The SI conference in Cheltenham this July came in the middle of our five-week family holiday. We had spent five days in Hong Kong, followed by a week's hard labour working locks on a canal narrowboat in Cheshire, and some leisurely motoring through Wales, so I was in the mood to let thoughts pour over me rather than take copious notes. This report features those things that made strong impressions on me. I have also omitted sections, such as the keynote speech, which Tricia Waters has dealt with in detail in her report ['The Cotswold Wayzgoose', AusSI Newsletter September — Ed.].

The University Park Campus was congenial, with most of us housed in single student rooms within a few minutes walk of the conference rooms. There was a pond on campus, with ducks, doves and squirrels. All dinners and lunches were held at the conference site. I like this approach, as it means you get a choice of genial tables to eat at. When you have to find your own lunch and dinner it is fine if you know people, but harder if you are new to indexing. Drinks before dinner were sponsored by Cindex and Macrex (thank you).

The conference included talks, workshops, presentations and meetings.

Talks
The talks included the keynote speech on technology, as well as discussions by non-indexers on the future of publishing, local colour from two Gloucestershire archivists, and a presentation by a physiotherapist. For more detail on these see Tricia Waters' report.

Andrea Powell, from CABI Publishing spoke on the future of the publishing industry from the point of view of a small, not-for-profit, scientific database producer. She made it clear that cost-saving imperatives from the library sector have put pressure on database publishers, some of whom may not survive the next ten years. Expensive consortia licences for library access to huge datasets produced by the very large publishers have left little money to be spent on the smaller or more peripheral publications. The need to present information electronically as well as in print format increases costs for publishers without significantly increasing income. CABI is using some automated indexing and harvesting of metadata as this helps to speed up the manual indexing process. Their indexing and abstracting is outsourced to the Philippines as rates are lower and quality is good.

The theme of the future of publishing was continued on the last day, when four publishing industry representatives gave their perspectives on the direction in which book (and other) publishing is going. Richard

Continued on page 101

What's inside
95 SI Conference
96 Noticeboard
96 Dates for your diary
97 2003 Conference
99 From the literature
‘Word’ tips for editors
Society of Editors (NSW) Inc meeting Tuesday 5 November. Bruce Howarth and Bruce White will share their expertise in Microsoft Word and Outlook based on questions submitted before the meeting. This is where we can find all the answers to those pesky ‘features’ with which Microsoft endows its software. Questions must be emailed by Sunday 2 November to the two Bruces white@man.com.au and bwhite@pnc.com.au. Twelve question limit. Meet at Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street (between Park and Bathurst Streets) 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm. Drinks and light refreshments provided. $13 for members; $16 for non-members and those who don’t RSVP; $7 for holders of a current concession card. Please RSVP to 9249 4999 (voicemail) by Friday, 1 November.

Copyediting: Skills and Issues
Presented by Shelley Kenigsberg, BA, DipEd, President, NSW Society of Editors; Saturday 16 November, 9 am to 5 pm. Cost $99 Society of Editors members; $130 others. For more information contact Pauline Waugh paulinewaugh@ozemail.com.au

The Galley Club of Sydney Annual Christmas Party
The Galley Club invites you and your friends to their Annual Christmas Party, 7.00 pm Wednesday 20 November at the Australian Youth Hotel, 63 Bay Street, Glebe. Tickets: $25 for members, $30 for non-members. Tickets include canapés, beer, wine, champagne and soft drinks until the tab runs out, plus entry into the raffle! If you renew your membership to the Galley Club on the night, you also go into the Bonus Draw for a bottle of Moët/Chandon Champagne! For bookings call Sam on 9439 2040 or email samc@bookhouse.com.au. RSVP no later than 13 November.

Xmas Party
Society of Editors (NSW) Inc invitation to end of year party. Join the Society of Editors to celebrate with Spanish/Portuguese food and wine on Tuesday 3 December at the Don Quixote Restaurant, 545 Kent Street (cnr Liverpool Street, Sydney) 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Cost: $45 including drinks (wine and soft drinks). Partners and guests welcome. Send payment to Society of Editors (NSW) by Friday 22 November to PO Box 254, Broadway NSW 2007.

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Dates

Nov 5  ‘Word’ tips for editors, NSW Society of Editors meeting. See Noticeboard for details.

Nov 16 Copyediting: Skills and Issues, NSW Society of Editors one-day workshop. See Noticeboard for details.

Nov 20 The Galley Club of Sydney Annual Christmas Party. See Noticeboard for details.

Dec 3 Society of Editors (NSW) end of year party. See Noticeboard for details.

Diary

From the Editor

I have to apologise for the lateness of this issue, all my own doing, although a visit from Bugbear has not helped. If anyone received an unwelcome email from my address book, sorryee!

But not only that, your editor, I am proud to say, has been involved in the Greens’ winning campaign for Cunningham. Yes!

Very best,
Frances Paterson

Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter
Indexing the World of Information

An international indexing conference organised by the Australian Society of Indexers
Sydney, Carlton Crest Hotel, 12-13 September 2003

Delegates from throughout the world are invited to come and share their experience and expertise with Australian and New Zealand indexers.

During the conference a meeting of representatives of the affiliated indexing societies will be held to discuss amendments to the international affiliation agreement. Participating societies are based in Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Southern Africa and the United States.

Call for Papers
Papers on any topic of interest to indexers are welcome—from the traditional to the post-postmodern. There will be a mix of presentations, aimed at both beginning indexers and experienced indexers.

Among the areas of possible interest are:
- co-indexing and team indexing
- copyright
- database indexing
- editing an index
- evaluating indexes
- publishing into the future
- internet and intranet indexing
- knowledge management
- legislative indexing
- print on demand, re-purposing indexes
- style and style guides
- thesaurus construction, controlled vocabularies, metadata, classification and taxonomies

If you would like to offer a paper or lead a workshop, please send an expression of interest to the Program Committee vicepres@aussi.org by 1 December 2002.

For further information
Contact Alan Walker vicepres@aussi.org or check the website of the Australian Society of Indexers: http://www.aussi.org
Margery Price sends us a reference to the index of a book which she came across. She says that it is so rare to find a reference to an index, let alone such an amusing one.

The book is *Backing into the Limelight: The Biography of Alan Bennett* by Alexander Games, published by Headline, London, 2001. Alan Bennett is, of course, one of the four authors of 'Beyond the Fringe', with Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller, and Peter Cook, and of many other plays for both television and the stage, including the 'Talking Heads' series shown here in Australia.

Speaking of *Writing Home*, the title of sections of Alan Bennett's journals recently published, the author says:

"Even the index throws up a steady stream of jokes on the lines of "College of Cardinals: cardboard urged on as material for papal crown" or "Marcos, Ferdinand: AB's fellow feelings with". A good index is like a come-hither look. Who could resist "Lineker, Gary: thighs the talk of Harlesden"? How could one not want to know more about "Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead: lewd ingenuity of schoolboys at" or "Hailsham, Lord: more humbug from" or perhaps the best of all "Wykehamists: improbable claims for genitals"?"
Glenda Browne

AskOxford Magazine

Issue 1, Spring–Summer 2002

I picked up my copy of this brochure-style magazine from Oxford Dictionaries at the SI conference. It has articles promoting books they have published (for example, one on quotations by the editor of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations) and snippets on topics such as new words from the Internet and problems with definitions for bilingual dictionaries. (For example, while the dry definitions of ‘a pub’ and ‘un bar’ might be identical, the spirits of the two establishments are different). You can join the mailing list for the electronic version at http://www.AskOxford.com.

Australian Style

Vol. 10, No. 1, June 2002

In ‘is 07 04 2002 the 4th of July’ (pp. 1–2), Pat Naughtin recommends the use of the international standard yyyy mm dd for written dates. This gives a logical order for sorting, and avoids confusion caused by the US use of the mm dd yyyy format and the Australian use of dd mm yyyy. The use of dates in indexes has previously been discussed on Index-L with respect to the events of 11 September, or, as they say, 9/11. A letter on p.5 refers to the Army saying ‘Don’t December the seventh’, meaning ‘don’t panic’, referring to the US reaction after the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

Page 9 has a review of Quirky Queries, a book on the history of the keyboard, and of all the letters that go on it. The book is organised in the same way as a keyboard, except when letters have a common origin, leading to navigational instructions such as ‘looking for W, go to F’ which the reviewer found a bit confusing. Published by UNSW Press, and costing $24.95, I recommend the book.

Step: Copyright

Newsletter of the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (UK)

July/August 2002

In ‘Who needs freelances [sic] anyway?’ (p. 7), Sara Hulse reports on a debate on freelancing held at the London Book Fair. Speakers were unanimous that freelancers were crucial, for reasons including:

- Specialist skills
- Cheaper
- Schedules and quality
- Continuity (ironically freelancers are often involved with a company much longer than permanent staff are)

It was felt that most of the disadvantages of using freelancers, such as lack of compliance with company styles, could be overcome by providing a good brief.

I can’t disagree with the above, but since the speakers were unanimous that we are soooo cheap, we should perhaps make sure we are charging adequate fees. Quotes should cover an appropriate hourly rate, plus overheads and extras.

Interesting too to note two small differences in terminology between the UK and Australia — they say specialisms, we say specialities or specialities; they say freelances, we say freelancers. Don’t know why.

On p. 12 Phil Weston describes the use of ‘Alt+0128’ to generate the euro symbol in Word 2000. Make sure NumLock is on, then hold down the Alt key and type 0128 on the numeric keypad.

Blue Pencil:

Newsletter of The Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

August 2002

‘Am I an editor?’ (pp. 5, 8) is an interview with Pamela Hewitt with Cathy I. Gray, about her working life. It would be interesting to have a series such as this in the AusSI Newsletter. Any volunteers? [Great idea, Glenda — Ed]

September 2002

In ‘Border skirmishes between editors and designers’ (pp. 1–6), David Whitbread, author of The Design Manual, and designer of the sixth edition of the Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers, talks about the process of publishing both manuals.

About indexing, he says: ‘Michael Harrington, from the Australian Society of Indexers, did the index [to the Style Manual] but he also wrote the chapters on indexing and legal and compliance issues. Michael did a terrific job on the index. He did a terrific job on the index for my book too.’

ASTC (NSW) Newsletter

June 2002

The Australian Society for Technical Communication (NSW) newsletter has an article I wrote on ‘Indexing technical documentation’ (pp. 1–2, 4) and notes a presentation in Canberra by Lynn Farkas (AusSI President) on the value of employing a professional indexer, followed by indexing tips for non-indexers.

Indexing Evaluation Checklist:

Books (ASI)

At the SI conference I picked up an ASI brochure on evaluating indexes, presumably mainly for use by editors. It has handy points listed under headings such as ‘reader appropriateness’, ‘cross-references’ and ‘double postings’.

Index-L

EntryExpander

On 3 September 2002, Leverage Technologies, Inc. announced a new utility, EntryExpander, which saves time when creating specialised name indexes involving bibliographies. It allows you to enter page numbers once per citation, and have them expanded to each author to which they apply. For example, you make one entry:

Smith, A.; Thompson, B.; Adams, N. 2001

342, 17, 59, 218

and the program creates the following three entries:

Smith, A.

342, 17, 59, 218

Thompson, B.

342, 17, 59, 218

About indexing, he says: ‘Michael Harrington, from the Australian Society of Indexers, did the index [to the Style Manual] but he also wrote the chapters on indexing and legal and compliance issues. Michael did a terrific job on the index. He did a terrific job on the index for my book too.’

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Adams, N. 342, 17, 59, 218

The year is used for tracking during the entry and editing phase, and is not needed in the final index.

The example above is part of an example posted on 4 September 2002. On 5 September 2002 they announced that Entry Expander will now operate on .dat and .mbk files so SKY Index and Macrex users can run the utility as well as CINDEX users. More information at http://www.lev2techinc.com.

Moral rights
Moral rights apply to indexers, and include the right to be identified as the author of a work and to object to derogatory treatment of a work during a discussion on Index-L, Michael Wyatt provided the following information:

- An article on how Moral Rights legislation applies to indexers can be found at http://www.aussi.org/training/profissues/moralrights.htm.
- A description of how it applies in the UK is at http://www.socind.demon.co.uk/IA2002/IA02home/IA02prac.htm.
- Canada also has a Moral Rights section in its Copyright Act http://www.vakilnol.com/internationallaw/canada/copyright_act_canada2.htm. A search for 'moral rights' on WorldLII shows that quite a number of English-speaking countries have enacted or are debating Moral Rights legislation.

Tax: Personal Services Income
Some indexers might be affected by the new 'Personal Services Income (PSI)' section of the tax form. Question 13 on page 7 of the Taxpack2002 supplement asks about 'personal services income as an independent contractor under a labour hire arrangement'. Personal services income includes 'income payable under a contract which is wholly or principally for the labour or services of a person' and 'income derived by consultants from the exercise of personal expertise'. The main effects seem to be that you can't claim certain deductions including rent or rates for your home and payments to your spouse or other associate for support work such as secretarial duties. If you think this might apply to you see an accountant, or check the publication Personal Services Income: Self-assessment Guide (NAT 3416—11.2001) available from the ATO website at http://www.ato.gov.au or from the Publications Distribution Service on 1300 720 092. You can also get more information from the Tax Reform Infoline on 132 478.

These handy hints come to you as I struggle once again to prepare my tax. This year we're going to an accountant for the first time — I always stubbornly thought I should be able to do it myself! But even with an accountant you have to keep proper records and get them into a manageable shape — a bit like tidying the house so a cleaner can clean it.

Health
A quote from the physiotherapist who spoke at the SI conference: 'Anyone wishing to pursue a sedentary lifestyle should first undergo a stringent health test to assess whether they are fit to withstand the inactivity.'
Continued from page 95

Duguid of Penguin Books set the mood by saying: 'I don't care about the future of publishing, so long as it doesn't involve me!' He says the pressures are on schedules rather than costs, and Penguin has an annual budget for indexing, rather than a budget per book. It used to be that the index was an afterthought added when a book was ready; now he says a book is an afterthought added to a marketing plan.

Isabel Syed from Zurich Financial Services gave a run-down on the history of the company. It is a conglomerate formed by many takeovers. The original company, Eagle Insurance, took over when its founder, Sir Edward Mountain, refused insurance for the Titanic because he felt that it sat too low in the water. She showed us some large blotter used for advertising. The one that showed a house fire caused by a cigarette smoked in bed was no longer used when the company was taken over by BAT (British American Tobacco).

The other archivist, James Turtle from the Gloucestershire County Archives, gave the after-dinner speech on the second night. He said he hoped Australians would not be offended by the cartoon on their previous month's newsletter, which showed a man with bobbing corks on his hat visiting the genealogy section and drawing: ‘You mean, you have to know who your father was?’

Workshops
A few conference sessions were devoted to concurrent workshops, although feedback at the summing up session suggested that some were workshops in name only, and should have been called lectures. My first workshop, on editing the index (by Ann Hudson), was truly a workshop, with exercises on culling indexes and tidying up subdivisions. My second workshop described an efficient approach to adapting indexes for new editions. The audience was impressed, but almost unanimous that they didn't think this sort of work was for them. (More detail in Tricia's report).

I also went to a meeting on electronic indexing, which was largely an international gathering of people with a specific interest in electronic indexing, including the development of a DTD (Document Type Definition) for indexes. At the electronic indexing forum, and at a discussion led by the ‘Future Group’, Janet Shuter spoke about the role of SI members in the BS1 Technical committee looking at W3C standards for indexing and document description for the web. Recent discussions on Index-L have said we should be involved with international standards, and here I found to my delight that some of us are involved. Unfortunately the existence of the SI discussion list seems to keep many British indexers away from Index-L, where we could have a truly international forum on these issues.

Presentations and meetings
At the dinner Betty Moys' cousin, Sir Leslie Sharp, presented her Wheatley medal to SI, and her MBE to the British and Irish Association of Law Libraries, both to be housed at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies where Betty had worked early in her career. Some of us met Betty when she visited Australia, and she is obviously sorely missed within SI.

I represented AusSI at the meeting of the Editorial Board of The Indexer, and Tricia Waters and I represented AusSI at the International meeting. At both we discussed the reciprocal advertising policy of the societies. Although there is strong feeling that we want a policy of cooperation, especially to avoid excessive exchange costs, we still do not have a simple, practical policy agreed on. Before we progress we will be gathering more information about the number of ads that societies currently place in each others' publications. The International meeting invited Australia to chair the next meeting in Sydney in 2003. The Chinese indexers who were planning to attend the SI conference were unable to get visas.

Jan Ross presented the SI training manuals on CD-ROM which she has been converting from print format. They look very usable, and I have asked for a sample of the CD for the Education Committee to consider for use in the provision of consistent, Australia-wide indexing training.

The AGM went very efficiently, with office bearers elected or announced and introduced. Some members were given a token of appreciation from the Society (appropriately, a book token). The meeting agreed to increase the annual subscription to 50 pounds (roughly $AUS160). The next SI conference will be organised by the Scottish Group at the University of Strathclyde.

The CUP XML group had an informal meeting at the conference. I didn't attend, but heard a bit about the project. Cambridge University Press now requires their indexers to provide indexing terms embedded in PDF documents, even though they might still index the work using specialised indexing software. This means the option of cards-in-a-shoebox will no longer exist, and technical demands will be added to indexing demands. A basic knowledge of XML will probably be a key requirement for indexers in ten years' time.

On the last day we had an international session, with brief presentations from the overseas representatives. These were Noelene Bridge, from Canada, Dianna Witt, from the US (Lori Lathrop and Frances Lennie also attended), Christie Theron, from Southern Africa, and Tricia Waters and I from Australia (John Simkin also attended, and has previously represented our group). I spoke briefly about our Education Committee, membership, our approach to publicity, and new and exciting opportunities. Tricia finished the session with an inspirational invitation to people to attend the Sydney conference in September 2003.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. Most of all, it was terrific to meet people whose names I know from The Indexer and Index-L. We indexers have so much in common, the world over.
This newsletter is sent free to all members of the Australian Society of Indexers. It is published 11 times a year, with an annual issue for Jan/Feb. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

Copy should be sent to the editor by the fourth Friday of each month for publication in the middle of the next month. We are delighted to receive contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact us if you have any questions about suitable items for publication. The editor reserves the right to cut and edit material. If greater than one A4 page, please send files on a disk or via email in Rich Text Format, Word for Windows, or plain text (ASCII). Do not embed footnotes in Word files.

**Graphics**

Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. If possible, submit line drawings in a vector format or as an EPS file. Camera-ready art and photographs can be scanned by the editor.

**Advertising charges**

Full page: $50; Half page: $25; Quarter page: $25.

**Send copy to:**

Frances Paterson  
ph (02) 6288 5335  
email: newsletter@aussi.org

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