

ANZSI Newsletter

 **Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.**
Volume 9 | number 8 | September 2013

ANZSI News

Charging for *Indexers Available*



At the request of some members, a background to the unanimous adoption of a fee is presented in this issue of the Newsletter.

Council runs a very tight budget and for 2011–12 it ran at a deficit. The financial figures in the 2011–12 annual report <www.anzsi.org/UserFiles/file/Annual%20Report%202012B.pdf> show that ANZSI, as an organisation, has over \$124,000 in funds, but most of this is held by the branches. Council's main source of funds is membership dues and it relies on the good will of branches to pick up the cost of specific projects, such as printing and distributing bookmarks, or financing the honorarium for EPUB work. Over the years Council has examined various options to develop a more sustainable financial situation. This included asking branches to make more of their finances available to Council. Most branches rejected this option, preferring to pay for specific one-off items, not core Council expenses.

Council had already agreed to reduce expenses by making the newsletter available via email only from February 2014. Even so, Council urgently needed alternative sources of income to cover the basic services it provides to members, to prevent a further deficit for 2013–14.

The ANZSI Constitution states at J.8: "The funds of the Society shall be derived from subscription fees, fees for attendance at training courses, sale of publications, fees for attendance at conferences, and such other sources as the Council may from time to time determine."

There was a clear message from members, via Branch Presidents, that members did not want membership fees to increase for 2013–14.

I have asked the Treasurer, Max McMaster to supply this information on the decision.

As at 1 May 2013 ANZSI Council's assets stood at \$12,272. Expenditure was running much higher than income, and had been for some time, so there was a necessity either to reduce services to members or to

increase revenue. The major source of Council revenue is from memberships, with small amounts of revenue from newsletter advertising, Council-organised training, and online service fees from branches.

As Council is well aware of the need to reduce expenses, it has introduced an electronic only newsletter from 1 January 2014, thus saving around \$1500 in printing and postage costs in the current financial year.

The initial decision to introduce GST (for Australian members) was made by Council a couple of years ago, but had not been implemented. Council decided to introduce GST for the 2013–14 financial year.

The Treasurer took three options to the full Council meeting in mid-May 2013. A number of assumptions were made. Although membership at that time was 206, the introduction of GST was likely to result in a loss of members, so calculations were based on 195 members. Changing to a higher membership fee was also likely to incur a further loss of membership so figures were calculated on 186 members.

Since the calendar year membership was being phased out there were also 25 half-year memberships covering January – June 2014 to be considered, to bring these members back into line with the bulk of the members on financial year memberships.

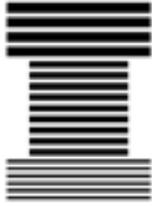
There were 96 members listed on *Indexers Available*, but calculations were based on 90, as some loss was expected.

Option 1: Make no change to membership fees, except to add on GST for Australian members, i.e. A\$88 for Australian members; A\$66 for NZ members. Revenue \$15,675.

Option 2: Increase membership fees for all members. Australian fees to incur GST, i.e. A\$110 for Australian members, A\$83 for NZ members. Revenue \$18,504 (Council document 37/056)

Option 3: Keep membership fees as is, apart from the GST for Australian members (as in Option 1) but introduce an additional separate charge for *Indexers Available*. The

(continued on next page)



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

ANZSI Newsletter

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Editor: Peter Judge

<peter.judge@bigpond.com>

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 News, continued from previous page)

suggested figure was A\$38.50 for Australian members; A\$29 for NZ members. Total revenue \$19,045 (Council document 37/087)

The May full Council meeting, at which all the Branch Presidents were represented, discussed the three options, and agreed unanimously that Option 3 was the most acceptable and recommended its adoption.

Indexers Available equivalents

After the ASI Conference I reported in the May Newsletter that one topic discussed at the ICRIS meeting was the various societies' equivalents to *Indexers Available*, as the Society of Indexers prepares to launch its updated version. I was surprised to learn that ANZSI is the only society that doesn't charge its members to advertise in their *Indexers Available*. Costs to advertise services on the various lists range from about \$40 to \$150 per year. ASI has found that while their membership numbers had dropped their revenue from their *Indexers Available* equivalent has not dropped.

This means that the fee charged by ANZSI is less than that charged by other indexing societies.

Information in Indexers Available

Prior to the introduction of the fee, members elected whether to include their details. Many have been surprised to find they are listed, as they are no longer available for indexing work, and have asked to be removed. While we remind members it is their responsibility to update their entries, many have neglected to do so for some years. This has meant that *Indexers Available* contained out-dated and inaccurate information. Not a good image for a professional organisation.

Advertising in *Indexers Available* is tax deductible for most members. Further, by including only those members who are prepared to pay, *Indexers Available* provides a much more marketable product to editors and publishers. They know the information in *Indexers Available* is up-to-date and the indexers listed are prepared to accept contract work.

Improvements to Indexers Available

The improvements to *Indexers Available* project is the responsibility of NSW Branch, and is led by Madeleine Davis. They are hoping to present these improvements to the joint ANZSI/Editors conference in May 2015.

Comments

I remind members that ANZSI welcomes their comments. I encourage members to contact their Branch Presidents or Council if they have any comments or suggestions.

Council AGM

The ANZSI Council AGM is on Wednesday 2 October. I encourage all members to examine the Agenda as one of the main items for decision is the modified Constitution. All members are welcome to attend the AGM and dinner. If you are unable to attend I encourage you to lodge a proxy voting form by 1 October. You can find all details at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=319>.

Is this your last Newsletter?

Now that I have your attention, don't panic! This is just a reminder to members who still haven't renewed their membership that this will be the last issue of the *Newsletter* they receive, as financial year subscriptions are due by the end of September.

Mary Russell

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Inc.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers will be held on
Wednesday 2 October 2013 at 7.00 pm
at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick Victoria (Melway 67, F2).

Agenda

1. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick, Victoria on Wednesday 31st October 2012. (Note: These may be found on the website at <www.anzsi.org/UserFiles/file/AGM%20Minutes%202012.pdf>.)

2. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere in the agenda

3. Annual Report

To receive and approve the Annual Report on the Society's activities in 2012–13.

The Annual Report will be posted on the website following the Council meeting on 12 September 2013.

4. Treasurer's Report

To receive and approve an audited financial report from the Treasurer on the year 2012–13.

The statement will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Council for 2013–14

To receive a report from the Returning Officer on nominations for the following positions and, if necessary, to hold an election

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Five council members

(In the event there was only one nomination for each position. The election results are shown on the next page.)

6. Constitution

To approve the following motion:

That the revised Constitution as set out in document AGM 37/1 be approved.

NB: Under the terms of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* this is a special resolution and will require a majority of three quarters of those voting in person or by proxy to pass.

It has been necessary to revise the Constitution following the passage of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*. Details of the proposed changes may be found on the website at <www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=319>. Document AGM 37/1 is the revised Constitution. Document AGM 37/2 sets out the old and revised constitutions in parallel texts, showing the various revisions.

7. Life membership

To approve a recommendation from the Council for an award of life membership

8. Any other business

Not requiring prior notice

ANZSI: election of officers and Council 2013–14

At the close of nominations for ANZSI Officers and Council at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 28 August 2013, the following nominations had been received:

President	Glenda Browne
Vice President	Denise Sutherland
Secretary	Mei Yen Chua
Treasurer	Michael Wyatt
Committee (five positions)	Madeleine Davis Terri McKenzie

There being only one nomination for each position, the above-named persons are elected unopposed.

In accordance with Clause G1(k) of the Constitution nominations will be called at the AGM to fill the remaining three positions for councillors-at-large. Any member unable to attend the AGM who is interested in standing for one of these positions is invited to complete a nomination form and send it to the address on the form by noon on Tuesday 1 October 2013. Scanned signatures are acceptable. A nomination form may be downloaded from the website

www.anzsi.org/UserFiles/file/Nominations%202013b.pdf.

For members attending the AGM, nomination forms will be available at the meeting.

*Jenny Restarick, Returning Officer
29 August 2013*

The Victorian Indexing Club (The VIC) meeting in July

Guest speaker Peter Dowling (pictured) drew an excellent crowd to the July meeting at the State Library of Victoria. This included 22 visitors (the largest cohort seen yet) associated with various historical societies, academic institutions, libraries and archives.

Peter is the creator of the *Index to imagery in Australian colonial illustrated newspapers*, a two-volume, 1490-page privately produced publication, which indexes around 12,000 images in nearly all Australian colonial illustrated newspapers. Volume I indexes the images by subject, region and date, while Volume II indexes the images by creator.

Peter's love of 19th century realist art led him to study art history, gaining a PhD in imagery in Australian colonial illustrated newspapers. Graphic journalism was at its height during this era, and to assist in his research Peter devised a list of 27 subject headings into which he would categorise images. It was this aspect of his work that became the seed for his 2012 publication, after Peter realised that the newspapers were a rich but sadly under-utilised resource for art history and history. This steeled his resolve to make the images more accessible and propelled him down the path of indexing.

Creating the index was a 15-year project which Peter says he never found boring, and he enjoyed seeing patterns develop in it as it grew. It was however not without some surprises and challenges – for instance, when Peter was well into the project, he was made aware of the *Australian Pictorial Thesaurus*. He decided to continue on with his own list of subject headings after encouragement from a member of

the *APT* team. The self publishing stage also offered a lesson, as the page headers he'd created in his manuscript disappointingly didn't transfer to the published work.

But with that behind him, Peter set about marketing his index which is now held by every Australian State and Territory library, several university libraries, the Turnbull Library in New Zealand and the British Library.

We came as a bit of a surprise to Peter, as when we approached him to speak to us he was not aware of ANZSI. He will be writing an article based on his presentation for the March 2014 edition of *The Indexer*; we also recorded the session with the idea of putting it up on the website as ANZSI's first podcast. Vic Branch Committee has been toying with the idea of podcasts for some time now, as a means of sharing meetings of The VIC more widely. (This news also provided consolation to some disappointed people who were unable to get to the meeting due to a number of cancelled trains!)

Having so many visitors provided us with a good opportunity to promote ANZSI, and it was good to see back issues of *The Indexer* and the *ANZSI Newsletter* disappear, along with ANZSI bookmarks, lanyards, membership forms and flyers about forthcoming meetings of The VIC.

Nikki Davis



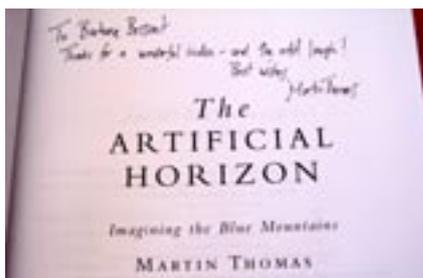
Letters to the Editor: Is *Indexers Available* worth paying for?

Two letters this month have put different viewpoints on the issue of charging for *Indexers Available* ...

For:

I have just paid my \$38.50 to retain my listing and feel it is well worth the small fee, which is tax-deductable anyway. I have been 'found' through my listing and it has provided me with ongoing work, beyond the initial title I was contracted to do.

In 2003, I was contacted by Martin Thomas who was looking for an indexer for his book *The Artificial Horizon: Imagining the Blue Mountains*. He lives in Katoomba, and selected me because I also lived in the Blue Mountains, and had indicated History as one of my areas of strength. It was not a history as one would expect, but quite mystical in its approach, partly because of the hazy blue of the landscape, the aboriginal history in the area, and the number of people who would come to the mountains for the purpose of suicide. It was awarded the Gleebooks Prize for Literary and Cultural Criticism, one of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, in 2004.



If I had not been listed in *Indexers Available* I would not have been 'found' and therefore would have missed out on the experience of working with Martin on his wonderful book, and would not have been contracted for his subsequent work.

I am currently working on a 50th anniversary book for the Australian Society of Authors, both proofreading and indexing. Again, I was 'found' in *Indexers Available*.

These are just two examples of my benefiting from my listing in *Indexers Available*.

When I am contacted by a publisher for whom I have not worked before I always ask where or how they found me. It is about 50/50 *Indexers Available* or word of mouth. I believe the fee is a very small price to pay for professional 'advertising'. I also believe that if you are selected from *Indexers Available* it is a fair bet they had done their homework and looked at others listed and made their choice according to the information provided in the listing. It is important to keep your details up to date so your selection is based on your current work status and fields of strength.

Barbara Bessant (NSW Branch)

Against:

I am writing to protest at the new fee for appearing in *Indexers Available*. This has been presented as a *fait accompli*, without consultation with the membership. No real justification for the impost has been given by the President in either the June or July *Newsletter*; we are merely told that Council has decided to do it. I know that both the National Executive and the State branches have very healthy bank balances, so Council cannot claim that it is doing this because it needs the revenue.

Council seems to have lost sight of the fact that it exists for its members. As a professional indexer, i.e. one who makes his living from indexing, a listing in *Indexers Available* is one of the the main things that has kept my membership active up to now. It is, or rather was, really the only practical thing that the membership subscription of \$80 a year provided for working indexers. It means we are now paying \$80 a year solely for the *Newsletter*.

As a member since 1988, and as someone who served for fifteen years in various capacities, including national president and NSW state president, and as a member of the ANZSI panel of assessors for the last six years, I find this development extremely disappointing and unjustifiable. It is bureaucracy gone mad.

I encourage other members who feel similarly to make their feelings known to Council.

Garry Cousins (NSW Branch)

The power of the index



For the past ten years, Max McMaster has been compiling and cumulating the author and subject indexes to *Chemistry in Australia*, the journal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Readers are able to access the indexes on the RACI's website

<www.raci.org.au/>.

For the July 2013 edition, Max switched roles for a bit and contributed an article entitled 'The power of the index'. It covers the topic of how in this era of 'publish or perish', indexers are on hand to help scientists' precious papers reach the research world.

Nikki Davis

News from Queensland

On Tuesday 27 August 2013, ANZSI Queensland members and industry colleagues were entertained by the Puzzle Wizard, aka Greg Parker.

Greg suffered life threatening cancer as a young child, but this life crisis may have made him into the genius that he so obviously is today.

Greg Parker first produced an 87-page book of puzzles using hand-written code and with some computer assistance. He planned to do this every three months, but found that he had to increase his volume of booklets to make a living. So he went about this dream with a willing heart and mind and a fair grasp of the computer programs which he himself devised in the process.

Since then he has created not one every three months, but more like 17 different versions every 3 months, with a huge print run to satisfy his vast flocks of followers.

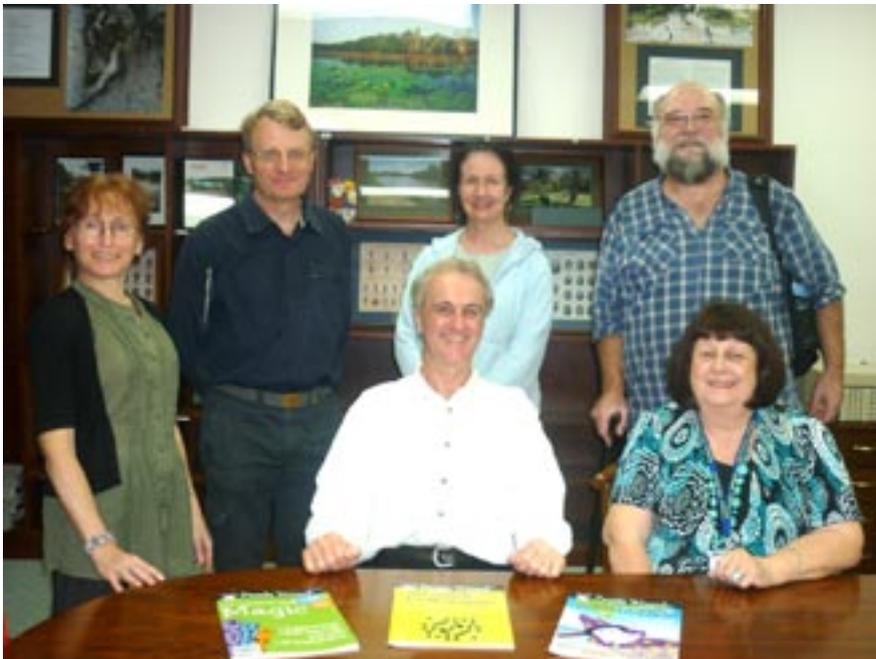
Greg has turned his small business into a thriving and successful industry, which he thoroughly enjoys.

He has a simple and honest attitude towards his creative puzzle business. He loves giving enjoyment to his clients, who from the size of his print runs, are absolutely craving his creative, inventive puzzles and who are happy solving the clues which he is still churning out some 14 years later.

Puzzles are such fun, with the answers in the back for new puzzlers and rusty vocabularies. Have you tried to solve the Puzzle Wizard's clues lately? Have a try and stretch your mind – it is rather different to indexing!

Next meeting: 24 September, more details TBA – see website QLD Branch

Moira Brown (President, Queensland Branch)



Seated beside Puzzle Wizard Greg Parker is Moira Brown, and behind (l to r) are Jeni Lewington, Graham Potts, Marisa Trigger, David Muller.

Photo Jane Douglas.

WA Group dinner

É cucina bar and restaurant, in Hay Street, Perth, was the venue for the WA Group dinner held on 24 July. Six people attended. Alex George, a botanist and botanical indexer, who some members would remember from the 2007 Melbourne ANZSI Conference; Jan McCahon Marshall and Jenna Lynch from the City of Perth History Centre, both of whom are involved with the indexing of oral histories; Frank Smith, an editor, and his wife; and myself.

Where were Linda McNamara, WA Group rep, and Shelley Campbell, you might ask? Although both had intended to come to the dinner, life happens. Linda took a very sudden opportunity to travel to the UK to help celebrate her mother-in-law's 80th birthday. Shelley phoned

me from hospital to say she was having a plate inserted into her wrist after sustaining a major fracture following a fall during a canoeing trip. She is fortunately on the mend.

Those of us who attended the dinner had a fantastic evening. The food and wine were excellent, we talked about all manner of things, including indexing, and the company was very agreeable. At the end of the evening, everyone present asked if we could make the get-together an annual event – a definite indication that they had enjoyed it!

The dinner is already marked on next year's ANZSI calendar.

Max McMaster

Zakuski

Welcome to another bite of Zakuski. Congratulations to Denise Sutherland and her colleague Jane Douglas on their first column of *Etcetera*. Well done ladies!

Every time I write this column I worry that I may not have enough information, but fear not, here are some more titbits to devour.

A library with a difference

To celebrate Seniors Week in October, Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Service in Victoria is organizing a Human Library. This library operates like a conventional library except for one big difference: the books in the Human Library are people. The library aims to celebrate and promote diversity, encourage understanding and respect, break down barriers and build bridges, and challenge stereotypes and prejudices.

Readers (or borrowers) are community members who have a genuine interest in learning more about others in the community. Visitors to such a library can borrow a human 'book' for a short discussion, and through these conversations, people can learn about different life experiences, backgrounds, skills and whatever else they can offer. If you are over 60 and would like to be a 'human book' please email Catherine Killmier on

<killmier@wml.vic.gov.au>.

Footpath library

An interesting item appeared on the 7 pm ABC News towards the end of July. Called the Footpath Library, this library is set up to bring a wide range of books to the homeless and disadvantaged. The books are donated and have to be in mint condition. It is not a lending library, but the books are dispersed to the homeless and then if they want they can give them back or give them to their friends or acquaintances. Since the news item was broadcast, the organization has been flooded with donations. You can also donate money, instead of books. They are very fussy as to the kind of books they want. This library is set up in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. Please check the website for details if you are interested:

<<http://footpathlibrary.org>>.

50 shades of grey literature

The June/July 2013 issue of *Incite* had an interesting article on Grey Literature. This is information produced by organisations where publishing is not their main role. Looking at the A-Z diagram under 'I' it consists of Image Directories, Inaugural Lectures, Indexes, Internet Reviews and Interviews. Under 'D' they had Databases, Directories, Discussion Papers and Dissertations

<<http://www.greynet.com>>.

Librarian's image reinvented

If you were ever a fan of Lego as a child, one clever person has been still playing with it. Lego now has its own version of a Lego Librarian, from the typical stereotype to the downright sexy. All very amusing!! I quite like the warrior one and the one holding the whip!! No I am not bent and twisted!!!

<<http://bookriot.com>>.



Leunig homily

As a regular reader of the *Saturday Age's* Life and Style section, I came across this rather perceptive poem by cartoonist and social commentator Michael Leunig. This man reminds me of Eric Satie's *Trois Gymnopédies*, which are impressionistic piano pieces that are sparse and rather whimsical in nature.

Here is Michael's poem :

Wisdom

How many mouse clicks to wisdom?
What could it possibly be?
Might it be three hundred million?
Could it be something like three?
Or maybe the nature of clicking
Prevents any wisdom at all:
A mouse is for choosing and picking
But wisdom's a hole in the wall.

Quoted from The Saturday Age August 24, 2013.

Terri Mackenzie

Interim Victorian Branch President

There has been a change to the Executive of the Victorian Branch. Nikki Davis is the Acting Victorian Branch President following the resignation of Iris Bergmann.

Quiet achievers in indexing – Prue Deacon

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

I think it would have to be John Balnaves, who taught the Information Retrieval Systems unit at the Canberra College of Advanced Education in the mid-1970s. This was one of the first units of my Graduate Diploma in Librarianship and I can well remember John pacing backwards and forwards expounding his wisdom. From him I learned the importance of looking at systems as a whole and aiming for excellence in all parts of a system.

How did you come to an indexing career?

My indexing career has been in the areas of cataloguing, database indexing, thesaurus development and metadata. For most of it I was a librarian in the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

My first library job was in the science and technology branch of the National Library, ANSTEL. Here I met my longest-standing colleague, Sandra Henderson. I enjoyed reference work and was horrified at the prospect of being rotated to Cataloguing after my first year. My placement was in the PRECIS indexing section where we provided the subject indexing for the Australian National Bibliography (ANB). To my surprise, I loved it. Of course PRECIS indexing was not cost-effective and it was later abandoned by ANB. However, for me it provided an intensive grounding in looking at a book or article, determining what it was about and matching the concepts to index terms. At that time Jan Fullerton was head of Cataloguing and in the ANB team I met Jill Buckley (later Jill Buckley Smith), with whom I worked so closely on HealthInsite in recent years.

I next moved to the Commonwealth Department of Health Library and managed cataloguing there for many years. I was initially attracted by the opportunity to work with MeSH, which had such a logical structure compared with Library of Congress subject headings. I always thought of myself as an indexer rather than a cataloguer and focused on subject indexing. It worried me that the international cataloguing rules were about descriptive cataloguing, ignoring subject access. I was also concerned that library systems catered for the catalogue record in detail while providing very poor search functionality.

In the 1980s I managed the editing team for the 'Bibliography of Australian Medicine and Health Services to 1950'. We created a database of 11,000 catalogue records with MeSH indexing. The name/title and subject indexes were published as a handsome four-volume work. Unfortunately these indexes were regarded by many as the output of the project. The database languished and finally

disappeared when the National Library's World 1 project was abandoned in the 1990s. I wonder how many other electronic records from this era have been lost because of maintenance difficulties.

My next big project was developing a new thesaurus. The Department had expanded from health to incorporate community services. (Later housing and local government were added.) MeSH was no longer appropriate. However, I was able to use MeSH as the basis for health terms and for the overall structure. The thesaurus was first published in 1991 and I have recently been involved in preparing the 9th edition.

What do you see as your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement was being part of the team that developed HealthInsite. In the mid-1990s, when websites were first being developed, Roxanne Missingham was one of the Department's information services managers. Astutely, she snared the role of content management for the



Prue in Patagonia

Library. Later, along with Jill Buckley Smith and Stephanie Tow, I was fortunate to move into a combined IT and librarian team to manage the Department's internet and intranet sites. The Health Minister envisaged a 'megahub' to provide health information for all Australians. We created HealthInsite, a gateway to quality health information resources on other Australian websites. Metadata was crucial, providing the data for site structure, search enhancement, personalisation and search results display. We also created a mechanism to keep the metadata up-to-date.

As a former cataloguer, accustomed to being in the backroom, it was exciting for me to be working with my colleagues and IT professionals to build a very public website. It was also gratifying to be able to demonstrate the value of metadata so clearly.

HealthInsite is still at <www.healthinsite.gov.au> but has been taken over by Healthdirect Australia and relaunched as a somewhat different site.

What has been your biggest challenge?

Retirement from the Australian Public Service. I am continuing some metadata and thesaurus contract work but there is simply not enough time for all the other things I want to do: bushwalking, embroidery, travel, gardening, reading, meeting friends for coffee etc.

How do you try to achieve work-life balance?

To a large extent, I compartmentalise my time. As an employee I aimed to work efficiently and avoid exceeding my

(continued on next page)

(Quiet achievers – Prue Deacon, continued from previous page)

paid working hours. However, I spent a lot of time outside work on professional development activities – writing papers, committee/conference work and study. Of course, when I had children at home, they had some priority. Over the years I got to know my stress limits and when to take a break. These days I am an expert procrastinator and avoid worrying about the length of my to-do lists. I try to have lots of outdoor exercise.

What do you like most about your work?

What do you like least?

In subject indexing and thesaurus development what I like most is working with words, concepts and fuzzy logic. I also enjoy the health subject area and read widely on health issues, especially evidence-based practice and the history of medicine.

What I like least is the constant need to justify the costs of indexing to new managers with no experience of library work.

What advice would you offer to indexers just starting out?

Be very clear about what value you are adding in your work and learn how to explain that value to your managers or clients.

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

My first degree was in science and my initial thoughts on this question were about my heroes in science, people like Marie Curie and Louis Pasteur. On further reflection I have selected Rosalind Franklin, inspired by a recent biography written by her sister*. Franklin was the X-ray crystallographer whose work contributed to the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. Colleagues went on to receive a Nobel Prize but, sadly, Franklin died in 1958 at the age of 37. Her role was not properly acknowledged at the time, even by the people who had used her X-ray diffraction images. There was some controversy about this but her contribution has now been recognised.

I can understand Franklin's passion for research and her (reputed) prickliness. Her personality has been depicted in many writings and films. I would love to chat with her about the people she worked with and find out her opinions of their personalities.

*Glynn, Jenifer. *My sister Rosalind Franklin*. OUP, 2012.

If you were a letter of the alphabet, which letter would you be and why?

I am not keen about being a letter. I would rather be an exclamation mark, used judiciously to express happiness, joy or astonishment!

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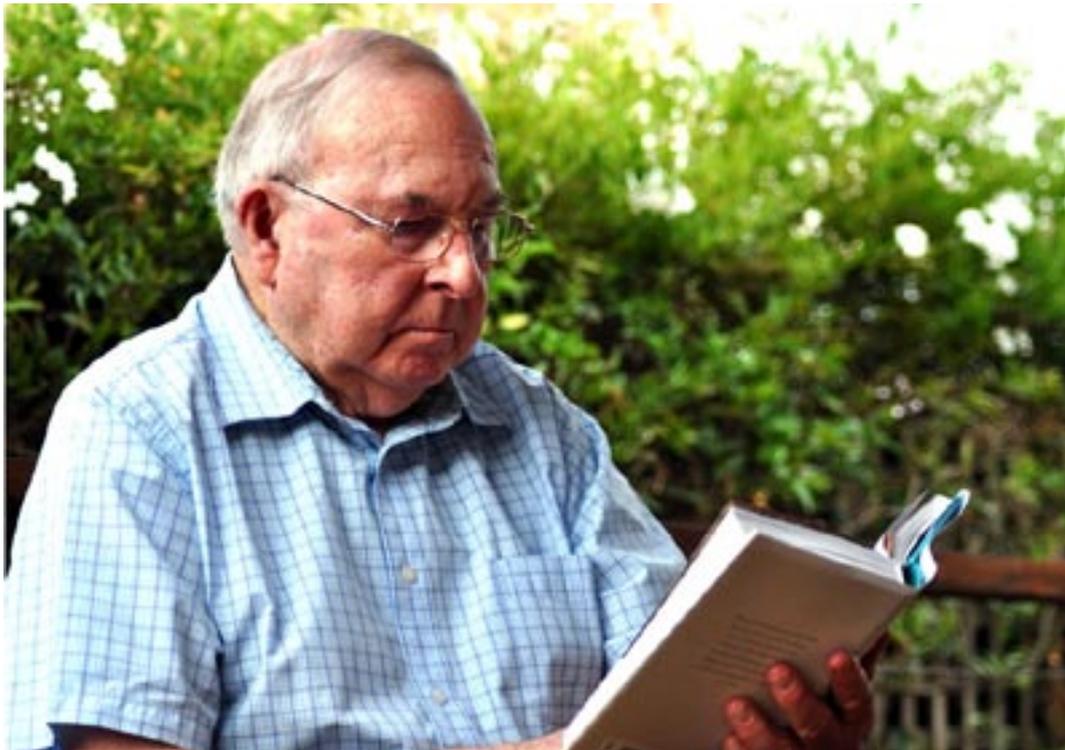
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Quiet Achiever: Alan Eddy

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?

Career here means my 40-plus years with the State Forests Department and what I chose to do after that. I single out A O P (Alf) Lawrence OBE, who was appointed as a junior forester in 1923 in Victoria, as having the greatest influence. My brief encounters with him from 1946 until his retirement in 1969 from the chairmanship of the Forests Commission always left me with a new idea or challenge to chew over. He was not overtly a mentor, but his autocratic pronouncements and personal discipline stimulated productive, even lofty, thinking and action.



How did you come to an indexing career?

I had been book reviews editor of *Australian Forestry*, proofreading papers, making referee's comments and compiling the simple annual index. A librarian friend suggested in the mid-1970s that I would make a good indexer because I was pedantic and fussy over details, and it could be an interest in retirement. I attended a three-Saturday introduction to indexing offered by the Society in Melbourne, and my interest grew little by little until about 1990.

What do you see as your greatest achievement?

The answer to this tough question must be what was achieved while I was Principal of the Victorian School of Forestry, at Creswick, from January 1969 for about ten years. The School, established in 1910, had changed its regimes little during the depressed 1930s and the war years. The practical isolation of the School in a small goldfields

town, and the fact that the nearly all the students were trainees bonded to the Victorian Public Service had made it simple for boarding-school rules to endure, despite the snowballing social changes of the 1960s.

The times were unsettling for the young, in many countries. The age of students ranged from 17 to 20-plus, most having come straight from Year 12. The birthdate lottery for national service and service in Vietnam loomed as an interruption to further studies and getting on with a career in forestry. Clothing fashions had changed, and by 1967 hippies had become conspicuous. Teenage music dominated the radio, hairstyles for youths caused parents and teachers worries. Widespread availability of the Pill abetted social changes. By 1973 the voting age was lowered to 18 years. Perhaps these could rightly be called years of challenge for the young.

The Forests Commission Victoria which ran the School was sensitive to sudden changes under fresh management; likewise the conservative town of Creswick, watching over its school. The principal of a residential college must sacrifice personal time with family and friends, and some recreations fall by the wayside. If I was at home I was on duty, 24/7 in today's language.

I was invited to join the board of the infant Sovereign Hill early in 1969, which turned out to be a growing interest.

I was responsible for a school that grew and diversified successfully while it prepared its students for responsible positions in forest resource management. Without the dedicated support of a mainly new teaching staff, and the cooperation of the students, the story could have been quite different. The mood and morale of the School community changed quite quickly. Rules and procedures were altered at a controlled rate. The wholehearted support of the Forests Commission and the Board of Forestry Education throughout was magnificent. I claim my contributions to forestry education as a major achievement, being encouraged to say so now by opinions expressed recently by students of the 1970s.

(continued on next page)

(Quiet achievers – Alan Eddy, continued from previous page)

Mine was a shared achievement because my wife accepted her role with unfailing good judgement and discretion. Overseas and Australian visitors would be brought to our house by the central quadrangle for lunch during an inspection of Victoria's forestry school set in an arboretum, with native forest and pine plantations at the back door.

What has been your biggest challenge?

Accepting rejection of my index by an editor for one of the university presses because the four or so authors of chapters of a second edition of a textbook on education in the arts didn't like it. I had stuck to style sheets and indexing specifications provided by the editor, and delivered on time. I was nonplussed when she phoned to say that they could not use my index. The editor agreed that the index satisfied the specifications and herself. She said the teacher-authors had then spent two days and nights, heads wrapped in wet towels, devising an index that suited them.

How do you try to achieve work-life balance?

My indexing assignments have been more a trickle than a flow. It has been simple to accommodate them within the routines of a small household, my weekly volunteering and few social commitments. My wife is content for an index to take over my daily life for 'as long as it takes'. I become absorbed in the work to the extent that I neglect garden and other chores, until reminded. I am content to work every day when this is needed to meet a deadline. Not a good balance, true.

What do you like most about your work?

What do you like least?

Most

Producing something of value to readers of a book, to the style wanted by its publisher and fulfilling my understanding of a worthwhile index. There is always scope to include an impish entry in the index, in the hope that it will amuse some readers.

Compiling an index is a sort of battle of wits. The calibre of an index depends as much on the comprehension and wit of the indexer as on following rules and conventions. Finding errors and inconsistencies provide opportunities to alert the editor and establish a clearer understanding of the indexer's role.

A freelance can work early and late, taking short or longer breaks as other commitments and the editor's deadline allows. There is no travel to work, and no dress standards are required.

Least

Unreasonable deadlines, but the pleasure of demolishing an unreasonable deadline is worth a lot. An editor's demand for the finished index by 'COB Friday' can be outrageous. Negotiation by phone is far more effective than emails, for

editors need to be taught that Friday afternoon and sunrise on Monday are separated by more than 50 hours.

What advice would you offer to indexers just starting out?

Become familiar with the contents of the ANZSI website. Delve particularly into the Indexing Resources section. Test the water by enrolling for a basic course in book indexing, to give you a glimpse of how an indexer starts to think about compiling an index.

Digest a couple of books on the art of indexing, making time to look critically through indexes in a range of books in the municipal library. Choose a few indexed books on subjects you know about and test the scope and depth of the indexing.

Enrol for courses offered through the Society, and attend Branch events if times and distances allow it. Apply for membership and digest the Newsletters as they are issued. Do not expect freelance indexing to pay many bills.

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

To me that means 'dine at his table with other guests', not just the two of us. I would choose John Evelyn, the English diarist, linguist and writer of more than 30 books on a surprising range of subjects during his long life from 1620 to 1708.

John Evelyn knew leading natural philosophers and writers, including Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, and Samuel Pepys with whom he corresponded often. John Evelyn was a prominent original Fellow of the Royal Society, under the auspices of which *Sylva, or a Discourse of Forest Trees*, was published in 1664. In Paris he was a courtier around the uncrowned Charles II. He lived in turbulent times, under three kings, one of them publicly executed, and he left the English jurisdiction for his own safety when Cromwell held power. Evelyn lived through the Great Plague and the Great Fire.

Who could refuse the chance of hearing his conversation with companions at table, observing what food was eaten, and what courtesies were followed?

If you were a letter of the alphabet, which letter would you be and why?

M. It stands sturdy, and as close to the centre as can be. It is sounded with closed lips, suggesting discretion but not necessarily secrecy, or perhaps restrained agreement with something just heard. The twin dashes for this letter in Morse code should be a reminder to editors to pay close attention to hyphens, en and em dashes, and the use of spaces.

ANZSI and Branch events

Date and time	Organiser	Name of activity	Venue	Contact details
Sun 22 Sept 11.00 am	NZ Branch	AGM	30 Fourth Avenue, Kingsland, Auckland	Note revised venue
Tues 24 Sept 6.00 pm	Qld Branch	General meeting	Wooloongabba, Brisbane	TBA – see website QLD Branch
Wed 2 Oct 7.00 pm	ANZSI	ANZSI Council AGM & Dinner	Elsternwick Club	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=319 >
Wed 2 Oct	Vic Branch	Vic Branch AGM follows ANZSI	Elsternwick Club	
Tues 22 Oct 6.15 for 6.30 pm	ACT Region	AGM and dinner	The Brassey, Barton	Details at < www.anzsi.org/site/calendar_details.asp?id=334 >
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 >

ON OTHER PAGES

ANZSI News	1
ANZSI Newsletter	2
ANZSI AGM agenda	3
ANZSI Officers and Council 2013–14	4
The VIC in July	4
Is <i>Indexers Available</i> worth paying for?	5
News from Queensland	6
WA Group dinner	6
The power of indexing	6
Zakuski	7
Interim Victorian Branch President	7
Quiet achiever – Prue Deacon	8
Quiet achiever – Alan Eddy	10

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



**Australian and New Zealand
Society of Indexers Inc.**
PO Box 2059, Wattletree Road LPO,
Malvern East VIC 3145, Australia