

The motion is that Max McMaster be granted the award of Honorary Life Member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers; moved by John E. Simkin, seconded by Anne Dowsley
22 July 2009

I have undertaken to document some of the achievements which support this motion although Max's achievements are well known throughout the indexing world of Australia and elsewhere. He has contributed greatly to the building of the status of indexing through teaching, influence in indexing and other societies and personal contacts and help, as well as being a fine practitioner of the profession.

Indexing career

Max joined the Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI), the predecessor to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI), in 1986. At that time he worked for CSIRO, particularly training and supervising database staff. He came to that position after a number of years as a special librarian. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Melbourne University and the Graduate Diploma of Librarianship from RMIT and became a registered indexer in 1990. When he resigned from CSIRO he began a freelance practice under the name Master Indexing in which, among other indexing-related services he acts as the Australian representative for Macrex (indexing software). A survey of the Master Indexing website indicates the wide range of Max's activities. Although, his background leads him to indexing scientific works, a field in which there are few indexers, he has covered many other fields in his work including history, business and Aborigines. At a recent count he has 1 650 book indexes to his credit, seven of which have won AusSI/ANZSI awards – four medal winners and three highly commended.

AusSI/ANZSI offices

Within two years as a member of AusSI Max was elected Secretary in 1988, a position he continued in 1989. In 1990 Max became President, and again in 1991 and 2007. Since 1986 Max's name has appeared as a member of the AusSI Committee and the ANZSI Council almost continuously. Since branches began to be formed in 1989 Max joined the Victorian Branch Committee in various positions including that of President.

Committees

Max has served on many subcommittees of AusSI and committees of ANZSI including the Awards Committee, the Education Committee and the GAMES Committee. As well as his current commitments with the Victorian Branch Max is Training Coordinator for ANZSI. In this latter role and independently he has organised and conducted courses as far afield as New Zealand and Singapore – introductory, intermediate, specialist and refresher. He routinely gives guest lectures to tertiary courses such as those for publishing and editing.

Conferences

Early on Max was involved in the organising of two workshops in the form of mini-conferences in Melbourne and, since 1995 in four general conferences; in Marysville, Hobart and two in Melbourne. He edited the papers of the 1995 Marysville conference. Max has attended several conferences in the United Kingdom and United States as representative or independently.

Publications

Max collaborated with Sue Woolley to produce *Indexing for technical communicators*, an online book. A sample of his articles, book chapters and conference papers is listed as an appendix to this submission. These give some indication of the wide range of Max's indexing interests and knowledge, from journal indexing to indexing software and from mentoring to the assessment and pricing of indexes.

Overall Max is a source of good and willing advice to colleagues and those new to the profession. He has done more than almost any other member of ANZSI to promote the profession. Two examples are shown by the New Zealand and Queensland branches which were formed as a direct result of Max going to give courses in their areas where no branches had existed before.

I consider Max to be a master in the world of indexing, I value him as a colleague and a friend and consider him worthy to be an Honorary Life Member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers.

John E. Simkin

Appendix: Sample of publications by Max McMaster

Books

Editor, with Sherrey Quinn, *CSIRO Australia: the manual* 2nd ed. Melbourne, CSIRO Information Services, 1993.

Editor, *Indexers: partners in publishing*: proceedings from the first International conference, Friday March 31 to Sunday April 2, 1995, Marysville, Victoria, Australia. Melbourne, Australian Society of Indexers, 1995.

with Sue Woolley *Indexing for technical communicators*. Vermont South, Victoria, Monarch Computing Service, November 2004 (online book. www.monarchcomputing.com.au).

Book chapters and papers in collections

'Pricing the index: a comparison of methods' **In** *Indexers; partners in publishing* proceedings from the First International Conference 31 March to 2 April, 1995, Marysville, Victoria, Australia, edited by Max McMaster. Melbourne, Australian Society of Indexers, 1995 pp 17-19.

with Pilar Wyman 'Practical medical database indexing' **In** *Indexing specialties: Medicine*; edited by Pilar Wyman. Medford, NJ, Information Today Inc., 1999 pp 83-91.

'Journal indexing: some issues and maybe some answers' **In** *The August indexer*: proceedings from the second international conference, Friday August 27 to Sunday August 29, 1999 Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, edited by Margaret Findlay. Melbourne, Australian Society of Indexers, 2000 pp 96-98.

'Mentoring scheme in Victoria: concept and development' **In** *Indexing: engage, enlighten and enrich*: proceedings from the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers Conference, Thursday March 17 to Saturday March 19, 2005 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, edited by Karen Gillen. Melbourne, Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, 2005 pp 105-108.

Articles and papers

'Software review: INSORT indexing program' **In** *Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter* v 16, n 10, 1992 pp 2-5.

'How to assess an index' **In** *Australian Society of Indexers Newsletter* v 18, n 7, 1994 pp 5-6.

'Mentoring scheme in Australia' **In** *The Indexer* v 24, n 4, October 2005 pp 189-191.

'Mentoring in Australia: an update' **In** *The Indexer* v 27, no 1, March 2009 pp 26-8.