

Melbourne Indexers Bulletin

No. 3, August 2015



Farewell to the Victorian Branch

On Saturday 8 August, Melbourne Indexers members and friends gathered at The Langham for the 2014/2015 Victorian Branch AGM, followed by an elegant High Tea to celebrate the Branch's achievements between 1991 and 2015. We were delighted to be joined by a number of committee members from previous years, including inaugural Treasurer Joyce Gillespie who generously donated her Life Membership badge for archival purposes.

Many thanks to Karen Gillen's meticulous research, I was able to present this wonderful history of the Branch:

Establishment of the Branch

Although AuSSI was formed in 1976, the first Branch (NSW) was not established until 1990. This was closely followed by the establishment of the Victorian Branch in 1991. It was formed at the AusSI AGM, on 27 February 1991, with 26 votes in favour, and

interestingly, 1 against. There were 7 votes by proxy.

Membership

At the time that the Branch was formed in 1991, there were 96 members (i.e. 51% of the total AusSI membership of 188 members). Branch membership numbers peaked the following year (1992) at 101. Prior to the dissolution of the Branch on 30 June 2015, ANZSI had 5 Branches, and approximately 172 members. Of these, 50 were members of the Victorian Branch (i.e. approximately 29% of the total ANZSI membership). Over the life of the Branch (1991--2015) there were approximately 350 different individual members.

Governance

At the time that the Branch was formed, AusSI was governed by a National Executive, and in 1991 this was based in Victoria. The National Committee doubled as the first Victorian Branch Committee until the National Executive moved to NSW in 1997. From that

time onwards, there was a separate Victorian Branch Committee.

In 2002 the National Executive moved to the ACT ; in 2006 it moved briefly to a NSW-led attempt at a distributed Council; and it then moved back to Victoria at the start of 2007. When the National Executive/Council returned to Victoria in 2007 (remaining here until the establishment of a geographically distributed Council in late 2013), the Branch maintained a separate committee, although there was some overlap with a number of individuals serving on both committees.

Committee Members

Over the life of the Branch, 41 individuals have served on the Victorian Branch Committee , (i.e. 12% of the total membership [350] over time), 14 (i.e. 34%) of whom attended the final AGM including:

Inaugural President – Max McMaster

President: 1991–92; 2004–06

Vice President: 1996–2001

Treasurer: 2007–12; 2013–15

Committee Member: 1992–96; 2001–04; 2006–07; 2012–13



Inaugural Treasurer – Joyce Gillespie

Treasurer: 1991–2000



Both have been awarded life membership.

Life Members

Life membership has been awarded to 8 ANZSI members – 4 of whom were Victorian Branch members.

1998 Joyce Gillespie

Announcement in *Newsletter* Vol. 22, No.1, Jan/Feb 1998, p.2

*Joyce Gillespie joined the Australian Society of Indexers at its inauguration in 1976 and became its Treasurer in 1977. She served in this office (and from 1990 combined it with the position of Treasurer of the Victorian Branch) with distinction until 1997, when the National Executive moved to Sydney, and now continues as Treasurer of the Victorian Branch. Joyce maintained membership records and exercised her particular interest in the Society's Constitution by guiding it through the changes needed in an evolving society. She maintained close liaison with the Society of Indexers and was involved in the process of affiliation as well as the negotiation of very favourable rates for Australian members to receive *The Indexer*. As Librarian of the Australian Society of Accountants, Joyce arranged for the Society's courses to be held in the ASA's very comfortable seminar rooms. Joyce's vigilance as Treasurer has contributed markedly to the Society's financial stability*

1998 Jean Hagger (d. 2008)

Announcement in *Newsletter* Vol. 22, No.1, Jan/Feb 1998, p.2

Jean was a member of the Society of Indexers in Australia, which preceded the present Society, and has been an active member of the present Society since its inauguration in 1976. She was Secretary 1978-80, Vice President 1982-83 and President 1984-86. As well as serving in these offices she has maintained a keen interest in the affairs of the Society; recently, with Joyce Gillespie, she has been engaged in organizing the Society's archives. As an educator, Jean had a distinguished career as Head of the Department of Librarianship at RMIT. Her interest in education carried over to indexing, in which field she has given help and encouragement in the running of courses in Melbourne. Jean's "retirement" has been marked by

distinguished indexing in which she was one of the first to use the computer. Jean's deep interest has also taken her overseas to a number of conferences of the Society of Indexers where she represented AusSI.

Obituary (by Michael Ramsden).

<http://anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Life-Membership-Hagger.pdf>

2002 John Simkin (d. 2014)

Testimonial (by Jean Hagger):

<http://anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Life-Membership-Simkin.pdf>

2009 Max McMaster

Citation for life membership award:

<http://anzsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Life-Membership-McMaster.pdf>

Conferences

Of the 12 conferences that have been held by ANZSI, 5 were organised and run by the Victorian Branch: Marysville 1995; Hobart 1999; Melbourne 2005, 2007, 2011.

Nikki Davis

Report: Creating and Editing a WordPress Website

On the morning of Saturday 25 July, I dragged myself out of bed, rugged up, and caught the tram into the city. Although I was suffering from the 'flu, I was determined I wasn't going to miss attending a workshop on 'Creating and Editing a WordPress Website', run by Editors Victoria at the Centre for Adult Education in Flinders Lane. I didn't regret my decision.

WordPress is a free, widely employed, template-based blogging platform that can be used to create websites. While this workshop was aimed at 'freelance editors who have little or no experience building websites and editing web content', it was equally applicable for freelance indexers.

Over the course of the day, the instructors – Dr Sybil Nolan (who teaches writing and editing for digital media at the University of Melbourne) and Meredith Hinze (Manager of eLearning/eTeaching, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne) – guided participants through the process of producing their own professional website according to best-practice conventions for online content.

The workshop was held in a computer lab, so it was 'hands-on' all the way as we worked through the following topics:

- What is WordPress, and how does it work?
- Understanding WordPress's templates, and choosing the right one for you
- WordPress site setup considerations and interface
- Creating effective navigation on your site
- Image optimisation and use in WordPress
- Best-practice principles of writing and editing content for websites and blogs
- Taking control of workflow, publishing and privacy considerations: keeping your work private until you're ready to publish, while giving colleagues or co-authors access to it
- Reaching your audience: an introduction to building a following and using WordPress's analytics.

The trainers gave an overview of each topic, encouraged questions and discussion, provided step-by-step instructions, and gave one-on-one technical assistance when required. Participants were also provided with a very useful set of notes including links to various resources. Overall, it was a very intensive, intellectually stimulating, and rewarding session.

This was the first in a series of workshops planned by Editors Victoria on editing website content, and I'm certainly looking forward to attending the next one. Upcoming Editors Victoria courses are advertised in this Bulletin, and ANZSI members receive a member discount. So, if you are interested in creating your own website, refining an existing

website, or developing some new skills, why not attend?

For more information go to:
<http://www.editorsvictoria.org/9-uncategorised/76-training>

Karen Gillen

Victorian indexes in various forms

Trees

As many of you know, I appreciate different indexes, particularly ones that are visual in some way. These are not necessarily in print form. One that has caught my eye recently is the City of Melbourne's Melbourne Urban Forest Visual. This is a map of all the trees in the City of Melbourne. Coding is used to indicate the genus of tree and they are colour coded to give an indication of life expectancy. This extended to assigning each tree an email address. Originally set up so residents could report damage to a tree, much to the surprise of developers, people write love letters and poems to particular trees. One very popular tree is the Golden Elm at the corner of Punt Road and Alexandra Avenue (pictured below).
<http://melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au/>



Covering a larger area is the National Trust website and App Trust Trees. This provides details to significant trees in Victoria and other parts of Australia.
<http://trusttrees.org.au/>

Place names

A more conventional encyclopaedia type index is Victorian Places (<http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/>). Using the W-Class tram as its homepage you search for particular towns around Victoria to get local history information, census details and locality maps. This follows on from its sister publication Queensland Places (<http://www.queenslandplaces.com.au/>).

For a more authoritative source of information for road and place names there is VICNAMES.
<http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/property-and-land-titles/naming-places-features-and-roads/vicnames>

Fauna

What started as a Victorian fauna App by Museum Victoria has now expanded to eight individual Apps for each state and territory. Free to download to both Apple and Android devices, they are very useful guides to local mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates. Packed with information about the individual item, it includes pictures, locality information as well as audio, where appropriate.
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/museum-victoria-apps/national-field-guide-apps/>

This has been a random sample. Do you have others you use and can share with members?

Mary Russell

The Indexer

The September issue of [The Indexer](#) is now available on Ingenta and Lulu. Articles include:

'People and place: new initiatives in database indexing for Indigenous collections in Australia' *Jenny Wood and Judith Cannon*

'Electronic indexing using PagePlus' *Ray Price*
'Evaluating indexes: observations on ANZSI experience' *Sherrey Quinn*

'What do readers expect from book indexes and how do they use them? An exploratory user study' *Mary Coe*

Upcoming events

All indexers and friends from Melbourne and beyond are welcome at Melbourne Indexers meetings.

Melbourne Indexers

October meeting: Corporate bodies

Wednesday October 7

Company names, organisations and even military groups can pose a challenge to indexers. Michael Ramsden will lead a discussion on how to index the different types of corporate bodies.

Time:

6.00–6.30pm Indexing Clinic – free indexing advice.

6.30–7.30pm discussion

Followed by dinner at a local restaurant if you are able to join us.

Venue:

The Old Op Shop, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, corner of High St and Pakington Streets, Kew.

<http://anzsi.org/event/melbourne-indexers-corporate/>

Special Melbourne Indexers event: St Kilda Rags to riches audio walking tour

Tuesday 20 October at 1:30 pm.

Meet at Stop 1. The tour will conclude at about 3 pm at Acland Street shops with a chance to sample the cakes and/or ice cream on offer.

<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/built-environment/from-riches-to-rags-and-back-again/>.

Around Melbourne

VicFlora online resource – free seminar

Wednesday 2 September at 1:00 pm.

<http://data.rbg.vic.gov.au/vicflora/>

Technical Communicators Conference 2015

23 and 24 October

'Content is King', Rendezous Hotel, Melbourne.

<http://www.astc.org.au/events/2015/10/conference-2015-content-is-king>

<p>To contribute to <i>Melbourne Indexers Bulletin</i> email melbourneindexers@gmail.com</p>
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