ANZSI Newsletter

Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.
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President's Report

The new ANZSI Council will have met by now, but I wrote this before the first meeting. It covers my general aims for the coming year. These will be revised and expanded as we get together (electronically) to discuss the future.

Outgoing Council

Firstly, thank you to members of the outgoing Council for their hard work and careful thought over the years. In particular, thank you for the advice and thorough handover you have given me and other incoming executive members.

As well as leading ANZSI, Mary Russell has played a key role in the international indexing community, especially as coordinator of ICRIS. She has also been a member of the Publicity and Promotion Committee, and has been – and will continue to be – a terrific webmaster.

The move to incorporated status followed by changes to the Act and model rules has involved a lot of work updating our Constitution and other documents. Michael Ramsden has done the lion's share of this and we are grateful for his knowledge and care in seeing the changes through. In addition he has maintained ongoing correspondence and regular sharing of documents for Council meetings.

Last year our long-term Treasurer Margaret Findlay died. I first met her as I entered the hotel for the Marysville Conference in 1995 and have valued her long involvement with ANZSI and indexing. After her death Max McMaster ably stepped into the Treasurer's role. I find it hard enough to make sense of my own financial records, so getting your head around ANZSI finances is a real achievement.

Many outgoing Council members have been involved in specific areas of development, and I am pleased that some are continuing in these roles, including Mary Russell as webmaster and Karen Gillen as Membership Secretary (for some time). Alan Eddy is compiling an inventory of ANZSI records which will provide a valuable basis for future organisation.

I'll write more on individual committees in the next issue as one of the first tasks for the new Council will be to confirm these.

New Council

The newly elected members of Council were announced on page 4 of the September 2013 *ANZSI Newsletter*. We have elected members from Tasmania (a Queensland Branch member), Victoria, ACT and NSW, and, of course, ex officio members from New Zealand, Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria.

I am delighted with the balance. We have relative newcomers and old hands; we have closed system (book) indexers and open system (database) indexers; and we have some continuity from the previous Council (Nikki Davis, who is now the Victorian President, and myself, with my brief service as a committee member).

Aims

Running Council requires a careful balancing act, as there are many competing claims for our time and money from our varied membership. The listed aims of ANZSI, at <www.anzsi.org/site/aimserv.asp>, provide a good basis from which to work.

My first priority is to get multi-location Council communication and meeting structure working well. There are technical and organisational challenges involved in this, but I am confident that with a bit of effort and experimentation we can do it. Mary Coe has taken on the role of 'Electronic Options Explorer' and has been communicating with teleconferencing companies and assisting us all to get connected.

My second priority is ongoing services (accreditation, awards, etc.) and my third is ongoing major projects. These are *Indexers Available* (and its relationship with the ANZSI website, and social media); Open System Indexing/ Database Indexing accreditation; and the 2015 conference in the ACT. I have confidence that these ongoing services

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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>.

*(**President's Report**, continued from previous page)*

and projects will be managed successfully by their respective organisers and committees, and I will support them as needed.

The ongoing project that I expect to be directly involved with is ebook indexing:

- The EPUB standard development continues, mostly now looking at technical details and working with the general EPUB upgrade.
- It is crucial that we promote ebook indexing to allied professionals, including librarians, editors, publishers, authors and technical writers, as well as to committed readers. If you are ever going to be talking to these groups and would like information or slides to use, please contact me.
- It will also be important to develop ebook indexing training. The challenges include the fact that expectations haven't been defined, and at this early stage we don't know what technologies publishers will be using. Some of us have had informal discussions about the development of training modules to cover the topics that are likely to be important for future indexers. These could be used to provide consistent training in Australia and New Zealand. Developing training from scratch is a huge task, and we will be looking for indexers (and perhaps other people) with specific skills as we develop these courses.

My preference is for this to be a year of consolidation, rather than the time to start anything new. We have a lot of important projects on the boil, and if we make solid progress on all of these we will have had a productive year.

Glenda Browne, President

ANZSI Annual Report 2012–13: Branch reports

ACT Region Branch

Committee members

President	Shirley Campbell
Secretary	Vacant (shared by Committee members)
Treasurer	Sherrey Quinn
Members	Edyth Binkowski, Barry Howarth, Denise Sutherland, Geraldine Triffitt

Committee meetings

The dates of Committee meetings are set to precede Council meetings so that the Committee is able to discuss items on the agenda, with their accompanying papers, for the forthcoming Council meeting. Meetings were held on the following dates: 17 July 2012, 4 September 2012, 8 October 2012 13 November 2012, 4 February 2013, 26 March 2013, 1 May 2013, 11 June 2013.

Branch events

Bowral conference, 28 / 29 July 2012: Biennial NSW/ACT Regional Conference. The theme of the conference was 'From pbooks to ebooks': focussing on digital publishing. Publishers' representatives were invited to outline their plans and developments in relation to digital publishing. There were 23 delegates (14 NSW Branch; 8 ACT; 1 Qld – resident in ACT).

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*(**ACT Region Branch Report**, continued from previous page)*

Annual General Meeting, 16 October 2012: The AGM and the dinner which followed were very successful. Thirteen attended the AGM and sixteen the dinner. The dinner is the annual social get-together for ACT Region Branch members and friends.

Frances Lennie's visit, 24 November 2012: Eleven participants (including two members of the Canberra Society of Editors) met to hear Frances speak on Indexing as Art: Impressionism vs. Precisionism.

On 26 November 2012 Diana Witt, a visiting indexer from the USA, joined five members of the Committee for a most enjoyable morning tea.

On 22 April 2013, following the biennial ANZSI Conference in NZ in March, a meeting was held at which members who attended the conference in Wellington could share information and opinions about the papers and proceedings with other members.

Training

No training was held in the ACT but members and others interested were encouraged to participate in training sessions offered by the NSW Branch.

Future events

'Working with Words', an afternoon session to discover how Denise Sutherland writes crosswords, cryptics and other puzzles: 6 July 2013.

A visit to the National Gallery of Australia's Research Library: 2 August 2013.

2013 Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 October 2013 which is the actual 21st anniversary of the founding of the ACT Region Branch. A celebration of the Branch is planned at a dinner to follow the AGM.

New South Wales Branch

Committee members

President	Frances Paterson
Vice-President	Glenda Browne
Secretary	Mary Coe
Treasurer	Sue Flaxman
Members	Madeleine Davis, Lorraine Doyle, Helen Enright, Elisabeth Thomas, Michael Wyatt

Committee meetings

The Committee has continued to meet by teleconference every month and, since Thomson Reuters facilities became unavailable, we have met using Skype. Committee members have also experimented with other teleconferencing facilities to test presenting documentation during meetings. Teleconferencing has made our meetings accessible to all Committee members who are located in both metropolitan Sydney and regional New South Wales.

Our Yahoo Discussion Groups email list has made circulating messages and information easier and more transparent; and the DropBox site for storing correspondence means that we can all access past papers and minutes of meetings.

Branch activities

28/29 July 2012: Regional conference 'From pbooks to ebooks' was held in conjunction with ACT Branch at Craigieburn in Bowral in the Southern Highlands. For the first time, indexers collaborated with publishers to consider the future of ebooks and digital indexing.

23 August 2012: NSW Branch Annual General Meeting was held at Golden Cinnamon Restaurant with Alan Walker as Returning Officer. The 2011–2012 Committee was re-elected for the new term, with the welcome addition of a new Committee member, Michael Wyatt.

September 2012: Some NSW members attended a lunchtime event on ebooks run by the Australian Law Librarians Association (ALLA).

17 November 2012: Holiday gathering. Guest speaker Frances Lennie gave an illuminating presentation on Index as Canvas: Impressionism vs. Precisionism at Thomson Reuters in Pyrmont, followed by lunch at the Pyrmont Point Hotel.

Training

7/8 July 2012: Introductory Book Indexing training course was held by Glenda Browne at Thomson Reuters in Pyrmont, with nine participants.

11 September 2012: Introduction to Embedded Indexing course was conducted by Jon Jermey, Mary Coe and Glenda Browne at NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle. The content included LibreOfficeWriter, CINDEX in embedded projects, and embedded indexes in ebooks.

1–28 February 2013: Intermediate/Practical indexing course, led by Glenda Browne, continued a new form of indexing training which Glenda is exploring, whereby students work at home, indexing a short book over four weeks. The groups have access to a YahooGroups mailing list to interact. The workshop had six participants, including two from South Africa, and it concluded with an optional face-to-face meeting (which didn't include the South Africans, alas!).

Social networking

ANZSI has a Facebook page with 72 'Likes' including non-members and other indexing societies and is joined to Twitter. Both are managed by ANZSI NSW members.

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(ANZSI Branch Reports, continued from previous page)

New Zealand Branch

The 2012–13 year was probably the most successful so far for the New Zealand Branch. Our membership rose to 30, the greatest so far.

Committee members

President	Julie Daymond-King
Vice President	Tordis Flath
Secretary	Rae Foster
Treasurer	Jill Gallop
Members	Nelly Bess, Robin Briggs, Geoff Kelly, Pam Strike, Meredith Thatcher

Branch activities

Nine members attended the AGM held in Auckland in August 2012. It is now planned that the next will also be held there.

Otherwise, the only event held was the 3-day biennial Society conference held in Wellington, in March. This of course was a major event, requiring much effort from a few members and the willing assistance of several more. We believe we did raise the profile of indexing amongst the publishers here, as well as provide a pleasant and interesting opportunity for all Society members to learn and network. We were very gratified by the response from the participants, as well as the welcome injection to our finances.

A revised local directory of freelance indexers was produced and issued in the lead-up to this event.

The Branch would like to praise and thank the members of the outgoing Council, whom we greatly respect and admire. Best wishes to you all, and many thanks for your support over the years for the officers of our Branch.

Queensland Branch

Executive Committee

President	Moira Brown
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Beryl Macdonald
Treasurer	Franz Pinz
Members	Mei Yen Chua, Vicki Law, Deirdre Kesteven, Jean Dartnall and Jan Rees.

Executive Committee Meetings

Three meetings were held: 16 August 2012; 9 April 2013; 12 June 2013.

Branch activities

The Annual General Meeting was held on 24 July 2012.

Nine General Meetings of the Branch were held:

24 July 2012 – Amanda Greenslade, Graphic Designer and Editor, was our AGM guest speaker.

28 & 29 August 2012 – Indexing guru Max McMaster held an 'Indexing Q & A ' evening in Brisbane and Townsville.

23 October 2012 – Lisa Jones, Curator of the Queensland Police Museum was our guest speaker.

27 November 2012 – Christmas Dinner Party at the Salisbury Hotel in Brisbane with Queensland members, their spouses and other industry colleagues.

26 February 2013 – Mei Yen Chua met interested trainees to discuss Queensland Branch's online indexing course.

26 March 2013 – Palaeontologist Dr Susan Turner.

23 April 2013 – Queensland Branch turned 5 years old this year. We celebrated with guest speaker and Queensland member Jane Douglas, giving us her impressions of the 2013 ANZSI Conference, in Wellington, NZ.

28 May 2013 – Elizabeth Riley, Librarian and long standing Branch member, on the American Society for Indexers Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

25 June 2013 – Branch members were invited to bring along their indexes to a 'Show and Tell' evening.

Training

Online indexing training is a pilot program using Queensland Indexer Mei Yen Chua as Mentor. It will be run from March to October 2013. The 13 trainees are using *The Indexing Companion* and its Workbook by Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey as texts, along with other unindexed books, which it is hoped will give indexing experience and confidence to new trainees..

Publications and marketing

A Freelance Directory of Queensland Indexers and a small brochure will be used for marketing Branch members. Along with the ANZSI bookmarks created by the Victorian Branch, we hope that the Queensland brochure will raise community awareness of Indexing in the community

Future events

27 August 2013 – Greg Parker, the Puzzle Wizard will be our guest speaker in Brisbane.

23 November (Saturday) – Christmas Party Lunch at the Norman Hotel, Wooloongabba, Brisbane.

Victorian Branch

Committee

President	Iris Bergmann
Vice President	Terri Mackenzie
Secretary	Ray Price
Treasurer	Nikki Davis
Member	Mary Russell

Committee meetings

Seven meetings were held: 3 July 2012, 14 August 2012, 24 September 2012, 12 November 2012, 29 January 2013, 27 March 2013, 20 May 2013.

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*(**Victorian Branch Report**, continued from previous page)*

Branch events

July – The VIC – Show and Tell
August – The VIC – Afternoon with Frances Lennie
September – The VIC – Indexing needlework tools
October – The VIC – Visit to the Australian Road Research Board Library
November – The VIC – Indexing and geotechnical engineering
December – The VIC – Festive season index
February – The VIC – Indexing with gusto!
March – The VIC – Multiple author indexes
April – The VIC – Indexing software
June – The VIC – Visual indexes

Training

October 2012 – Basic Book Indexing Part 1
October 2012 – Basic Book Indexing Part 2
February 2013 – Basic Book Indexing Part 1
February 2013 – Basic Book Indexing Part 2
February 2013 – Embedded Indexing in MS Word
February 2013 – Annual Report Indexing

Future events

September 2013 – The VIC – The business of indexing
November 2013 – The VIC – Indexing the ANZSI/AusSI Newsletter
December 2013 – The VIC – Christmas crossword

Vale

The Victorian Branch notes with sadness the deaths of two longstanding members, Margaret Findlay (whose passing is noted in the Council section of this Report) and Elizabeth Ellem-Wood.

ANZSI Annual Report: Conferences

ANZSI 2013 Conference: Intrepid Indexing without Borders

Conference Committee

Chair	Tordis Flath
Members	Elizabeth Fisher, Meredith Thatcher (until December 2012)
	Jill Gallop provided advice and assistance on financial matters, NZ Branch members assisted from time to time.

The Conference attracted 71 attendees, most from Australia, and 13 workshop participants. The Conference theme was carried through by many of our speakers. Our keynote speaker, Jan Wright, gave an inspiring address entitled 'Intrepid Indexing: from the sea to the stars'.

An important part of this Conference was looking at indexing for languages and cultures other than for English-speaking communities. Sessions covered Māori names and terms, East Asian (CJK) indexing, understanding Asian names, indexing practice in Japan, archiving and indexing history in the Pacific Islands, and database indexing for indigenous collections in Australia.

Panel discussions and roundtable discussions proved popular with ideas and comments freely flowing! Topics covered were Māori names and terms; typesetting dilemmas; Asian names; publishers, editors and indexers; indexing techniques and EPUB; running an indexing business; future electronic indexing; Pacific Islands archives and indexing history; indexing numbers; military history indexing, and reports from overseas societies about developments in Canada, USA, China and the UK. Ebook publishing and the EPUB3 Standard and Charter were also covered.

The Conference also included workshops on advice on tips and traps for indexers wishing to become accredited, advanced SkyIndex, and intermediate CINDEX.

Jan Wright held an 'InDesign' workshop on Tuesday morning, 12 March, attended by 13 people including 2 non-members. The ICRIS meeting was held at the conference venue on Tuesday afternoon. The cocktail function on Wednesday evening was well-attended and useful as a 'mixer' for attendees.

There were many requests pre-conference for a 'Lord of the Rings' tour and Hammonds Tours created a tour for ANZSI on Thursday, collected the 17-strong group near the conference venue, made sure they were provided with lunch, snacks and drinks, and showed them the city according to the Hobbits!

The conference dinner on Thursday was attended by 52 people (including partners), diners were transported by charter coach to the art-deco style Roxy. On arrival, attendees were presented with pre-dinner drinks and platters and then treated to a performance by the 'Improvisors', a long-established Wellington theatre sport group. Dinner was held in the art-deco style 'Coco Restaurant' and consisted of a moving buffet of platters delivered to the tables. Prizes were awarded to the best-dressed Art-Deco style diners and the main award was won by Tracy Harwood, from ACT.

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*(**Conferences**, continued from previous page)*

Trade tables were presented by Glenda Browne, CINDEX and ASI/SI (promoting indexing books), Capital Books (NZ books), Tordis Flath (jewellery and prints), and Wellington Quilters' Guild (NZ-made souvenirs).

Sponsorship for the Conference was received from Indexing Research (CINDEX), Capital Books (Wellington) and Unity Books (Wellington). Bookmarks from the National Library of Australia, Capital Books, Unity Books, ANZSI, and *The Indexer* were put in the conference satchels.

The Conference sponsored the attendance of Carol Dawber (Dunedin) and Sandy Liddle (Queensland) with the payment of half their conference fees. Their reports appeared in the ANZSI Newsletter (April 2013).

The venue was at the NZICA Conference Centre which also provided the catering. Many compliments were received about the layout, natural light, lunch area, outdoor seating, walking distance from accommodation and restaurants, and especially the NZICA staff and their 'calm under fire'.

A profit of $5059.48 was made.

ANZSI 2015 Conference

Write, Edit, Index: national conference for editors, indexers, and publishing professionals

The conference will be held in Canberra, 6–9 May 2015. It will be hosted jointly by the ACT Region Branch of ANZSI and the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE), on behalf of ANZSI and the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd). The two societies last jointly hosted a national conference in Canberra in 2001. ANZSI already had an established pattern of national conferences, but the joint conference helped to kick-start biennial conferences for Australian editors.

A conference committee was formed early in 2013, comprising:

Tracy Harwood (Convenor) ANZSI ACT/CSE
Shirley Campbell ANZSI ACT
Sherrey Quinn ANZSI ACT/CSE
Geraldine Triffitt ANZSI ACT
Denise Sutherland ANZSI ACT
Karin Hosking ANZSI ACT/CSE.

The committee began planning immediately, in order to have a date to announce at ANZSI's conference in Wellington in March and at IPEd's conference in Fremantle in April. Being mindful of the dates used by ANZSI's sister societies, and by other relevant professions such as the Australian Publishers' Association, the technical communicators, the science communicators, and writer's festivals, as well as avoiding 'annual report season' in Canberra (July to October), the committee chose Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 May 2015. These dates are clear of public holidays and school holidays and the weather in Canberra tends to be most stable in autumn. Wednesday will be set aside for workshops and training, and the conference proper will run for 2½ or 3 days, from Thursday through Saturday.

After investigating 12 possible venues, Rydges Lakeside was selected to host our conference. An agreement has been signed between ANZSI Council and ACT Region Branch to formalise and support arrangements for the Branch to host the conference. A similar agreement between CSE and ACT Region Branch has been drafted and is currently with the CSE committee for consideration.

Quotes have been sought from professional conference organisers, in the particular hope that we might be able to outsource some of our financial management. The quotes are fairly expensive, and we might have to think creatively about how to manage the finances.

News from New Zealand

Saturday 23 November, from 12.00 pm

President Julie Daymond-King will be hosting a garden party at 614 Inland Road, Helensville, and is delighted that our two Waikato members will be travelling up for the occasion.

Julie plans to do look-ups from her (licensed) *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* database 1933–59 of New Zealanders in the magazine, for anyone with families here in that period. You never know! There are probably over 100,000 people to be found, many with multiple records.

Of course, there should also be plenty of interesting discussion and lots of flowers. (And fruit and vegetables, but that's the other half's department, and he'll be away at a geology conference. There is also a large rock collection for those kind of nuts.)

Any members in the vicinity would be very welcome, as well as all the Aucklanders the party is intended for.

Our newest member, Kate Guthrie, comes from Dunedin. Treasurer Jill Gallop will be organising a get-together of the now four members there. Tordis has a similar group operating out of the Wellington area. So, we are really getting regionalised here in NZ.

Kia ora, Julie

Zakuski

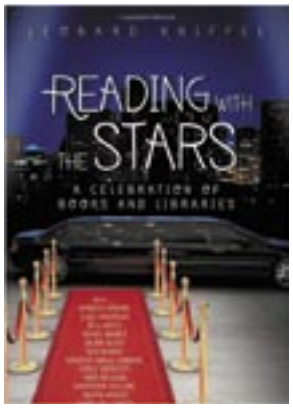
Between 9 and 25 October, I was aboard the P & O *Pacific Pearl* on a *Mutiny on the Bounty Cruise*. On board this ship there were lectures about Norfolk Island, the *Bounty* and Captain James Cook. There was scenic cruising, as well as far too much eating, drinking and many activities on board ship. Ports included visits to Norfolk Island, Tonga, Fiji and Noumea. I visited the Museum of Fiji, which contained many historical artefacts as well as relics from colonial days – <www.fijimuseum.org.fj>

Writer's walk

Before my cruise began I had a day to spare in Sydney. Our hotel was very close to Circular Quay, and while strolling around the Opera House, I discovered a Writer's Walk. This has plaques with many of our famous Australian writers, such as Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson, and Neville Shute. Check it out next time you take a stroll around this very scenic area.

Reading with the stars

A few weeks ago I was browsing in my local library and came across a very interesting book: *Reading with the stars: a celebration of books and libraries* (Leonard Kniffel, author, editor, published by American Library Association Editions, Chicago, 2011). It deals with US celebrities, such as Barack Obama, Laura Bush, Bill Gates and Julie Andrews, and their love and appreciation of libraries.



US President Barack Obama has an interesting quote: 'At a time when book banning is back in vogue, libraries remind us that truth isn't about who yells the loudest, but who has the right information.'

Actress Julie Andrews had this to say: 'In my youth… the library was "the big place" … where you went and then suddenly you could access something magical.'

Every chapter has books that each celebrity recommends. It is quite an interesting read.

Books summarised in haiku.

While shopping in Myers, I happened to be browsing, yet again, in their book department. Amongst the orange-coloured Penguin Books I came across this literary gem: *One Hundred Great Books in Haiku,* by Manhattan attorney turned haiku humorist David Bader.

The haiku was developed by Japanese Zen monks in the 16th century. It is a poem with just three unrhymed lines of five, seven and five syllables respectively. David Bader has applied this ancient poetic form to '100 Great Books', from Chaucer to the Bard, Dickens etc. the poems feature the book summarized very briefly. Yes, there is even an index!

A brief example (but they're *all* brief!):

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*
Snowdrops hang like tears.
Shy, sweet, saintly Beth has died.
One down, three to go.

As this is my last Zakuski for 2013 I want to wish you all Season's Greetings and a safe and healthy 2014. On board the cruise our Entertainment Director, Gemma, always signed off by saying,

'Toodle-pip!'

Terri Mackenzie

Winner of ANZSI Medal 2013

This year saw some changes in the composition of the panel of judges for the ANZSI Medal. Alan Walker stepped down as convenor after many years of service, and I (Garry Cousins) was invited to take his place, an offer which I accepted. Dr Jeremy Fisher, the inaugural winner of the ANZSI Medal, continued from previous years as a judge, and Frances Paterson, also a medal winner, and the immediate past President of the NSW Branch, joined the panel. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Walker, as the outgoing chairman of the Awards Committee, for his service to the society.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers' Medal is offered annually to the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand. The judges look for an index which goes beyond being competent,

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*(**ANZSI Medal 2013**, continued from previous page)*

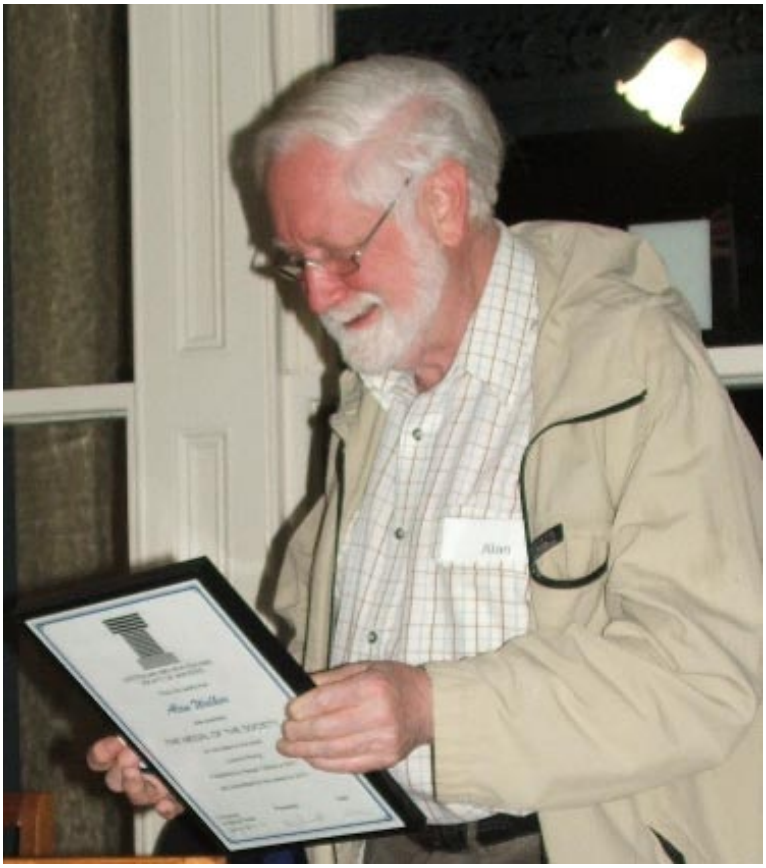
or suitable for its particular purpose. The key word in the requirements is 'outstanding'. We look for an index in which the indexer faced difficult challenges and met them in an elegant and admirable manner. This year only two entries for the Medal were received, but both were of a high standard. Both dealt with complex subject matter, and both showed a good grasp of the language appropriate to the texts. However, one of the two indexes stood out as remarkable, and that was Alan Walker's index to former Prime Minister John Howard's autobiography *Lazarus Rising*, published by HarperCollins in 2011 (revised edition).

The indexer faced a considerable challenge in indexing this book because John Howard had a longer career than most politicians, and his career encompassed a number of portfolios both in opposition and in government. This meant the indexer was faced with organising a tremendous mass of material and, most importantly, was required to use great discretion in giving appropriate weight to important, and less important, topics. The indexer also needed in-depth knowledge of Australian politics and history to do the work justice.

Alan Walker met these challenges admirably, providing an extremely detailed and comprehensive index, which at the same time is clearly organised and easy to use. The index is remarkable for an index to an autobiography in that there is no heading for the protagonist, i.e. John Howard. It takes considerable courage for an indexer to make this decision, as often the entry for the protagonist in a biography or an autobiography is the most lengthy and detailed in the index. To not have an entry for the protagonist means that the indexer must make the information that would usually be found in that entry available by other means, namely subject indexing. The outstanding feature of this index is its subject analysis and the exhaustive subject headings which that analysis has generated.

Although there is no entry for John Howard himself, there is a an extensive entry for 'Howard Government' which is divided into a general entry containing references to cabinet members etc (including an entry for 'JH as prime minister, 231-646'!), followed by an entry titled 'Howard Government policies'. There is also an entry for 'Howard family', as well as all the individual members of the Howard family. And there are entries titled 'personal and political relationships' and 'personal and political relationships (Howard's)'. The latter contains much information that would normally be found under the heading for the protagonist (had there been one).

Several of the subject headings deserve specific mention as they are particularly well thought out. The entry for the Australian Labor Party is especially good: first there is a general heading which includes references to State branches, then headings for periods in opposition, differentiated by who was leader in a given year, then entries for ALP leadership, then ALP policies. Similarly the entry for Liberal Party is equally extensive, being divided into a general entry, and one titled 'Liberal Party leadership', and complemented by an extensive entry on the Coalition in opposition titled 'Opposition, Coalition in', which is then subdivided by period. Other good, extensive entries include 'elections', 'media', interesting entries for 'Sydney' and 'Melbourne', a very large entry on the 'United States', which itself says much about the nature of the Howard government, and an interesting entry on symbolism.



The index takes up 38 pages of the 688-page book, a proportion of index pages to pages of indexable text of 5.5%. Main treatment of topics are in bold, and photographs are indicated by plate numbers, which are placed at the end of references to text. An extensive network of cross-references anticipates readers' queries well.

The judges are therefore pleased to award the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers' Medal for 2013 to Alan Walker. This award makes Alan a three-time winner of the medal, a distinction he now shares with Max McMaster. We also congratulate HarperCollins as the publisher of this book.

Garry Cousins
Chairman, Awards Committee
(Photo of Alan receiving his award by Ray Price)

Award ceremony

It was with great pleasure (writes Glenda) that I attended the ACT Region AGM to present two awards – Honorary Life Membership to Edyth Binkowski and the Outstanding Contribution Award to Peter Judge. The official nominations will be on the ANZSI website, so I will just provide some highlights here.

Honorary Life Membership to Edyth Binkowski

Edyth joined AusSI in 1976, and has been a member of AusSI and later ANZSI continuously since then. She was also a member of the Society of Indexers in Australia prior to the formation of AusSI. Edyth has been a Registered/Accredited Indexer since 1985 – only nine indexers precede her on the Register.

Edyth has been an ACT Region Branch committee member continuously from 1999, including stints as Branch Secretary and Minutes Secretary. She looks after the Branch archive and small library collection, and offers her home for meetings of the Branch committee. She was also a member of the National Committee (later Council) from 2002 to 2004.

Edyth has written many items for the *AusSI/ANZSI Newsletter* as well as an article for The Indexer about a volunteer newsletter indexing project.

Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to members in recognition of outstanding service to indexing and/or to the Society. Edyth is a true 'quiet achiever', who, without fuss or any thought of reward or glory, has made a sustained contribution to the Society. The ACT Region Branch nominated Edyth for outstanding service and this nomination was unanimously approved by ANZSI Council at the AGM.

Outstanding Contribution Award to Peter Judge

As *ANZSI Newsletter* editor from 2004, Peter Judge has made an enormous contribution to the Society. He was introduced to members in the October 2004 issue, but since then has kept out of the spotlight.

Peter has produced the newsletter professionally, keeping to accurate deadlines and introducing changes in layout and style that reflect his personality.

Peter's monthly reminders to Council and Branch members to send in copy, with as many photos as possible, have kept us on the straight and narrow. When the level of copy has been light, Peter has included his own contributions to ensure that the publishing schedule was maintained.

Peter's enthusiasm for the job over the past nine years, together with his wit and personality, has endeared him to ANZSI. Max McMaster and Michael Ramsden nominated Peter for services to ANZSI by a non-member. We are delighted that Peter's wife, Christine, was able to assist with the purchase of a handsome pair of cufflinks as our gift.

ANZSI ACT and ANZSI Council kept their secrets well, as the awards came as a total surprise to both recipients. Congratulations, and thank you, Edyth and Peter.

Glenda Browne, ANZSI President

Top photo, l to r: Sherrey Quinn, Edyth Binkowski, Shirley Campbell, Glenda Browne; lower photo: Peter Judge, Shirley and Glenda. Photos by Denise Sutherland.

North Queensland Regional Group

The NQ Regional Group (this month's featured group) has two members, Suzie Davis and myself, Jean Dartnall. We both live in Townsville and are retired from full time work, having developed our interest and practice as indexers through our work as librarians. There are no mainstream book publishers in North Queensland. Our many authors, scientists and scholars send their work out of the region for publication.

Our indexing work includes some annual reports, occasional or unusual publications, and work from outside the region referred through particular contacts or interests. This does not mean, though, that there is no local outlet for indexing skills, as I hope the following article will show.

l to r: Teneale Grigg, CIC Co-ordinator, Jean Dartnall, Barbara Pearson, former CIC Co-ordinator

Indexing community organisations

Community Information Centre

Since 2004 I have been part of the team of volunteers helping to operate the Townsville Community Information Centre (CIC). This is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of Townsville as an informed community and a slogan of 'Connects, Informs, Assists'. Our major sponsor is the Townsville City Council, which, among other contributions, funds a professional position designated Coordinator.

A major tool created and maintained by CIC is a database containing details of about 2000 government and community organisations in Townsville. Subject areas range through emergency, support, and welfare services, arts bodies, and sporting and hobby clubs. This database is available to the general public: <www.townsville.qld.gov.au/townsville/infocentre/Pages/communitydirectory.aspx>.

The database is used to create a number of printed information services and by staff of CIC to answer queries that present in person, by phone, letter or email. In the last financial year CIC answered 8580 such direct questions and the database received 13,875 page views (excluding those from CIC and other users on the Townsville City Council domain.)

Database Indexing

When I joined CIC, then co-ordinator, Barbara Pearson, knowing my professional background, suggested I take over indexing the database. The database index was then in approximately the state you might expect of an index that had been kept for a number of years by a range of people with no particular knowledge of indexing. The first steps were to convince everyone of the need for a controlled vocabulary and find one that was suitable.

Finding a thesaurus that covered our range of subjects proved difficult, yet I was not keen to begin a new one from scratch. I believe I achieved a good compromise beginning with the APAIS thesaurus. The National Library of Australia makes this thesaurus free for downloading by not-for-profit organisations. Starting with this structure and basic vocabulary, I added, subtracted, edited and generally fiddled, guided by the knowledge of the CIC team about what questions they were asked and how those questions presented.

Changes are made as need arises but on the whole we have a thesaurus that has now been stable for several years and provides some certainty for indexers and searchers. Anyone interested in accessing this thesaurus can contact me <jeandartnall@hotmail.com> or the present CIC coordinator, Teneale Grigg, <cic@townsville.qld.gov.au>.

Indexing Organisations

Probably the most technically interesting part of this project arises from the differences between indexing documents and indexing organisations. In accommodating these differences it is sometimes necessary to deviate from what might be considered best professional practice for a document index.

- **Organisations change.** To maintain currency and accuracy, organisation entries are updated at least annually, more often if CIC or the organisation identifies a need. While some organisations have no changes year to year and others change only personnel or contact details, some organisations change name, or focus, or add or delete programs. Changes may require re-indexing. A user accustomed to finding a particular organisation via a particular heading in 2012, may not be able to do so in 2013 and wrongly conclude that the organisation has disappeared when it could be located through a different search. Stability has to be sacrificed for current accuracy.
- **Organisations have opinions.** The management, staff and members of organisations listed in the database are themselves one of our client groups and it is necessary that they are happy with how we represent them. For example, I spent many hours devising a series of headings and cross references with which the gay, bisexual, homosexual, lesbian, transvestite, transgender community could feel comfortable. This is technically 'too many' entry points for a small number of organisations. I must also confess that

(continued on next page)

*(**Northern Queensland Group**, continued from previous page)*

I am not brave enough to decide between 'boules' and 'bocce'. They are both in there with one entry each.

- **Organisations come and go.** Fortunately the software suppresses subject headings with no attached organisations. However, there is a regular need for housekeeping of cross references. Large changes in the number of organisations in a particular subject area can result in too many entries under one heading, useless cross references, or other issues that make changes in the structure of the thesaurus desirable.
- **Organisations have jargon.** Professional service providers may use the database for their own information needs as well as on behalf of their clients. The need to keep up with current usage and amalgamate technical and semi technical terms into a common indexing vocabulary remains a challenge. For example, the phrase 'post school options' is, at best, ambiguous to the general user but has a specific technical meaning, and is a sought term, in the world of service to people with disabilities. The index inevitably contains many terms that are just clutter to most users.

This is a never ending, ever fascinating task. I wonder if other indexers are doing something similar: I would love to share experiences.

Jean Dartnall

NSW Branch social lunch at Blaxland

Sunday 17 November, 12.00 for 12.30 pm

Please join us for lunch at Glenda Browne's house, 32a Ross Crescent, Blaxland. Spouses and partners also welcome. Bring drinks and a plate of food to share. RSVP to Glenda at <glendabrowne@gmail.com> or telephone on +61 2 4739 8199.

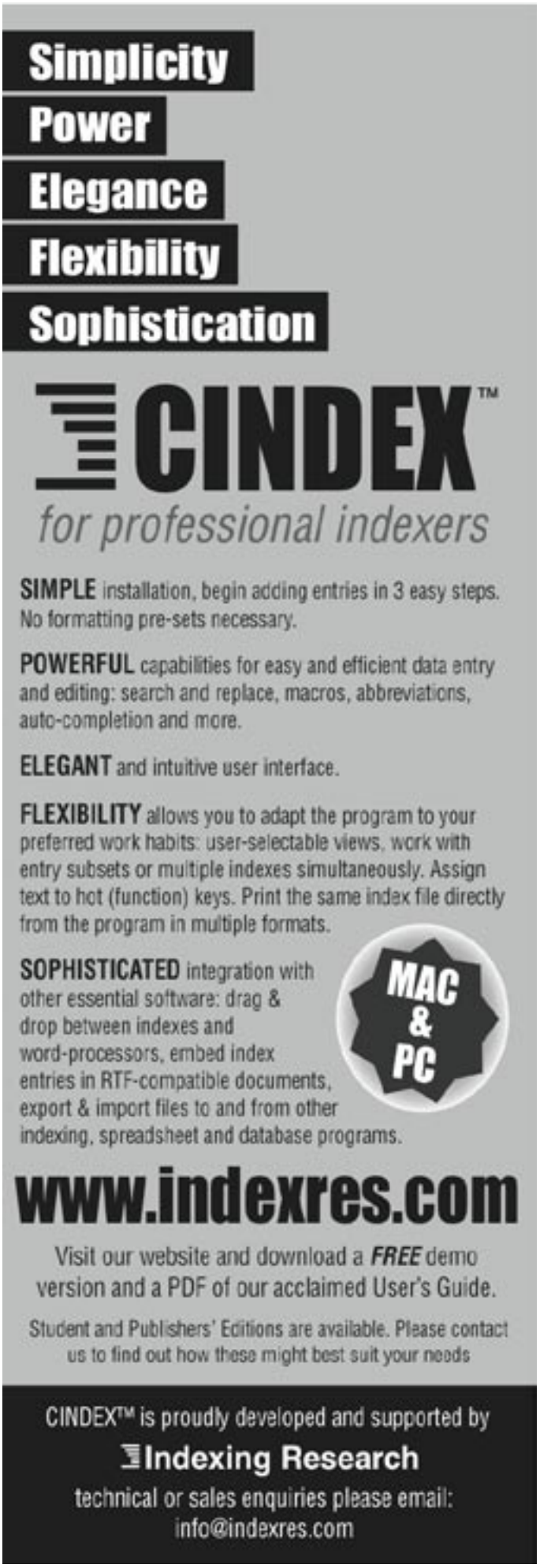
If the weather is fine we can go for a scenic walk in the afternoon. Students from Glenda's February 2013 Intermediate/Practical Indexing course worked on an index to *The Social History of Blaxland* by Davina Curnow and are particularly welcome to take a stroll around the lovely town of Blaxland.

Blaxland is in the Lower Blue Mountains and on the Blue Mountains train line from Sydney – just over an hour from Central Railway Station. Glenda's house is a 10–15 minute walk from the station; however we are happy to pick people up from the station whenever they arrive. There is a train from Central at 10.16 am, arriving at Blaxland at 11.28 am.

(NB: just check if there will be any track work on the day <www.cityrail.info/index.jsp>). If you are coming by car, the journey should take about an hour via the M2/M7 (from the North Shore) or M4 from the city.

<www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=338>

Mary Coe



ANZSI and Branch events

Date and time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Wed 6 Nov 6.00 pm	Vic Branch	The VIC: Indexing ANZSI Newsletter	Old Op Shop, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kew	Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=322>
4 Nov to 2 Dec	NSW Branch	Intermediate/ practical indexing course online	–	Contact <glendabrowne@gmail.com> Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=333>
Sun 17 Nov 12 for 12.30 pm	NSW Branch	Social lunch	Glenda Browne's house 32a Ross Crs, Blaxland	Details on page 11 and at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=338>
Sat 23 Nov from 12.00 pm	NZ Branch	Garden party	614 Inland Road, Helensville	Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=339>
Sat 30 Nov 12.00 pm	Qld Branch	Xmas party lunch	The Norman Hotel, Wooloongabba, Brisbane	Details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=337>

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ANZSI Newsletter

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Opinions and statements expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the respective authors.

Newsletter schedule

The next *Newsletter* will appear in December 2013.

The contribution deadline is **Friday, 29 November**.

Please send contributions by email to the Editor Peter Judge <peter.judge@bigpond.com>.

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