



Newsletter of the [Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers](#) Inc.

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In this issue

From the President.....	1
Tesserae to tablets ... uncovering the future.....	2
News from New Zealand	5
A very special gift.....	6
Behind the scenes	6
Zakuski	7
Events.....	8
ANZSI Newsletter.....	8
ANZSI contact information.....	9

From the President



We haven't had a meeting since the last newsletter, so for this article I am looking back at our work over the past year. You will find more detail in our [annual report](#), which has been loaded on the ANZSI website. The new ANZSI Council membership will be confirmed at the AGM on 2 October, and set out in the November newsletter.

This year has been one of enormous change for ANZSI – some of it chosen, some of it thrust upon us. We have depended on the good will and hard work of ANZSI Council members (elected and ex officio), other office holders (who keep things running smoothly behind the scenes) and past members and office holders who have continued to provide advice and support. We have had a lot of change in elected and appointed positions and are pleased to have filled vacant positions with talented and enthusiastic people. Many thanks to all current and incoming contributors.

My first priority as President was to get the **multi-location Council communication** and meeting structure working well. There are still some challenges involved in this but it has been effective overall, and has shown that Council membership can be made available to all members, wherever they live. Issues still to be considered include the length of meetings (two hours on the phone is not ideal) and finding the best ways to manage the development and storage of Council documentation.

My second priority was **ongoing services** (accreditation, awards, etc); these have in general been running smoothly, with some change of personnel.

My third priority was to provide support for **ongoing major projects**. These have all made progress (and are all still ongoing). They include Indexers Available; Bibliographic Database/Collection Indexing

accreditation; the 2015 conference in the ACT; and development of the EPUB Indexes specification, along with support for ebook indexing.

Although my preference had been for the past year to be a year of consolidation, rather than the time to start any new projects, the changes in personnel, and the move to a different way of meeting, meant that we were in a state of almost constant change. This is likely to be the case in the coming year too, as we now have two new major projects under consideration.

The first of these is the proposed restructure of ANZSI, involving the dissolution of branches and centralisation of decision making with Council. A working party has been appointed with Michael Ramsden as convenor and Shirley Campbell (from November) and myself as members. We will be contributing a proposal to Council and will then be seeking feedback from members.

The other major change is that our website host and maintainer, Link Digital, has informed us that it will not be supporting our system from the beginning of next year. Council has not yet had a chance to discuss this but we will keep you informed when we do.

I will be going to Spain for three weeks in October and November to take part in a Spanish Civil War tour in Aragon. It will be commemorating the death of my cousin (second, once removed), [Felicia Browne](#), who was the first British volunteer (and the only female British volunteer) to be killed in the war. We are fortunate to have quite good documentation about Felicia, in large part because of volunteer efforts at different libraries, including the Marx Memorial Library in London and the Working Class Movement Library at Salford, near Manchester. I am also grateful for the serendipity of the internet, which put my brother in touch with one of the volunteers, who then told us about this tour. I'll be going a week after the ANZSI AGM, and am looking forward to catching up with ANZSI matters again on my return.

Glenda Browne
President

Tesserae to tablets ... uncovering the future, SI Conference, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 5–7 September 2014

The Royal Agricultural University was the first agricultural college in the English-speaking world, starting in 1845. It is a small campus set in green fields with buildings of local pale stone. The academic year hasn't started yet, so the campus was quiet, which helped add to the relaxed feel of the conference. The conference started at 4:00 pm on the Friday afternoon so beforehand I took the opportunity to wander into Cirencester and explore the town and its Roman history. There is a museum focusing on the Roman and Anglo-Saxon local history as well as the remains of a Roman amphitheatre.

The first plenary session was presented by Simon Rowberry and discussed indexes as hypertext. Starting with the early use of hypertext in print, he then moved to the creative use of indexes in fiction. The talk built on his paper in *The Indexer* of December last year. He spoke about Vladimir Nabokov's *Pale Fire*, Mark Danielewski's *House of Leaves* and Steven Hall's *Raw Shark Texts*.

The after-dinner quiz helped break the ice and tested our general knowledge.

Saturday started with two-hour workshop sessions. I chose Indexing the Past with the aim of brushing up my English history and being reminded how to index Dukes, Ladies and Earls. Ann Hudson took a very broad approach to history and included examples from art, architecture, archaeology and ceramics, with several practical exercises. One aspect she covered in detail was what to do when scholars disagree. This

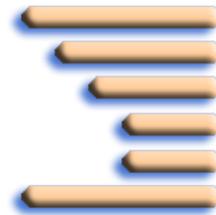
may occur when indexing journal articles if alternative interpretations of an event or what an object is are given in subsequent issues of the journal.

At the next plenary session Karen Blakeman provided a very useful insight into how to make Google search for what you want, not what it thinks you are interested in based on your past searches. She discussed various aspects of Google such as Google Scholar and Google Art Project, and useful options such as Verbatim (a tool that makes Google search only for the specific terms you have entered), as well as using Google search commands such as `intext` and `filetype` for limiting your search. Karen reminded us of [Google Ngram viewer](#) to determine the use of terms in books, such as comparing the use of the terms 'climate change' and 'global warming' over time. Visit her [PowerPoint presentation](#).

After lunch there was a short international session which gave delegates from other indexing societies a chance to present what they have been doing in the past year. This year I was joined by Mary Newberry from the ISC/SCI and Frances Lennie from ASI. Mary Newberry highlighted ISC's new indexing award. Frances Lennie alerted us to the series of webinars ASI provides. There will be a three-part [webinar](#) in October on embedded indexing using InDesign. It is available to [ANZSI members](#) at the ASI members' rate. Maureen MacGlashan also explained the housekeeping changes that have been made to the website of *The Indexer*.

The next plenary session was given by Amanda Hart from the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. She spoke about the development of an [app](#) for the museum. The app is divided into three parts: the first part is a tour of the museum; the second part is a tour of the Roman sites around the museum and includes links to items in the museum; the third part is a learning zone providing additional material for those learning (or teaching) Roman history.

There were hour-long workshops in the afternoon. I went to the one on Occupational Therapy and Working in Isolation. This was run by Alison Rutter who is a trained occupational therapist and



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married to Alan Rutter a full-time indexer. She grabbed our attention with the story of a successful young graphic designer who was so busy she stopped going out and made use of all the online services to arrange to have everything home delivered. Having to go to a medical appointment she had booked a taxi, but collapsed before getting into the taxi. She suffered from severe panic attacks and fortunately was referred to Alison, who guided her through very small steps to first go out for coffee and then six months later to having a better work/life balance. This quickly highlighted the real health risks associated with working in isolation and doing everything via the computer. This prompted a discussion on how to avoid getting into a similar situation, including making sure you get out of the house on a regular basis, having alternative interests and generally trying to avoid making a deadline the excuse for not doing anything other than work.

It was such a pleasant evening that drinks before the gala dinner were held in the garden. The after-dinner speaker was John Sutherland who spoke about his time as SI President. The SI President position is more like that of a patron than a President. John is now stepping down after nine years.

The Betty Moys prize for best newly qualified indexer for 2013 was shared by Melanie Gee and Cheryl Hunston.

First up on Sunday I presented the plenary session on Illustrations in Indexes. Following this were workshop sessions at which I presented on tips and tricks for indexing in health and sciences.

The next plenary session was a fascinating session presented by Geraldine Beare on the very early history of indexing, working to present day with comment on the future.

The final session was the announcement of the 2015 SI Conference in York on 5–7 September 2015. Why not consider attending?

Mary Russell

After an exhausting 29-day tour of Europe, and a brief sojourn in London, I attended my first SI Conference in the ancient Roman city of Cirencester. The conference venue was the Royal Agricultural University with its rather Gothic architecture and beautifully manicured lawns. My room overlooked attractive green fields and paddocks, all reminiscent of William Blake's poem *Jerusalem* – a 'green and pleasant land'.



The theme of the conference was 'Tesserae to tablets' and included topics on recent trends in indexing, such as ebooks, and workshops on Indexing the Past, Legal Indexing, Art and Science.

I attended the two-hour workshop Indexing the Past with Anne Hudson. She gave us a series of exercises that threw up problems indexers encounter when dealing with places, historical events and names. It offered much food for thought. The session on Legal Indexing was useful for people wanting to gain some confidence and knowledge in legal concepts.

Mary Russell and Terri Mackenzie at the SI Conference

The international session reported on recent activities from Canada, the UK and, of course, Australia.

One of the things that always impresses me at these conferences is the people you meet. It is great to put names to faces, but for me one person stands out. Francesca Segal joined me at breakfast and claimed she was an 'imposter'! I rather like that. She told me she is in fact a writer and is embarking on her second novel, in which the main character is an indexer. The reason for her attending the conference was to immerse herself in the indexing world and get into the mind of the indexing profession. I told her that before the book is even published she has an audience. Her first novel is called *The Innocents* (Chatto and Windus, 2012) which I haven't read, but will borrow from my local library.



During the conference many social events were held. I attended a pre-conference dinner on Thursday and a Welcome Reception for Newbies. We all had a yellow spot put on our name tags to identify us as first-timers. I also attended a trivia night which had many challenging questions, as well as the conference dinner. Before the dinner we had drinks outside on the croquet lawn. This really reminded me of a scene in *Alice in Wonderland* and, yes, there was even a rabbit in the corner!

Overall the conference was very well organised and people could not have been more helpful and kind. Thank you to all the conference committee, because having worked on one before, I know they are a lot of hard work.

Terri Mackenzie

News from New Zealand

Society member and former New Zealand branch president, Robin Briggs, was the indexer of this year's *NZ Post* book awards Book of the Year, the biography of Peter McLeavey, art dealer, by Jill Trevelyan and published by Te Papa Press.

Accredited indexer Dr Daphne Lawless has now earned a Postgraduate Diploma in Translation Studies, specialising in French, and so added another string to her bow. Her new professional address is www.metatext.co.nz.

Congratulations to these members.

Julie Daymond-King

A very special gift



Earlier this year I was contacted by Terry Griffin, a close friend of John Simkin, who had a delightful surprise. Notable portrait artist and former State Library of Victoria Arts Librarian, Joyce McGrath, was offering us the gift of a beautiful oil portrait that she had painted of John.

Joyce was a member of the Society from 1983 to 1989 and still retains her interest in indexing. She presented the portrait to Vic Branch Committee members during an enjoyable and memorable lunch held in the art-filled dining room of Melbourne's Lyceum Club. We were joined by Terry Griffin as well as Ann Bentley, another close friend of John's who often attended ANZSI functions with him.

With the ANZSI Medal now renamed the John Simkin Medal, the gifting of the portrait was timely. Joyce's beautiful image of John will soon be familiar to ANZSI members as it becomes associated with medal presentations and with the Society's history.

Joyce McGrath with Ann Bentley, Karen Gillen, Ray Price, Michael Ramsden and Nikki Davis

Nikki Davis

Behind the scenes

Alexandra Bell, incoming ANZSI Web Manager



After completing a Bachelor of Arts with majors in Media and Communications and English Literature, my first job was at a film production company. The most exciting part of my role there was reading and reviewing all the new submissions that came in the form of books or screenplays. While I got the opportunity to read some great stories, I decided that I'm not a filmmaker at heart. Careful thought about the things I enjoy most led to my enrolment in a Master of Applied Linguistics and a Master of Information Studies (Information Architecture). I completed my studies in 2012 and took on the role of Website Indexer and Metadata Analyst at NPS MedicineWise almost immediately. I really enjoy my work at NPS. I have been involved in a major redesign of the website which for me meant updating the existing metadata schemas and thesaurus to fit a new site structure, as well as coordinating the indexing of the majority of the site with new subject terms. I am about to take on the role of Web Manager for ANZSI and I look forward to working with the ANZSI website as it goes through a period of growth and change.

Zakuski

Welcome to another nibble with a European touch!

As many of you know, in August I travelled around Europe for 29 days. It was fantastic travelling on a coach through 11 countries, sometimes three countries in a single day. The scenery was great and it was



delightful seeing the contrasting architecture, eating the food and experiencing the culture, such as a Swiss Folklore show, the Moulin Rouge and Flamenco dancing in Spain.

A very cool café

One of the places I visited was Zagreb in Croatia. We went on a guided tour of the city, including through a colourful and vibrant fruit and vegetable market. After much walking in the heat in this attractive city I came across this café with a very interesting name. I could not believe my eyes nor luck. Unfortunately I do not know why they called it this name, but who cares! Two beers and a [kebab](#) set me back 10 Euros. The kebab by the way was delicious.

Interesting architecture

As many of you are aware, Europe is known for its interesting architecture. The National and University Library of Slovenia is cleverly and appropriately designed. Its windows are in the shape of books – the hard print ones, not ebooks – and that really caught my eye.

A pretty cool T-Shirt



This t-shirt was worn by a delegate at the SI conference held in Cirencester

Terri Mackenzie

Events

- Thursday 2 October at 6:00 for 6:30 pm: **ANZSI and NSW Branch** AGMs. [Sydney Mechanics School of Arts](#), 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact [Glenda Browne](#) (for ANZSI) or [Mary Coe](#) (for NSW Branch)
- Wednesday 15 October: **Victorian Branch** Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner, 6:00 for 6:30 pm, at the Geebung Polo Club, 85 Auburn Rd. Hawthorn East. Contact [Ray Price](#)
- Sunday 19 October: The AGM of the **New Zealand Branch** will be held at the Kapiti home of Tordis Flath, Vice-president. More details forthcoming to the branch members by email.
- Tuesday 21 October 2015: **ANZSI ACT Region Branch** AGM and dinner, 6:15 for 6:30 pm at The Brassey of Canberra, Belmore Gardens & Macquarie Street, Barton. Contact [Shirley Campbell](#)
- Saturday 25 October: **Editors Victoria** training course [Dance Steps for the Self-employed Editor \(Advanced\)](#), 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Centre for Adult Education ([CAE](#)), 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne CBD. \$220.00 for ANZSI members.
- Wednesday 5 November: **Victorian Branch** Committee meeting at 4:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church Opp Shop, Kew.
- Wednesday 5 November: **Victorian Indexing Club** meeting, 6:00 for 6:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church Opp Shop, Kew. The structure of ANZSI and the Victorian Branch. Contact [Ray Price](#)
- Wednesday 3 December: **Victorian Branch** Christmas meeting, 6:00 for 6:30pm at Holy Trinity Church Old Opp Shop, Kew. [An ANZSI Christmas recipe book](#). Members are asked to bring along their favourite Christmas recipes to combine into an indexed recipe book. (Full details are not yet available on the web site.) Contact [Ray Price](#)
- 6–9 May 2015: Write | Edit | Index: a **national conference** for editors, indexers, and publishing professionals, Canberra.

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About the Newsletter

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Newsletter schedule

The next Newsletter will appear in November 2014. The contribution deadline is Friday 24 October. Please send contributions by email to the editor at anzsi.editor@gmail.com.

Advertising rates

For current advertising rates, please [visit our website](#).

ANZSI contact information

ANZSI's general email address is: ANZSIinfo@anzsi.org

Further contact details in PDF format are available on the [ANZSI website](#).

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Secretary: [Mei Yen Chua](#)

Treasurer: [Michael Wyatt](#)

Council members: Madeleine Davis and Terri Mackenzie

Branch Presidents (ex officio): Shirley Campbell, Nikki Davis, Julie Daymond-King, and Mary Coe

Branch and regional contacts

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New South Wales: [President, Mary Coe](#)

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