

ANZSI Newsletter

 **Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.**
Volume 8 | number 9 | October 2012

ANZSI News



Margaret Findlay

It is with great sadness I have to tell you that Margaret Findlay (also known as Margaret Hughes) died on 8 September.

Margaret's wonderful organisational skills had a tremendous impact on ANZSI. With her efficiency and eye for detail she organising the first AusSI (as we were then) Conference in Marysville in 1995 and was heavily involved in organising the Hobart Conference and all subsequent Victorian based conferences. She was Treasurer to both Victorian Branch and Council.

The funeral for Margaret was held on 13 September at the lovely United Church in Hawthorn. It has an unusually wide layout, rather than long and narrow, which made it more intimate. The large pipe organ was expertly played. There were about 50 there, including at least 12 ANZSI members. I passed on ANZSI condolences to her husband Kevin and to Margaret's Sydney based family and will forward this issue of the Newsletter to them.

Margaret and Kevin were loyal supporters of Vic Branch events often turning up with sandwiches or biscuits to share or hosting Committee meetings. Her warmth and friendship will be greatly missed by many members. Karen Gillen has written a tribute to her, which you can find on page 8.

Treasurer

Max McMaster has kindly agreed to be Treasurer. A BIG thank you to Max for agreeing to take this on.

Elizabeth Wood-Ellem

In the same week we learnt Elizabeth Wood-Ellem died. Elizabeth had been a member of ANZSI for many years and served on the Victorian Branch Committee. One of the first ANZSI events I went to was a talk Elizabeth gave on her research on Queen Salote of Tonga. I found this description which gives a glimpse into her wonderful sense of humour and the hassles she had researching: http://epress.anu.edu.au/tpl/mobile_devices/ch10.html.

John Simkin has written a tribute to her, which you can find on page 9.

ANZSI Survey 2012

As promised, a summary of the results of the ANZSI survey as presented to Council is published below and on subsequent pages.

Council welcomes feedback from members.

ANZSI logos

To ensure a correct form of the ANZSI logo is used, files of the logo have been placed on the website at:

www.anzsi.org/site/anzsi_docs.asp

Understanding appreciated

As you can imagine, ANZSI Council members have been busy assisting with the tasks Margaret usually carried out with great efficiency. All tasks such as emptying the PO Box, banking cheques, handling manual membership renewals, and compiling 2011-12 finances have been shared around. In the process we have learnt that the system accepts very late renewal money even though the member is no longer in the system. Your understanding as we find our feet, learn new tasks and work out more efficient processes would be greatly appreciated.

Mary Russell

ANZSI Survey 2012

Summary of results

Introduction

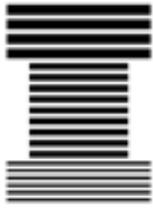
This is a summary of the results of the ANZSI survey. Full results are available at:

www.anzsi.org/site/council_mins.asp.

Key Points

- There were 90 responses to the survey.
- Most respondents are freelance indexers.
- Change the word 'Registration' to 'Accreditation'.
- Respondents are not sure of benefits of Registration.
- Some respondents are interested in Registration as a database indexer.
- Less than 25% of indexers' income comes from indexing.

(continued on page 3)



**Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers Inc.**

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 expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society. For details about contributions and editorial matters, refer to the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.

Advertising rates

Full page: \$200.00

Half page \$100.00

Quarter page: \$50.00.

These are all per issue – the former annual rate has been discontinued.

ANZSI contact information

ANZSI's general email address is:

<ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org>.

Further contact details in PDF format are available on the ANZSI website at <www.anzsi.org>.

ANZSI Annual General Meeting

Melbourne, 31 October 2012

Due to the cancellation of the Victorian Branch's training seminar it has been necessary to reschedule the Annual General Meeting. Notice is therefore given that the AGM will now be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 31 October at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick Victoria (Melway 67, F2). The agenda will be as published in the September issue of the Newsletter and may also be found on the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=271>.

*Michael J Ramsden
Secretary, ANZSI*

Victorian Branch AGM dinner

Melbourne, 31 October 2012

The Victorian Branch AGM Dinner has been rescheduled and will now follow the ANZSI AGM on Wednesday, 31 October, at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick.

The cost of the three course dinner is \$40. For more details and to RSVP please visit the ANZSI website Events page.

<www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=280>

*Nikki Davis
President, Victorian Branch*

Dragon Indexing seminar in Bendigo

This seminar, planned for 19–21 October, has now been cancelled.

NSW Branch holiday gathering

Saturday 17 November

Frances Lennie will present

'Index as Canvas: Impressionism vs. Precisionism'

followed by a social lunch.

11.00 am: presentation at Thomson Reuters, 100 Harris St, Pyrmont

12.30 pm: lunch at Pyrmont Point Hotel (pay-as-you-go, menu available at <www.pyrmontpoint.com.au>)

If you can't make it to the presentation, feel free to join us for lunch!

RSVP by 14 November to

Lorraine Doyle at <Lorraine.Doyle@thomsonreuters.com>.

Parking on site if you send your name and rego number in advance.

ANZSI website: <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=283>

Mary Coe

(ANZSI Survey 2012 – summary of results, continued from page 1)

- About a quarter of respondents earn no income from indexing.
- Over 75% earn \$15,000 or less from indexing.
- If not a full-time indexer, income is gained from editing, proofreading or library work.
- While most do back-of-book indexing, more than half only indexed between one and five books in the last year.
- The main other types of indexing done is indexing annual reports and journals, and database indexing.
- There is strong support for pro bono or volunteer indexing, with work being done for clubs, historical societies and libraries.
- Most freelance indexers use an hourly rate to determine their rates
- The majority charge less than ANZSI's recommended rate of \$65.
- Rate can vary depending on type of indexing and the client.
- A few indexers do work for overseas clients such as UK, USA/Canada or Asia.
- Over a third of respondents feel there should be 5-year renewal of Registration, with a third unsure and remainder against. These mixed responses are reflected in the comments from both Registered and unregistered indexers.
- Just over a quarter believe renewal of Registration should be solely dependent on physical indexing skills.
- Over a third of respondents believe renewal of Registration should be linked to continuing professional development.
- There is interest in continuing professional development being recognised through a higher-level membership with about one third wanting Council to consider it.
- While about two thirds of respondent are listed in Indexers Available only about half are sure it has resulted in work.
- Main reasons for not being listed in Indexers Available are lack of experience or unavailable.
- About a third of respondents subscribe to *The Indexer* with about a quarter planning to subscribe.
- Over a third of respondents plan to go to the 2013 Conference in Wellington, New Zealand with nearly a third undecided.
- The main courses respondents are interested in are website indexing, advanced indexing, using CINDEXTM software, embedded indexing using MS Word, peer review indexing course such as Basic Indexing part 3, annual report indexing, using Sky Index software and thesaurus / taxonomy creation.
- The main challenges for indexers are finding enough work and extending my skills, followed closely by broadening my client base, keeping up with new technology, maintain and extending networks and then finding interesting work.
- Popular email lists respondents belonged to are ALIA Indexers and Index-L
- Over a third of respondents belong to LinkedIn. Other popular responses were to have their own website, Facebook account or Twitter account.

- Over half felt their expectation of the Society had been fully met with only one responding 'not at all'.
- There is lots of praise for the Newsletter with some suggestions for improvement. General comments also raised concerns with Indexers Available, lack of activities for members without a branch or some distance from a branch, requests for more members on committees, suggestions for online training, and comments on how Branches and Council work together.

Responses

We had 90 responses to the survey, which is slightly less than half the membership. The survey was set up using Google Docs. While the survey link was sent via email, copies were posted to members without email or where email bounced back.

A breakdown of where responses came from is given below:

Australian Capital Territory	11	12%
New South Wales	22	24%
New Zealand	13	14%
Queensland	10	11%
South Australia or Northern Territory or Tasmania or Western Australia	6	7%
Victoria	28	31%

A breakdown of years of membership is given below:

0 - 3 years	24	27%
4 - 6 years	16	18%
7 - 10 years	15	17%
More than 10 years	34	38%

What type of indexer?

Most respondents describe themselves as a Freelancer (64) with some trainees (14) and a few employed by organisations (5), volunteers (2) or retired (4).

Registration

When asked 'There is a suggestion to change the name of Registration to Accreditation. Which term do you prefer?' There was a strong response in favour of the change to 'Accreditation' (68).

The first question asked 'Are you a registered indexer?' Only just over one third (34) of respondents are Registered.

Registered indexers were then asked to 'How do you think Registration has benefited/not benefited your career?' While some respondents felt it gave them self-confidence in knowing their index had been reviewed by peers and led to work, the vast majority of the respondents were unsure of the benefits and wondered if it was of any benefit at all.

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Unregistered indexers were asked if they plan to seek Registration. Only just over a quarter (27) of those responding said yes, with four indicating they would do so within the next year.

Unregistered indexers were asked 'If you don't plan to seek Registration, why not?' Again, comments indicate they are unsure of the benefits of Registration.

There were 28 responses interested in Registration as a database indexer.

Income

Most respondents (61) earn less than 25% of their income from indexing. When asked to put a figure on this about a quarter (24) indicated they actually earned no income from indexing, another quarter earned less than \$5,000, not quite a quarter (19) earned between \$5,001 and \$15,000 and the remainder (20) earned more than \$15,001.

Other work

Respondents were asked 'If not a full-time indexer, how would you describe the other paid work you do?' Popular choices were editing (27) and proofreading (20) with some library work (18).

Type of indexing

Back of book indexing is the main sort of indexing done with 66 respondents indicating they did some in the past year. Over half of these (37) had indexed between 1 and 5 books in the past year, with more than a quarter (18) doing between 6 and 15 book indexes, five doing between 16 and 25 indexes and six doing more than 25 indexes in the past year.

Indexing annual reports is the next most popular sort of indexing with twenty respondents, followed by journal indexing (15), database indexing (10) and then embedded (5) or website indexing (5) and only a few doing genealogy indexing (3) or indexing newspapers (2).

Number of items indexed

It is possible to get conservative estimates on the number of items indexed by respondents. For back of book indexes, the 66 respondents indexed about 550 books. The 20 respondents indicating they indexed annual reports indexed about 115 reports. The five respondents doing embedded indexing did about 18 indexes.

Volunteer indexing

There is strong support for pro bono or volunteer indexing. Only eight respondents said they would never do any. While most said they hadn't done any (48) there were a high number who did (32). Most pro bono or volunteer indexing is done for clubs (11), historical societies (9) or libraries (6).

Rates

Most respondents (47) use an hourly rate to determine their rates, with a few (12) using a per page rate.

The majority (48) charge less than ANZSI's recommended rate, with nineteen charging the recommended rate and five charging more.

About a quarter charge the same rate regardless of the type of indexing job, another quarter charge rate depending on type of indexing. An interesting range of other methods is given with the most popular depending on client (19).

Overseas clients

A few indexers (12) did work for overseas clients. These clients were from UK (7), USA/Canada (4) and Asia (4).

Renewal of Registration and Continued Professional Development

Over a third of respondents (37) feel there should be 5-year renewal of Registration, with a third (31) unsure and remainder (21) against. In the full report I separated the comments from Registered indexers and those from unregistered. In both cases these mixed responses are reflected in the comments.

Just over a quarter (25) believe renewal of Registration should be solely dependent on physical indexing skills. The remainder either responding no (23), unsure (21) or don't want renewal of Registration (19).

Over a third of respondents (35) believe renewal of Registration should be linked to continuing professional development, such as attendance at conference or seminars, presentations of papers, etc.

There is interest in continuing professional development being recognised through a higher-level membership. The remaining respondents either responded no (18), unsure (17) or didn't want renewal of Registration (16).

A later question asked 'A suggestion has been made for ANZSI to develop a formal mechanism for recognising indexing-related continuing professional development (CPD) achievements of members. Would recognition of CPD achievements through a higher member level, e.g. 'knowledgeable member', be something you would like to see Council consider?' Just over one third of respondents said yes (33), with nearly equal numbers responding no (27) or unsure (28).

Indexers Available

About two thirds of respondents (68) are listed in Indexers Available, with most (50) having updated their entry in the past year. Only about half of those listed (35) believe their listing has resulted in work. Main reasons for not being listed are lack of experience or unavailable.

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The Indexer

About a third of respondents (31) subscribe to *The Indexer* with about a quarter (23) planning to subscribe. Another quarter (22) doesn't want to subscribe because they find it too expensive.

2013 Conference

Over a third (36) of respondents plan to go to the 2013 Conference in Wellington, New Zealand. About a quarter (25) were undecided.

Training

The main courses respondents are interested in are website indexing (32), advanced indexing (31), using CINDEXTM software (26), embedded indexing using MS Word (24), peer review indexing course such as Basic Indexing part 3 (19), annual report indexing (18), using Sky Index software (15) and thesaurus / taxonomy creation (13).

Challenges for indexers

The main challenges for indexers are finding enough work (39), and extending their skills (39), followed closely by broadening their client base (38), keeping up with new technology (37), maintaining and extending networks (31) and then finding interesting work (19).

Email lists

Popular email lists respondents belonged to are ALIA Indexers (27) and Index-L (24) with only a few belonging to other indexing email lists.

Social Media

Over a third of respondents (33) belong to LinkedIn. Other popular responses were to have their own website (15), Facebook account (12) or Twitter account (11).

Expectations of the Society

Over half (46) felt their expectation of the Society had been fully met with only one responding not at all.

General comment questions

All comments are listed in the full Survey report and will be studied by Council. Here I have picked out specific themes covered by several respondents to give a general overview of what has been suggested.

Improvements at local/branch level

- Lack of branches in particular states or difficulty attending meetings due to distance is of concern.
- Several requests for more activities, including training.
- Would like more members to be part of Branch Committees.

Improvements to services such as Indexers Available, Newsletter or website

- There is lots of praise for the Newsletter, with suggestions for additional content.
- Many comments were made about Indexers Available and how it should be improved.
- There were a few constructive comments about improvements to the website.

Improvements at national level

- Requests for internet-based learning packages and more comprehensive training.
- Lots of comments on how Branches and Council work together. Some want more society-wide focus and less Branch focus, others better Branch involvement including suggesting the use of teleconferencing.

Items for Council

The responses provide useful information about members, such as the type of indexing done and what other work they are doing. A couple of things to be noted by Council are:

- Back-of-book indexing is the main type of indexing done, but of those indexing books over half are only doing between one and five indexes.
- Indexing is typically only one way respondents earn an income, with most doing other work such as editing or proofreading.
- Income earned from indexing is typically less than 25% of total income and for three quarters it is either nothing or less than \$15,000.

There are several items for council to consider. Some are very straightforward, such as changing the term Registration to Accreditation. Council is already discussing some, such as changes to Indexers Available, but others need to be considered and prioritised by Council. I am just going to list the items – it is up to Council to decide if it is something it wants to consider further.

- Change 'Registration' to 'Accreditation'.
- Only just over one third of respondents are Registered. Of those unregistered only slightly more than a third said they would seek Registration. While there are respondents who see the benefits of Registration, a high proportion have doubts. Should ANZSI continue with Registration? If so, what steps is it going to take to convince members it has benefits?
- There are respondents interested in Registration as a database indexer. Is Council going to reconsider this?
- Most respondents are indexing between one and five back of book indexes a year and earning most of their income from other work or other sources. Are trainee indexers made aware of this reality?

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- The conservative number of books indexed by 66 respondents is 550. Is this a low number compared with the number of books published in a year?
- Renewal of Registration is not clear cut. While slightly more respondents want it, many are unsure. Some believe it should be based solely on physical indexing skills and others want it linked to continuing professional developments. How is Council going to address this?
- There is interest in continuing professional development being recognised through a higher-level membership. Is Council going to consider this?
- With most respondents charging less than ANZSI recommended rate, should the recommended rate remain at \$65?
- There are some doubts about whether being listed on Index Available is providing work. There are several comments that Index Available needs to be improved. How is Council going to address these concerns with IA?
- Clear pointers have been given for future training requirements. How best can these requests be met?
- How can ANZSI assist to overcome the challenges indexers feel they have?
- There are requests for more activities, particularly from those without a branch or distant from branch activities. How can these requests be met?
- Examine the suggestions for content of the Newsletter.
- Consider the improvements suggested to the Website.
- Consider the comments on training improvements.
- Examine the comments on how Branches and Council work together.

Thank you

Thank you to all members who took the time to complete the survey. The results are very useful: not only do we have your opinions on what you think of ANZSI and items for consideration, but we now have a greater understanding of just how much indexing you are doing and what types.

Mary Russell

Indexing degustation



The offerings this month are unlikely to have you reaching for the antacids. It was a pleasure to find the *New Yorker* Fiction Index because fiction does not get much of an innings in the world of indexing. It is a pleasure too to see that some big publishers have been grabbed by the short and curlies and shorn of their nefarious practices.

The latest issue of *The Indexer* features biographical indexing and an article by the indexer of Samuel Johnson, arguing for the ‘readability’ of an index, also took my eye.

New Yorker Fiction Index

Do any of you read the *The New Yorker's* fiction and wished you could find that story by F. Scott Fitzgerald again? Well, you can now by using the online index. It is a neat and tidy piece of work which indexes short stories from 1925 to the present. There are four search options; by date, author, title and tags. You can search all fields or a selection. The date field is a sliding ‘thingy’ so a range can be chosen.

For example, I searched for Fitzgerald in the author field, limited to 1925 plus a few years (it is hard to judge on the sliding scale). Two items resulted, one each for F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. The results are listed in columns: issue, piece (title), author, gender and tags (number of). Click on the title and three columns are revealed. Details lists title, author (link), and date. Tags lists all tags, e.g. Automobiles (63), which are searchable. The third column states that access to the archives is free for subscribers of *The New Yorker*. If you are an existing subscriber, sign up for access or become a subscriber. The site is not affiliated with *The New Yorker*.

<<http://newyorkerfiction.com/Pieces.aspx>>

Ebook prices set to plummet

Ebooks in the UK should be cheaper after the European Commission has asked four major publishers and Apple to stop engaging in a concerted practice to raise prices. The EC said that publishers Hachette Livre, HarperCollins, Macmillan and Simon & Schuster, and Apple had, by ‘jointly’ moving to an agency model for ebooks, ‘engaged in a concerted practice with the object of raising retail prices of ebooks’ or preventing ebook discounting in Europe, in breach of European law.

The agency model, also in use in America, enables publishers rather than retailers to set the prices of ebooks. Retailers, such as Sony and Amazon who have not entered into agreements with publishers, can set their own prices, sometimes as low as 20p. This has led to protest from authors.

The EC said that while the four publishers and Apple do not agree with its preliminary assessment, they have agreed to a range of commitments concerning the matter. These include terminating agency agreements with Apple and, for a period of two years, refraining from restricting ebook retailers’ choice to reduce prices. The conduct of Pearson, parent company of the publisher Penguin, is also under investigation.

Philip Jones, editor of book industry magazine *The Bookseller*, called the agreements ‘a major victory for Amazon and its philosophy of low prices’, just as he said the settlements in the US have been. He said there should be renewed discounting from major publishers’ ebooks, which is good for readers if not for publishers and bookshops.

Responding to the announcement, Hachette Livre said in a statement that it ‘remains confident that it did not

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(Indexing degustation, continued from previous page)

violate the antitrust [monopoly] laws, and has made no admission of liability'. 'Hachette Livre considers that its unilateral decision to enter into agency agreements with Apple and other e-retailers was in the best longer-term interests of the whole book universe including authors, readers and booksellers of all kinds. However, Hachette Livre has decided that the costs, length, and distractions of the proceedings before the European Commission would be too disruptive to its business and to the development of ebook markets in general,' the publisher said.

<www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/sep/19/ebook-prices-european-commission-apple>

Brutally frank

From a letter written on 21 January 1979 by Roger Mortimer (in *Dear Lupin ...* by Charlie and Roger Mortimer (London: Constable, 2011), pp. 89–90):

I have been reading the proofs of a book of mine due out in April. The lady who compiled the index must have been pissed when she did her work: no sober individual could have done such a lamentable job. I have just sent in a note of protest that will ruffle a few feathers (I hope).

Sidelights. Issue no. 3 Autumn 2012

An indexer's life of Johnson

Christopher Phipps has written an absorbing article describing his approach to indexing works of 'life writing' (biographies, autobiographies, memoirs etc.) using his index to Peter Martin's Samuel Johnson as an example. Two themes inform his approach; adding value, and capturing the spirit and tone of the book. Books indexed with these in mind produce indexes which can be 'read as much as they are consulted' and provide a complementary narrative to the text.

Names should be thought of as people, and as a cast in a biography can be classified into four or five types:

The leading man or woman. The metatopic in a biography which is often not granted an index entry. Phipps argues that this is a lost opportunity to add value to the text, for the index entry can provide a useful synopsis of the character's life. If an index entry is included, there is likely

to be a great number of subheadings. These may include actions, characteristics, relationships, views, and works. In this case, actions are listed first, and in chronological order which may involve more work for the indexer. Subheadings for characteristics such as physical attributes and personality are arranged alphabetically. Johnson's works were treated to a *see* reference listing individual titles as an added value for readers who are not familiar with all the titles.

Lead supporting actors. These may require a similar treatment.

Secondary players. Characters which come and go. In Phipps' index, actor David Garrick's entry covers over 50 separate textual references divided into about 30 alphabetically ordered subheadings.

Walk-on parts. The tricky character here is the person who makes multiple but insignificant appearances. These should not be treated as 'passing mentions' and omitted, but included with a mere string of locators to stress their lowly role.

Expert witnesses. These are characters who can be both information sources and contemporaries of the main player. James Boswell is a good example. There is an entry for 'Boswell, James' with a list of subheadings describing the man and his personal and professional life, and a separate subentry devoted to his Life of Johnson. Within this were two groups; on the book itself, and Boswell's views on certain subjects. But there is more! Another grouping was made for Boswell's accounts of Samuel Johnson's character, attributes and views. Phipps has designated 'London' as a character because of its importance in Johnson's life.

He concludes by saying that we should remember that we are dealing with stories of people's lives and thus in our formation of headings we should do so with flair and creativity. He quotes historian Hugh Trevor-Roper who says the index 'must be readable in itself, continuously, as an added chapter', which if you consult it first, 'you will then want to read the book'.

Christopher Phipps. 'An indexer's life of Johnson.'
The Indexer Vol. 30 No. 3 September 2012

Jane Purton

IDPF EPUB Indexes Working Group update

The EPUB Indexes Working Group is now examining the technical details required for implementation of the use cases that have been identified. Most of the heavy lifting here is being done by the group members who are knowledgeable about XHTML and EPUB.

There is a detailed discussion paper at <code.google.com/p/epub-revision/wiki/IndexesFilesets> about the way in which index documents will be identified, for example when one index is split across several XHTML documents, or when one Publication contains more than one index. The approach that is chosen will have to balance clarity, brevity and functionality.

Ideally, indexes will use attributes that are already used in EPUB, although a recommendation can be made for the addition of a new attribute if it is considered important enough. This would have to be incorporated in the next upgrade.

Glenda Browne

Vale Margaret Findlay (15 May 1940 – 8 September 2012)

Members of the ANZSI Council and the Victorian Branch attended a Service of Thanksgiving for Margaret Findlay on Thursday, 13th September, at Auburn Uniting Church, Hawthorn. Although hearts were heavy with sadness over the loss of our good friend and colleague, there was a shared sense of relief that at last her suffering was over. She had endured such debilitating and agonising pain for so long.

Margaret's husband, Kevin, presented a deeply moving tribute to his wife, stressing what a lovely person she was. Indeed, anyone who met Margaret could not have avoided noting her natural elegance, warmth, charm and wit. Those of us who worked with her also came to rely on her thoroughgoing professionalism, sharp mind, unstinting meticulousness, superb organisational skills and strong sense of ethics.

I first met Margaret ten years ago. I had relocated to Melbourne from Queensland and was heartened by her gracious welcome when I attended my first Victorian Branch AGM/Dinner. After Margaret had moved on to greet some other arrivals, another new Vic Branch member remarked (about Margaret), "If that's what being an indexer does for you, I want to be one!" I was soon to learn that this awe-struck new member had it the wrong way around. It was not so much what indexing did for Margaret, but rather what she contributed to the indexing profession, and to the Society that was so impressive.

During her professional career, Margaret managed the Cunningham Library at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). At the same time, she also directed the Australian Education Index (AEI) project – one of Australia's largest indexing services. ANZSI was to benefit greatly from the experience and skills she developed in those roles.

Margaret first joined the Society in its earliest incarnation, the then Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI) (established in 1976). Some years later, she was employed as a consultant by the Society to organise its first international conference, *Indexers – Partners in Publishing*, held at Marysville in early 1995. Margaret then re-joined the Society in 1996, and remained a member ever since.

In 1997, Margaret volunteered to join the Victorian Branch Committee, and continued to provide ongoing

service until late 2010. During that fourteen-year period, she took on the roles of President (1998–99), Vice President (2010), and Treasurer (2002–06). She was the Convenor of AusSI's First International Conference, *Indexers – Partners in Publishing*, Marysville, Victoria, 31 March – 2 April 1995; of AusSI's Second International Conference, *The August Indexer*, Hobart, 27–29 August 1999; of ANZSI's International Conference, *Indexing: Engage, Enlighten, Enrich*, Melbourne, 17–19 March 2005; and of ANZSI's Conference, *The Indexing Life*, Melbourne, 15–17 March 2007). Margaret also edited *The August Indexer: Proceedings from the Second International Conference of the Australian Society of Indexers, Hobart, 27–29 August 1999*, Melbourne: AusSI, 2000.



Margaret's service to the Victorian Branch Committee overlapped with six years of service to the ANZSI Council. In 2006, she retired from her position of Treasurer on the Victorian Branch Committee to take up the role of Treasurer for the ANZSI Council, a role Margaret fulfilled with her customary diligence until the time

of her death.

During her 15 years of voluntary service to the Society, Margaret made significant and lasting contributions to the development of indexing as a profession and to the professionalism of ANZSI. She was a model committee and executive member. The capacity of ANZSI to fulfil its role depends on selfless and invaluable contributions such as hers. Her input will be greatly missed.

Margaret's friendship and generosity will also never be forgotten. Over the years, as near neighbours, we usually travelled together in her car to ANZSI meetings, activities and social occasions. In recent years another neighbour, Alan Eddy, was also our driver and/or travelling companion on the trek to Lilydale for Council meetings. They were good times, and with Margaret's wicked sense of humour, almost always filled with laughter.

Margaret is survived by her husband, Kevin Hughes (a popular figure at ANZSI Victorian Branch activities and social events) and Angus, her much-adored wheaten Cairn Terrier.

Karen Gillen

Vale Elizabeth Wood-Ellem 10 September 1930 – 8 September 2012

Elizabeth Olive Wood-Ellem had many roles including that of author, editor and indexer. She joined the Australian Society of Indexers in 1984 and remained a member until 2005 with a break during 1994 and 1995 while she was engaged abroad gathering material on Tonganese history.

Elizabeth was born in Tonga to Rev A Harold and Dr Olive Wood. Her parents were Methodist missionaries who lived in Tonga from 1924 to 1937. Elizabeth's education in Tonga was at the Tupou College of which her father was principal. When he transferred to Australia he became principal of the Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne.

Elizabeth obtained her BA in history from Melbourne University and in 1982 her PhD. She then went on to expand her research into the life of Queen Salote which was published in 1999 by Auckland University Press. Thus she earned her reputation as the foremost historian of Tonga.

After earning her first degree in 1953 Elizabeth became an editor working in London. There she was given the job of cataloguing the papers of E M Forster. She worked for some eighteen months in what had been Forster's rooms in King's College. This led to her being appointed archivist to Churchill College.



In Australia Elizabeth was engaged in editing and indexing and, among other activities, was an honorary senior fellow in the School of Historical Studies of the University of Melbourne.

I met Elizabeth through AusSI and continued to keep in touch with her until the end of her life. We would sometimes meet for afternoon tea at the tearooms on the Yarra River near her home. She was up-to-date on current affairs about which she always took a constructive view.

On one occasion Elizabeth asked me to help her with an indexing project which had a very tight deadline. She was great to work with and, although she had quite definite views, was never ruffled as we worked our way through the crisis.

All in all Elizabeth was one of those women who never needed to wave the feminist banner because they have never recognised that there is a problem to be solved by 'liberation'. She took her place easily in whatever field she found herself. She contributed to our Society through sharing her experiences in the real world of publishing, editing and indexing, by her keen mind and for several years as a member of the Victorian Branch committee.

John E Simkin

(Photo from Bruce Mullan's obituary of Elizabeth for the *Uniting World*, at <http://unitingworld.org.au/blogs/vale-elizabeth-wood-ellem/>. See also a fine obituary in *The Age* at www.theage.com.au/national/obituaries/historian-lauded-for-book-on-pacific-20121004-272ce.html.)

Ebooks and the Australian Law Librarians Association (ALLA)

Three ANZSI members (Mary Coe, Lorraine Doyle and I) attended a packed lunchtime event on ebooks run by the Australian Law Librarians Association (ALLA).

The main item featured Michael Gonzalez, the Digital Discovery and Services Coordinator at the University of Western Sydney (supported by David Sinfield, the Law Librarian) speaking about the UWS libraries' ebook collections. UWS has multiple campuses spread over Sydney, and finds that ebooks are a practical option for multi-campus, all-hours support, although many users ask for more print books.

The library's concerns are largely to do with licensing and technology rather than with content and access. For example, they object to clauses in which the library indemnifies the provider for loss, and while publishers try to protect copyright using Digital Rights Management (DRM), libraries would prefer to remove it. People underestimate the ongoing costs associated with ebooks, including technical support and testing as well as licence management.

Most of the books are available as PDFs and are viewed on computer screens rather than mobile devices, and then printed (at the user's cost). Because of the licensing agreements there are limits on the number of pages that can be printed by each user which causes some frustration. They had problems with Adobe Digital Editions because it is linked to the student's device, and doesn't transfer smoothly to the next user. They therefore no longer offer this option. EPUB formats are not common, as not many students use reading devices to access the collection.

The library uses a patron-driven acquisitions model. Many ebooks are loaded onto the system; when a user goes beyond the contents page of a sample ebook for at least three minutes, a purchase is triggered. This saves the library money, as books are only purchased when and if required.

There was also a discussion about research-based funding and the fact that this decreases the rewards (and therefore motivation) for academics to write legal textbooks.

This was an excellent opportunity to consider the ebook revolution from a different viewpoint.

Glenda Browne

Quiet achievers: Madeleine Davis

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

In short, I have. Many opportunities have come my way, as they do in everyone's life. I am happy with most of the decisions I have made. No particular person has influenced me, I am way too stubborn (or I used to be) to take advice. I think I have mostly made the right career and life choices along the way.

How did you come to an indexing career?

It was serendipity actually. I was working at the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal in 1994 during one of the federal government's downsizing periods. I was looking after personnel and was preparing packages for those staff who wanted to leave the public service. It was an open choice, no one was targeted by management. I remember it was a beautiful sunny day and my North Sydney office window looked out over the sparkling Sydney Harbour and the Bridge. It was a Sunday and I was working overtime in order to have the paperwork finalised to offer staff on the Monday morning. On an impulse, I added my name to the bottom of the list.

Then I did the MacLeay publishing course in Sydney which included an indexing section. I had it mind to be an editor in a publishing company but I so enjoyed the indexing part of the course that I undertook the (then) AusSI indexing course at UNSW with Alan Walker and Garry Cousins.

Then ... serendipity. I answered an advertisement for an indexer to work at Puddingburn, probably the only private indexing company in Australia at that time. It specialised in legal indexing and had been established by an editor/indexer who worked for Butterworths Australia, and was now run by her daughter. She was an excellent teacher, hence my own specialisation in legal indexing. Even more serendipitous was the fact that Puddingburn was located in Greenwich, a few streets from where I lived at that time and I could walk to work! It was meant to be ... right?

I went to the AusSI conference in Robertson and met many like-minded and interesting indexers so I joined the NSW Branch and I was hooked! I still pursued a notion that I would like to try editing and undertook the two year publishing/editing course at Macquarie University in the late 1990s. By that time, however, I was really enjoying my indexing work and about to leave Puddingburn and branch

out as a freelancer. I do think, however, that the Macquarie course was really useful, giving me an insight into the whole gamut of publishing – the commissioning, designing, editing, indexing, printing and marketing of publications, and I have learned to appreciate and sympathise with the editors with whom I work, who have such stressful schedules to adhere to.

What do you see as your greatest achievement?

Moving from the safety of my public service career to an unknown working future was a major step in my life.

What has been your biggest challenge?

All the books I index present mini-challenges in one way or another and it is this challenge that I look forward to in my work.

How do you try to achieve work-life balance?

Unfortunately after nearly 18 years as either a full-time or part-time indexer, I have yet to achieve this balance. My perfect schedules are sent into disarray by family events, late delivery of manuscripts (or even far too early delivery on a couple of occasions), general farting about and lack of discipline by me because I think I have loads of time, general underestimation of

the difficulty of the text and the time the indexing will take, and, currently, the demands of a part-time job in a legal centre that I have taken on. I know my health has suffered from such a sedentary work situation, but, I still enjoy it immensely.

What do you like most about your work? What do you like least?

The best thing about my work is the myriad and interesting subjects I have indexed. From sociology, politics, biography and history to surfing - *The Life of Michael Petersen*, cooking, parenting, how to beat cancer, having a baby. Actually, I have indexed three 'having a baby' books now, and by the end I just thought I should have a main heading of pain! Also, I now know everything one would ever need to know about Death Metal, a sub-genre of Heavy Metal – *Death Metal and Music Criticism: Analysis at the Limits*. I have been on train journeys all over the world courtesy of *Trains Unlimited in the 21st Century*. I know about the wonderful gift that birds give humans – *Sentinel Chickens*:

(continued on next page)



(Madeleine Davis, continued from previous page)

What Birds Tell Us About Our Health And Our World. I guess I could go on and on ... and so could many of you. Perhaps the most hilarious (and fascinating) title I ever indexed was *Hung Like an Argentine Duck: A Journey Back In Time To The Origins Of Sexual Intimacy* ... all penises great and small, purely scientific, of course!

What I like least has also been voiced in these pages before – there is rarely enough time to do the job to the best of one's ability. I compromise and try, but I am not always happy with my resulting index. It seems there is always more editing and refining that would make it perfect. On the other hand, once finished, it is out of my in-tray and I look forward to the next time.

What advice would you offer to indexers just starting out?

All the advice given by previous contributors to this series has been sound and useful advice to first-time indexers. And I agree with it all. What I can add, however, are two things. Unlike many other indexers, I have not come from a librarian or professional information management background but I have found this to be no disadvantage. What I did do, in the early stages of my indexing career (and still do) was to browse the indexes of books that I found of interest in bookshops. I can actually spend up to an hour in Gleebooks just following the references from indexes to the text and thinking if I would use the same terminology, focus etc.

If you could dine with a famous historical figure, who would it be?

I have always had a passion for science fiction, both in print form and films. I love the forward-looking, imaginative mind that can summon up the future, or, a possible future. So, it could be Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Arthur C Clarke, Philip K Dick, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Frank Herbert, Aldous Huxley, John Wyndham ...

In a game at a CINDEXTM reception during the May 2000 ASI conference, the team of Madeleine Davis, Elizabeth Street and Peggy Pedigo gave these answers:

How many indexers does it take to screw in a light bulb?
Five. One to vet the wattage. One to mark the place. One to convert to HTML. One to proofread. One to light up the user.

If indexers were vegetables, what vegetable would they be?
Mushrooms – kept in the dark and fed on shit (see Compost).

Knock, knock. Who's there?
Index.

Index who?

I need to look this up ... now where ... ?

Taken from: <www.levtechinc.com/indexing-resources/indexing-humor.asp>

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ANZSI and Branch events

Date and time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Tues 23 October 6.00 pm dinner	Qld Branch	Lisa Jones, Qld Police Museum	Salisbury Hotel, 668 Toohey Rd, Brisbane	Details at: < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=281 >
Wed 31 October 6.30 pm	ANZSI	AGM	Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick	Details on page 2 and at: < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=271 >
Wed 31 October 7.00 pm	Vic Branch	AGM dinner		Details on page 2 and at: < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=280 >
Wed 7 November 6 for 6.30 pm	Vic Branch	The VIC Don Jordan	Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kew	Details at: < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=284 >
Sat 17 November 11.00 am talk 12.30 pm lunch	NSW Branch	Frances Lennie: 'Index as Canvas'	Thomson Reuters 100 Harris St, Pyrmont	Details on page 2 and at: < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=283 >
13–15 March 2013	ANZSI	ANZSI 2013 Conference	Wellington, NZ	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/2013Conf.asp > Might you need a subsidy to get there? See the notice on p 4 of the September newsletter.

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