: vacant (no nominations)

Secretary: Anne Dowsley

Treasurer: Margaret Findlay

Members: Alan Eddy, Max McMaster, Mary Russell, Kathy Simpson.

Branch Presidents, who were confirmed as ex-officio ANZSI Council members, will be announced after all branches have held their 2007 elections.

Constitution

The meeting voted on the two proposed amendments to the Constitution detailed in last month's Newsletter. Both resolutions were defeated. Details of the votes are:

Resolution 1: That in Section 4, Register of Indexers, the words in italics be inserted.

Votes for: 12. Votes against: 18.

Resolution 2: That in Section 6 Council Subsection (d) 'Executive' be replaced with 'Council'. *Votes for: 15. Votes against: 16.*

ANZSI Medal 2007

John Simkin read the Awards Committee report on the 2007 Awards entrants and their entries and presented the 2007 Medal – the first ANZSI Medal – to Alan Walker for his index to *Voices of Islam in South-East Asia*, published by the Singapore Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Kerry Biram and Tordis Flath received Commendations for their entries (see page 8).

ANZSI 2007 Membership Survey

Mary Russell presented a summary of the Membership Survey (see pages 5–7).

Anne Dowsley, Hon Sec ANZSI

Outgoing President's report to the ANZSI AGM 2007



The ANZSI Council has had a very disruptive 12 months with three changes of leadership. My thanks go to Jon Jermey and Karen Gillen for their stewardships though what has been a difficult time for the Society. I also would like to express my gratitude to the remaining Council members, and the new Council members who have come on board without whose guidance the whole Society may have faltered.

The ANZSI Conference held in March this year in Melbourne was a great success for the Society. With around 75 participants, and a diverse range of papers, sessions, workshops and social events it was well received by all who attended. Our thanks go to Vic Branch for their organisation of the Conference. We now look forward to the 2009 Conference.

The redevelopment of the ANZSI website has continued on during the past 12 months. Our thanks go to the Website Redevelopment Working Party (principally Lynn Farkas, Shirley Campbell and Geraldine Triffitt) who have been overseeing the work, and in more recent times to Kathy Simpson and Mary Russell who have been migrating content across to the new site. It is planned to have the new site go live in early January.

Mentoring this year took a great leap forward with the launch of the full-blown mentoring scheme covering the whole of Australia and New Zealand. Our thanks go

(continued on facing page)

(Outgoing President's report, continued from previous page)

to Lynn Farkas, our mentoring coordinator, for moving the whole mentoring concept forward, and for the tricky task of pairing mentors with mentees. Lynn has just stood aside as mentoring coordinator and this role has now been taken on by Anne Dowsley.

The Registration Committee has been active with the introduction of the five-year re-registration for registered book indexers. This initiative has been introduced to ensure that competency in indexing is maintained. In fact, it is essential that we as a Society push for high standards in all fields of indexing, not just book indexing.

The ANZSI Council has been working on a couple of other items. The issue of incorporation for the Society is being investigated and this work is still ongoing. The recommended rate for indexers is also under investigation again. It is anticipated that the new recommended rate will be announced early in the new year.

The *ANZSI Newsletter* has continued to flourish under Peter Judge's editorship. As the major avenue of communication to members, either in hard copy or electronic form, the newsletter fulfils an extremely important role. The other major means of communication has been the website. Thanks go to Jon Jerney for keeping it up and running.

Another extremely important member who works behind the scenes is Joanna McLachlan, our membership secretary. Joanna keeps all our records intact and has worked closely with Jon Jerney on the members database, as part of the website redevelopment.

The negotiations with the Society of Indexers over direct subscriptions to *The Indexer* have been a major achievement of

the Council during the year. With *The Indexer* changing to a quarterly publication and differences between the financial year operation of ANZSI membership and the calendar year operation of *The Indexer* it was more convenient all round to move to direct subscription. After our ANZSI initiative, ASI, our American counterpart, has gone down the same path with direct subscriptions to *The Indexer*.

Recently ANZSI conducted a detailed mail survey of all members. With around 50% return rate the results were outstanding. My thanks go to all members who responded. Results, general comments and ideas from the survey are presented in this issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter*, starting on page 5. Specific details will be sent to Branches. The incoming ANZSI Council will consider many of the ideas and suggestions over the coming months. My thanks go to Mary Russell for organising the survey and analysing the results.

The Medal Committee have also been active this year with their culmination being the presentation of the ANZSI Medal for 2007 (see page 8). This is the very first ANZSI Medal to be presented. All previous medals were under the old name of AusSI Medal. In fact it has been three years since the Medal was awarded, which indicates the extreme difficulty of creating an exemplary index.

I would like to finish by congratulating Glenda Browne on her winning of the recent Ig Nobel Award for Literature, for her essay on 'The'. Congratulations Glenda (see page 10). Indexers do make a difference!

Max McMaster, ANZSI President 2006-07

Calendar of forthcoming activities

Date & time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Fri, 16 Nov – Sun 18 Nov	Vic Branch	Visit to Colac and District	Various, in and around Colac	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
Fri, 23 Nov 9.00 am – 4.45 pm	Vic Branch	Web indexing workshop	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Course conducted by Glenda Browne. Further details from Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
Sun, 2 Dec 9.30–12.00	ACT Region Branch	Xmas BBQ Brunch	A leafy location TBA	Members will receive their invitation shortly.
Tues, 4 Dec from 7.00 pm	Vic Branch	End-of-year get-together	208 Kooyong Road, North Caulfield	Jenny Restarick/Alan Eddy <cliffres@connexus.net.au> ph/fax +61 3 9528 2539
10 Mar 2008 6.00 pm for a 6.30 start	ANZSI Qld contact	Nuts & Bolts Indexing with Max McMaster	Details in Feb newsletter. but put the date in your diary now!	Moira Brown <brown5moira@yahoo.com.au;> ph : +61 7 3893 1252; Mobile : 0416 097 629

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

Financial report for 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

INCOME

Jul 2005 – Jun 2006	ITEM	Jul 2006 – Jun 2007
\$		
15,016.00	Membership	7,880.00
4,505.00	<i>The Indexer</i> subscriptions	2,110.00
	ANZSI Newsletter subscriptions	40.00
160.00	Registration fees	120.00
90.00	Advertisements in ANZSI Newsletter	
493.99	Bank and investment interests	560.31
	Web Redevelopment Project state/region contributions	8,332.48
	2005 Conference Profit – from Victorian Branch	541.67
\$ 9,075.73	TOTAL	\$ 19,584.46

EXPENDITURE

Jul 2005 – Jun 2006	ITEM		Jul 2006 – Jun 2007
\$			\$
5645.28	ANZSI Newsletter		
		<i>Postage</i>	<i>1,804.68</i>
		<i>Preparation</i>	<i>1,916.90</i>
		<i>Printing</i>	<i>1,927.37</i>
4,093.74	<i>The Indexer</i> subscriptions		2,847.43
1,620.00	Per Capita grants to Branches		1,655.00
200.00	Awards Medal – calligraphy, preparation		888.65
	Web Redevelopment Project		3,009.60
381.92	Web hosting		979.72
600.00	Honoraria (2005/2006)		300.00
874.82	Administration/sundries		652.37
1,100.00	Indexers Available – programming		
460.54	Bank fees / credit card facilities		498.67
703.05	Games Meeting/ AGM		1,709.56
500.00	Conference Sponsorships		1,785.00
	Education Committee		11.20
\$ 16,179.35	TOTAL		\$ 19,986.15

NET CASH FLOW for the period –\$ 401.69

ASSETS

30 Jun 2006	ASSET	30 June 2007
\$		\$
6,722.59	Westpac Cheque account	6,320.90
5,000.00	BT Financial	5,000.00
5,000.00	St George Bank	5,000.00
\$ 16,722.59	Total	\$ 16,320.90

Margaret Findlay, ANZSI Treasurer
30 September 2007

2007 ANZSI Council Survey – analysis by Mary Russell

Introduction

This is a report on the 2007 ANZSI Council Survey results. To keep the report as brief as possible, I have just included the percentage results for each question. Since the numbers of indexers registered, not registered or plan to apply was roughly one third each, for some questions I have looked at the results for each group, as they offer different responses.

A more detailed report, containing the specific suggestions and comments, has gone to Council. Separate reports, on the results for each Branch, will go to Branch presidents soon.

I have started with the profile of a typical respondent. This gives you a good overview of the results. If you want the numbers read on as I have lots to share with you.

A big thank you to all the members who took the time to respond to this survey. I believe the results give us a wonderful understanding of the members, the work they do, what they plan to do in the future, and what they expect from the Society.

A typical respondent

Let's see how a typical respondent might appear:

They are a Victorian or NSW freelance indexer, in their 50s, who typically spends 2–3 days a week back of book indexing, with a smattering of journal or database indexing and the odd annual report. They are busy on their non-indexing days. They might do a bit of library work or perhaps some editing or proofreading. They find it is worth using an indexing software package.

If they are listed on *Indexers Available* they have found it has provided them with work and they try to keep their entry up to date. If they are a registered indexer they are not very keen to participate in the mentoring scheme as a mentor. While they would be happy to receive the *ANZSI Newsletter* via email, they can't be bothered with any email lists. They have been a member of the Society for less than 7 years and feel their expectations have been fully met.

They attended at least one type of ANZSI function during the past year and look forward to attending local events in the future, especially a seminar or panel discussion on an indexing-related topic. They are very keen to improve their skills and plan to attend several courses during 2008–09, but are not very keen to travel to the course. They are curious about registration for database indexers, but tentative about an overseas study tour. They enjoy the *ANZSI Newsletter*, but would like to see more practical tips and discussion, as well as details of interesting or unusual indexing projects. They are happy to provide suggestions for improvements.

Number of responses

Overall, there was a 52% response rate, which is a very good return. The table below shows that there is a representative sample from all states and Branches:

State or country	No. sent	Returned	% by state	% of total
ACT	45	21	47%	17%
NSW	56	27	48%	22%
NT	2	1	50%	1%
QLD	22	12	45%	10%
SA	7	3	43%	2%
TAS	4	3	75%	2%
VIC	68	36	53%	30%
WA	2	2	100%	2%
NZ	28	16	57%	13%
Totals	234	121	52%	100%

1. Registered indexers

About 33% of respondents are registered indexers. About 37% are not registered and about 29% plan to be registered.

2. Registration as a database indexer

About 37% of respondents are interested in registration as a database indexer. About 53% said no and 9% didn't respond. Of those expressing interest about 28% are registered indexers, 56% plan to be registered indexers and 30% are not registered indexers.

3. Mentoring scheme

Of those planning to become registered indexers, 31% have participated in the mentoring scheme and 72% would like to participate. Of those not registered, 11% have participated in mentoring and 33% would like to participate. Of the registered indexers, 23% have participated in the mentoring scheme as a mentor, about 10% have participated in a mentoring scheme as a mentee and 38% would like to participate as a mentor.

4. Type of indexer

About 56% indicated they are a freelance indexer; about 21% considered themselves trainee indexers; about 17% are employed by organisations; about 7% are volunteer indexers and 7% have retired. Of the registered indexers 79% are freelancers, 10% are employed by organisations, 3% are volunteers, 8% have retired and 3% consider themselves trainees. Of those not registered 25% are trainees, 27% are freelancers, 27% are employed by organisations, 9% volunteers and 11% retired. Of those planning to register 38% are trainees, 75% are freelancers, 13% employed by organisations and 6% volunteers.

5. Average number of days spent indexing

Of the 58% who indicated the time spent indexing the average number of days was 2.2 per week. About 34% spend one day or less a week indexing. About 17% spend 2 days a week, 19% spend three days, 11% spend 4 days, 10% spend 5 days and 6% spend more than 5 days a week indexing. About 18% do not index. About 6% indicated they found it difficult to calculate the average number of

(continued overleaf)

(Survey analysis continued from previous page)

days and 18% didn't respond to the question. A couple added a note that they do a little bit of indexing each day. Registered indexers spend about 2.8 days a week indexing, while those not registered spend about 2.4 days a week and those who plan to apply to be registered spend about 1.8 days a week indexing.

6. Other work if not full-time indexing

About 75% indicated they undertook some form of 'other work'. About 25% did not respond to this question. The most popular form of 'other work' is library work (30%), followed by editing (25%) and proofreading (21%). The next popular responses were thesaurus/taxonomy (7%), website design / updating (6%) and archive work (3%). About 28% indicated some form of specific other forms of work. These ranged from teaching or training (6%), writing or author (4%) and research (3%), to a couple of responses for bibliography, project management, record management, consulting, information specialist, computer training, secretarial work, database consulting, carer, and management. Other responses included landscaping, share trader, artist and accountant. While one (37%) or two (38%) types of other work was common, some did three (12%) or four (11%) and a few did five (3%) types of other work.

7. Type of indexing done

About 61% of respondent have done back of book indexing in the past year. About 19% have done journal indexing and 19% have done database indexing and 17% have indexed annual reports. Other indexing done include website (11%), newspapers (8%), embedded MS Word (6%), pictures/images (4%) and genealogy (4%). About 3% indicated they did other types of indexing and this included loose-leaf reports (3%) and CD & online version of a book. While most (47%) just do one type of indexing, 17% do two types and 11% do three types of indexing. There are a number (10%) that indicated they did more than 4 different types of indexing. Of the registered indexers 72% do back of book indexing, 28% index annual reports, 26% index journals, 18% do database indexing, 15% index websites, 13% do embedded MS Word indexing, and 5% index newspapers. Of the indexers not registered 43% do back of book indexing, 23% do database indexing, 14% index journals, 9% index newspapers, 9% index websites, 5% do genealogy indexing, 2% index pictures/images and 2% index annual reports. Of those planning to apply for registration 81% do back of book indexing, 22% index annual reports, 19% index journals, 16% do database indexing, 9% index newspapers, 9% index pictures/images, 6% genealogy indexing, 6% embedded MS Word indexing and 6% index websites.

8. Software packages

One of the three indexing software packages are being used by 57% of respondent. The most popular indexing software package is CINDEK (31%), followed by Sky Index (13%) and Macrex (13%). MS Word is also popular with 19% of respondents. Some of these also use indexing software packages. About 13% use other packages including DB/Textworks (8%), and MS Access (3%). Other packages with

one or two respondents include MS Excel, internal company software, Voyager, and Framemaker. Registered indexers use CINDEK (36%), SKY Index (21%) and Macrex (10%), as well as MS Word (23%), DBTextworks (5%), MS Access (3%) and HTML Indexer (3%). Those indexers not registered use CINDEK (23%), SKY Index (9%) and Macrex (5%), followed by MS Word (19%), DBTextworks (14%) and MS Access (5%). Those indexers who plan to apply for registration use CINDEK (38%), Macrex (28%) and SKY Index (9%), as well as MS Word (19%) and DBTextworks (3%).

9. Indexers Available

About 48% are listed on Indexers Available and about 48% are not. Of those listed 67% have found it provided work, 21% have not received work and 9% don't know. About 59% have updated their entry in the last year. About 36% haven't updated their entry, with a couple of respondents mentioning their entry didn't need updating. Only 2% didn't know how to update their entry. Of those not listed the most popular reason was lack of experience (20%). Some (11%) are in other employment so aren't listed, while 5% said they weren't registered. There were 3% that didn't know they could. About 85% of the registered indexers are listed in Indexers Available. About 18% of those not registered are listed on Indexers Available. About 41% of those planning to apply for registration are listed on Indexers Available.

10. Training courses during 2008–09

About 73% are interested in attending some form of course during 2008–09, with about 27% not responding to this question. The popular training courses are database indexing (27%), using CINDEK (27%), A-Z website indexing (26%), annual report indexing (22%), editing (21%), thesaurus/taxonomy creation (19%), journal indexing (18%), website creation (17%), metadata creation (15%), embedded MS Word indexing (15%), legal indexing (15%) and using Sky Index (14%). Other courses of interest were running a business (11%), using Macrex (10%), financial/tax management (9%), project management (8%) and grammar (5%). Respondents are keen to attend more than one course. Only 17% picked one course, 17% two, 18% three, 11% four, 17% five and 16% more than 6 courses.

11. Travel interstate to attend a training course

About 33% said they would be prepared to travel to attend a course. About 58% said they would not travel to attend a training course.

12. Interest in an overseas indexing study tour

About 23% said they would be interested in an overseas indexing study tour, with another 4% saying 'maybe'. About 68% said they were not interested.

13. Would you be happy to receive ANZSI Newsletter via email?

About 63% would be happy to receive the *ANZSI Newsletter* via email and about 32% don't want it via email. Another 5% say yes, but comment they would prefer to receive a paper copy.

14. Newsletter

About 71% of respondents commented on the ANZSI Newsletter. Responses have been grouped in general categories to give an overview. Of those who responded: 19% said they were happy with the Newsletter and read it all; 51% would like to see, what is variously described as, practical hints and tips; 27% would like to see experiences of indexers to different indexing problems and challenges; 20% like the event write ups; 10% specifically mentioned enjoying Glenda Browne's 'From the Literature' column; 8% want software review articles; 8% would like more biographical information (or 'newsy bits') about specific members and their careers in indexing; 7% books on indexing or book reviews; 6% mention articles on different types of indexing; 5% mention the Calender of events as being useful; 5% mention a section on reviews of indexes in books, similar to *The Indexer*; 5% would like guidance on indexing opportunities and how to obtain work. There were other specific suggestions that are being considered by Council.

15. Indexing email lists

About 33% belong to an indexing email list. About 32% wrote 'none' and 32% didn't respond to this question. About 3% wrote they were not aware of the lists. The most popular are ALIAIndexers (27%) and Index-L (15%). The next most popular email lists are SKY Index Users (3%) and Web Indexing SIG (3%). There were only one or two respondents for other email lists. ANZSI Vic Branch email was mentioned by 3%, even though it is not an email list as such. About 70% of those belonging to an email list only belong to one list. About 20% belonged to two lists, 3% belonged to three lists and 13% belonged to more than three lists. About 46% of registered indexers belong to at least one email list, with 33% belonging to ALIAIndexers and 23% to Index-L. About 32% of indexers not registered belong to at least on email list, with 25% belonging to ALIAIndexers and 14% to Index-L. Of those who plan to apply for registration 31% belong to at least one email list, with 25% belonging to ALIAIndexers and 9% to Index-L.

16. Events attended in past year

About 59% indicated they attended an ANZSI event in the past year. About 6% said they attended no event and 35%

didn't respond to the question. Of those who attended an event 44% attended a local ANZSI branch event, 27% attended the 2007 Conference, 22% attended a local ANZSI Branch workshop and 13% attended a 2007 Conference training workshop. About 42% indicated they attended one type of event, 29% attended two types, 17% three types and 3% attend all four types of events. A couple of respondents indicated that there were no local ANZSI branch events for them to attend.

17. Local Branch events you would like to attend

About 82% indicated they would attend a local ANZSI event. A seminar / panel discussion on indexing-related topic is the most popular form of meeting (74%), followed by informal meal (50%) and library / archive visit with talk (47%) and seminar on non-indexing-related topic (28%). About 17% indicated they would attend one sort of meeting, 29% indicated two, 17% indicated three sorts and 24% selected all types of events. About 18% did not respond to this question.

18. Length of membership

About 41% of respondents have been members for 1–3 years, 17% for 4–6 years, 13% for 7–10 years and 29% for more than 10 years.

19. Age group

Respondents are on average in their 50s. About 6% of respondents are ages 30–39, 25% are 40–49, 32% are 50–59, 27% are 60–69 and 7% are 70 or over. Only 4% did not respond to this question.

20. Expectations of Society

About 47% of respondents feel their expectations of the Society have been fully met; about 41% feel their expectation have been partly met; about 4% feel their expectations of the Society have not been met at all. About 8% did not respond to this question.

21. Improvements or changes

About 48% had suggestions for improvements. These are being reviewed by Council.

22. Comments

About 36% had further comments.

NSW Branch social lunch on the North Shore

Saturday 1 March 2008, 12:00 for 12:30pm

All members are invited to an informal lunch at Tricia Waters' place, 20 Karoo Ave, East Lindfield. Please bring a plate of food or drinks. RSVP to Tricia <watersit@ozemail.com.au> or Ph +61 2 9416 7664.

If coming by public transport there is a government bus (Route 207) which departs from the City (Wynyard Park, York St, Bus stop L). Alight at the Crana Ave bus stop for a short walk to Karoo Ave. Or catch a train to Lindfield, go to the east side of the station, i.e. turn left at the top of the stairs in the opposite direction to the Pacific Hwy and then catch a Shorelink bus (Route 558) which leaves at 11.55 am from Lindfield Ave just down from Tryon Rd outside the Anglican Church. Alight at Crana Ave for a short walk to Karoo Ave.

If you would like a swim, bring your cossie for a dip in the pool !

Tricia Waters

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Medal, 2007

There were ten entries for the 2007 ANZSI Medal competition, six from Australia and four from New Zealand. Two of the Australian entries were indexes to extensive runs of periodicals. One New Zealand entry was a 120 page separately published index, with an introduction, to William Morley's *History of Methodism in New Zealand*, 1900.

Almost all entries were 'substantial in size'. Several of the works indexed did not have the complexity of subject matter which would allow the indexers to demonstrate their range of expertise. However, within this limitation there was much good work.

The judges wished to commend two indexes apart from the winner:

A life of J. C. Beaglehole, New Zealand scholar, by Tim Beaglehole. Victoria University Press, 2006. Indexer: Tordis Flath.

This accurate index suffers from the number of levels of sub-heading under J. C. Beaglehole (up to four in some places). This leaves readers, despite the use of the running head, not being sure where they are in the index. One judge suggested that it may have been better, in the interest of user-friendliness, to have made the concept sub-headings, such as articles, books, broadcasts, lectures, etc. into main headings to reduce the number of levels. Despite this criticism of style, this is a very good piece of work.

Paper empires: a history of the book in Australia, 1946-2005, edited by Craig Munro and Robyn Sheahan-Bright. University of Queensland Press, 2006, Indexer, Kerry Biram

Here the indexer was faced with the problem of deciding how much to index as there were so many names of persons and organisations mentioned. The balance which she struck shows a mature approach to the job. Some readers may find the work itself somewhat disappointing as it covers a very busy fifty years and is a product of a project which has been in

progress for a considerable time. However it is a starting point for study which can be pursued through Austlit and the many relevant archival collections. In complementing this role the index does its job well.

One index was outstanding and has been awarded the ANZSI Medal for 2007. It is:

Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: a contemporary source-book, compiled by Greg Fealy and Virginia Hooker. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2006. Indexer: Alan Walker.

This book has been included in *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Title List for 2006. It is in two parts. Part I has overviews of the role of Islam in eight countries of the region. Part II contains six chapters of extracts from primary sources under Personal expressions of faith, Sharia, Islam, state and governance, Gender and the family, Jihad, and Interactions.

The book illustrates the diversity and complexity of the Muslim communities in the region. As such it presented a challenge for the indexer, in understanding the material, in maintaining accuracy in the analysis and description of the subjects, and in creating, in 48 pages, an inviting

index. The result is logical in structure and easy to use. All essential cross references are included and the 16 pages of illustrations have been indexed. In fact all that could and should be covered has been covered in this excellent piece of work.

The judges are pleased to award the 2007 ANZSI Medal to the indexer, Alan Walker, together with certificates to the indexer and the publisher, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Ann Bentley (Librarian)

Pam Jonas (Editor)

Max McMaster (Indexer)

John Simkin (Chairman)



Alan Walker (left) receiving his award from John Simkin

Welcome in the festive season!

All members of ANZSI Victorian Branch, their partners and friends, are invited to a get-together with the Committee at the end of another enjoyable year of conference, excursions, interesting speakers and projects.

At: 208 Kooyong Road, North Caulfield

When: Tuesday, 4 December, from 7.00 pm

BYO: Soft drink, beer and a plate to share

Dress: Casual

RSVP: Monday 3 December to Jenny Restarick

Phone: +61 3 9528 2539 or email <cliffres@connexus.net.au>

Victoria Branch afoot!

Heritage walking tour of Melbourne and visit to Heritage Victoria, 11 October

History revisited the Heritage Walking Tour in more ways than one as light rain began to fall just before the start of our walk – a rare sight in Melbourne recently. Led by Jenny Restarick, an enthusiastic group of eight members shook the cobwebs off their umbrellas and set off from the modern DSE building on the corner of Nicholson and Albert Streets, following the route mapped out by Heritage Victoria (<www.heritage.vic.gov.au/page.asp?ID=212>).

Heading down La Trobe Street, we passed the charming Royal Society of Victoria building complete with the old weather station in the Royal Society Gardens, which has been in continuous operation since 1908.

Our first stop was Russell Street Police Headquarters, ‘a rare, surviving example of an early stepped geometric New York or Los Angeles style skyscraper’. Then down Swanston Street, with many old buildings, taking a slight detour into Curtin House, which once housed the Genealogical Society.

From there we continued to the Melbourne Town Hall, taking advantage of the free tea and coffee on offer in honour of Seniors Week. On the way, we stopped to admire the more avant-garde architecture of the new Melbourne City Council offices, claimed to be ‘Australia’s greenest and healthiest purpose built office building’. It cost over \$50 million to build, but the environmentally friendly aspects of the building are an example for future heritage.

The tea and coffee at Melbourne Town Hall – itself a wonderful architectural site – revived us and we emerged to admire the Manchester Unity (MU) building and Capitol House opposite. Some lovely old buildings adjoining the Capitol were not on the official walk, but are certainly worthy of notice. The MU building was the tallest in Melbourne when it was completed in 1932 and it was the first building to have escalators. It is another prime example of interwar architecture, now home predominantly to jewellers.

Next door to the MU building, Capitol House was designed by Walter Burley Griffin. Completed in 1924 – another interwar period building – it still retains many of its original features. It was innovative in its time because it combined offices, shops and a cinema in a single building. The Capitol Cinema is still in operation today.

For the sturdy tramper, the Heritage Walk then heads further down past Flinders Street Railway Station, and includes the National Gallery and Sydney Myer Music Bowl among other sites. But, after all the excitement, we climbed on the tram to be transported back to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) building to meet with Frances O’Neill from Heritage Victoria.

Heritage Victoria is part of the DSE. Frances is the Senior Historian and Manager of Assessments. She gave us an overview of the organisation and explained how places and objects are added to the Victorian Heritage Register.

Anyone can nominate a potential addition to the Register including, but not limited to, buildings, gardens, structures,

trees, shipwrecks, archaeological sites, objects or historical precincts. The criteria for assessment are the historical, architectural, cultural and/ or scientific significance of the place or object.

When a nomination is received, Heritage Victoria undertakes research to determine the significance of the nomination and the Executive Director recommends a decision to the Heritage Council. The decision is then advertised in the *Herald-Sun* to allow time for objections. The Heritage Council then decides on the recommendation and the nomination is added to the Register. A tribunal is available for disputed decisions.

Work of Heritage Victoria must conform to the *Heritage Act 1995*. In the 1980s, there was a stronger emphasis on places and buildings, but since that time more diverse places and artefacts have been included such as shipwrecks, landscapes, bridges, tram sheds and tracks. Churches have always represented a major part of the Heritage Register not only for their religious importance, but for the social and community role they played.

Frances mentioned the work relating to transportation. An audit of the Register content revealed a dominance of train-related items, but very few for the car. As a result, the first car park in Melbourne was assessed and even two drive-in cinemas (Coburg and Dromana) were nominated.

The Heritage Register is available online for searching and some fascinating queries from the ANZSI group demonstrated the variety of its contents. The database containing the information is called HERMES and has extensive coverage with many local governments adding their collections to a combined catalogue. Searches by subject categories (further divided into subcategories) as well as personal names, places, streets, or suburbs are possible. Images are attached to many of the records as Heritage Victoria staff take photographs of each place they assess.

We were also treated to images of the historic railway precinct at Taradale and Spargo’s Hut, an old miner’s hut in the Alpine Shire. Global Positioning System (GPS) is used to record the exact location of Register entries and they are mapped on MapInfo to simplify the process of informing local councils of an addition to the Register in their area.

Heritage Victoria is aware of the constraints that can attach to a heritage listing for properties in particular. The organisation is realistic and recognises that strict enforcement of rigid regulations could mean that properties would be abandoned and fall into disrepair. Heritage Victoria’s aim is to preserve. They even make grants available to assist with preservation of heritage listed sites.

Frances described Melbourne as one of the world’s great examples of a Victorian city. After our heritage walk and our Heritage Victoria visit, we all agreed. It’s our heritage.

Jenny Restarick

ANZSI NSW President's Report 2006-07



This has been a successful year for ANZSI NSW, coordinated by our cohesive committee of four: Lorraine Doyle, Sue Flaxman, Tricia Waters, and myself. We met electronically most of the time, although we also managed two face-to-face meetings before other events. Thank you to the committee for the time and energy they have put into ANZSI this year.

We continued our training program, with another two-day session graciously hosted by Lorraine Doyle at Thomson Legal & Regulatory. We are grateful to her and to Thomson's for access to their facilities.

We also had a number of very enjoyable meetings – a New Year's lunch in Parramatta, a social lunch at Madeleine Davis's house in Blackheath (which brought visitors from Bathurst and Canberra) and an afternoon seminar on indexing specialities at the NSW Writer's Centre in Rozelle. The seminar included presentations by Madeleine Davis on indexing biographies, Mary Coe (a new member, previously resident in the US) on medical indexing, including Medline and long-distance indexing, Tricia Waters on cookbooks, and Caroline Colton on food and wine. As Lorraine pointed out in

her newsletter report, we had lots of fun. Oh, and yes, we all learnt something.

We plan similar events next year – another social lunch, more courses, and a combined legal indexing course (morning) and legal indexing panel discussion (afternoon).

A new offering from the Branch this year is the opportunity to apply for sponsorship to attend events presented by related groups such as editors. We have introduced this with the aim of encouraging cross-fertilisation with different professionals, and hoping that contacts by some of our members can spread useful information to all of our members. We've had no applicants yet – but you can be the first.

ACT Region and NSW members have held preliminary discussions about hosting a joint conference in Wollongong in 2009. Final decisions will be made by incoming committees, as they will be the ones who have to see the project through.

One of the roles of ANZSI Branch Presidents is to represent NSW on the ANZSI Council. One of our challenges in this area is working out how best to communicate with members from three states and two countries. Council has been examining electronic communication options including teleconferencing, and we in NSW hope that the introduction of something along these lines will increase the sharing of ideas between Council members.

Glenda Browne

Congratulations to Glenda Browne on her Ig Nobel Prize for Literature

On 4 October 2007 (Glenda writes), I was awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for Literature, for an article I had written for *The Indexer* in 2001 on the contradictions that arise when alphabetising index entries that start with 'The'.

The Ig Nobels are a spoof on the real Nobel Prizes, and are awarded for research that makes people **laugh**, and then **think**. Ten awards are given each year from a pool of about 7000 nominations. This is probably the most prestigious spoof award in the world!

The award was presented at a ceremony at the Sanders Theatre, Harvard University. This is a beautiful old wooden theatre, enhanced by the occasional paper aeroplane jetting across the room.

The winners are a small part of the proceedings, speaking for only one minute each. They are backed up by a specially-written opera on the theme of the night ('chickens' this year!) and various speeches. These included one that contained nothing but the word chicken, well-supported with figures, graphs and a bibliography. There is also a welcome speech which consists solely of the words 'Welcome Welcome', and

speeches where speakers describe their work in 24 seconds, then again, for laypeople, in seven words.



The Ig Nobel line-up – Glenda sporting her 'THE'!

Of course I had to index the chicken Ig Nobels. All of the subheadings under 'chicken' and 'egg' referred to real Ig Nobel awards. The final entry says 'The chicken or the egg, which came first'. This perennial problem is also addressed in the two cross-references. The award is a wooden stand with a rubber chicken and plastic egg. Probably more valuable is the certificate signed by founder Marc Abrahams and five real Nobel Laureates.

I have written about the Igs on my website <www.webindexing.biz/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=458&Itemid=69>, with links to the two speeches I gave, and extracts from some of the media reports. Two of these are of particular interest: a list of discussions about 'The' on Language Log (one pointing out that it should not be written as 'the Language Log'), and a comment in a newspaper from the Philippines on problems with filing of names starting with Maria, especially as these are traditionally abbreviated as Ma.

Glenda Browne

The Creative Editor: publishing at the National Library of Australia

Susan Hall, Publications Manager at the National Library of Australia (NLA), was our speaker at the recent ACT Region Branch AGM. She described the recent changes in publishing and editing at the NLA. The Library's collections serve many purposes: to contribute to the understanding of Australian history and culture, to promote the knowledge and use of Library resources and to support scholarship.

A wide range of material is published: corporate and trade publications, the monthly magazine, books, cards, wrapping paper and more, all available in the Library's shop and online. The goal is to make publications and collections accessible to wider audiences – a proactive, creative approach

Susan described some of the books produced when the children's list started in 2006. She passed around a copy of *Guess Who?*, a guide to Australian animals for small children, and described the Australian Backyard Astronomy series, where the manuscript had been written and edited to present authoritative content in a fresh and attractive way, to appeal to adults and children.

She also mentioned the Australian Life Series, inspired by the booming interest in life stories. The series, intended for general readers and secondary and tertiary students covers people such as Alan Moorehead and Kylie Tennant who have made significant contributions to Australia. The series has implications for the staff concerned – they will need a greater knowledge of the collections, time to find the relevant stories, and a greater understanding of what people want to read.

The NLA uses a stable of freelance indexers, with subject specialists used where necessary. Five to seven days are allowed for an index, which may involve authors, editors, and indexers.

In conclusion, Susan said that the NLA offers writers opportunities and support, plans to create and shape books stressing the importance of design and usability, and makes the collections accessible to wider audiences, while maintaining high research and production quality. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting talk.

Edyth Binkowski

Indexers tour to Europe 2008

Are you interested in joining the Indexers Tour to Europe to be held in June-July 2008? ANZSI Vic Branch has planned a tour to Europe which is open to all ANZSI members and their partners, friends, etc. The tour will cover four countries – Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and England and consists of a balance between professional indexing/library activities and tourist activities.

The tour will commence in **Amsterdam** on 23 June 2008 and will conclude at the beginning of the **Society of Indexers Conference in Winchester** on 11 July 2008. It is hoped that a considerable contingent of ANZSI members will attend the SI Conference. Travel to and from Europe will be with Malaysian Airlines. We will be using a driver and coach to travel around the various countries, with the exception of a flight between Brussels and Dublin, and a ferry ride between Rosslare (Ireland) and Pembroke (Wales). Accommodation is in 3-star or better hotels throughout, including breakfast daily.

We will be meeting with members of the Netherlands Indexing Network, representatives of the Ireland Branch of SI, and SI members in the UK.

A brief outline of some of the places we have planned to visit follows – there is also leisure time scheduled throughout the tour.

Netherlands – Leiden University (16th and 17th century indexes); De Valk Windmill Museum (Leiden); The Hague Peace Palace; The Abbey (12th century) in Middelberg; Delta (Zeider Zee) Engineering Project; Delft pottery.

Belgium – Peter Paul Rubens house and museum (Antwerp) and Plantin Moretus Museum (printing museum – Antwerp); Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art (for Tintin fans, in Brussels); chocolate factory visit (Brussels); Mundaneum (amazing library at Mons), as well as a War Cemetery at Mons; Brugge (Bruges, a beautiful city).

Ireland – Trinity College (Book of Kells)— Dublin, and National Library of Ireland (Dublin); Birr (indexing colleague); Lakes of Killarney and Ring of Kerry; Blarney Castle; Cork, Waterford Crystal (Waterford).

England – Hay-on-Wye (bookshops); Bath, Sissinghurst (castle gardens); Canterbury, University of Kent (cartoon indexing); Southampton (Ordnance Survey); Winchester.

The **return date** is open.

Costing is based on a minimum of 15 adults travelling together: two adults sharing a room: A\$7240 each; one person in a single room: A\$8495.

All travel arrangements are being handled by Harvey World Travel, Carnegie. A colour brochure with the full itinerary will be available very shortly. If you would like to receive a brochure please contact Max McMaster in the first instance at <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com> with your name and address and I will arrange for HWT to send the brochure to you.

A stopover in Kuala Lumpur is also possible if desired.

Max McMaster

Brisbane – Nuts & Bolts of indexing!

Monday, 10 March 2008, at 6.00 for 6.30 pm

Queensland indexers, editors, librarians, archivists, teachers, authors and technical communicators are invited to a free session, where you will be able to ask Max McMaster all your questions about indexing and then join Max for dinner and discussion afterwards. Entry is FREE!

The venue in Brisbane will be advised in the next newsletter.

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