

**IP**Ed.

To advance the  
profession of editing

Institute of Professional  
Editors Limited

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**Annual Report**  
**2011–12**

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The Institute of Professional Editors Limited (IPEd) exists to advance the profession of editing, by planning and implementing national initiatives—an accreditation scheme, promotion and communication campaigns, training and mentoring—and other activities to support Australian societies of editors and their members, and editors in general.

IPEd also supports biennial national conferences of editors, which have been held in Brisbane (2003), Melbourne (2005), Hobart (2007), Adelaide (2009) and Sydney (2011). The next conference will be held in Fremantle in April 2013. Each conference is organised and hosted by the local society of editors.

IPEd was launched at the 2005 national conference as successor to the Council of Australian Societies of Editors (CASE) and was registered as an Australian Public Company on 22 January 2008.

The Members of IPEd are the seven Australian societies of editors in the six states and Canberra.

This report covers the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

## About the Members

The numbers of members of the state and territory societies of editors (the Members of IPEd) are

tabulated below. The societies vary not only in size but also, to some degree, in the specialisation and interests of their members. Overviews of the seven Members are given in an accompanying box.

### Society membership numbers, 2011 and 2012

| Society           | Number of members* |             |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                   | 2011               | 2012        |
| Canberra          | 170                | 130         |
| New South Wales   | 389                | 368         |
| Queensland        | 230                | 247         |
| South Australia   | 118                | 130         |
| Tasmania          | 54                 | 47          |
| Victoria          | 550                | 569         |
| Western Australia | 82                 | 105         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1603</b>        | <b>1596</b> |

\* As at 31 May.

The Members support IPED financially through an annual contribution based on their membership numbers. The per capita contribution for the past two years has been \$25. Strong in-kind support also comes from provision of members for IPED's various committees, working groups and ad hoc projects.

## About IPEd

<[www.iped-editors.org](http://www.iped-editors.org)>

The Institute of Professional Editors Limited is a public, not-for-profit company (ACN 129 337 217) registered in, and under the Corporations Law of, the Australian Capital Territory.

The Members of the company are:

- Canberra Society of Editors Inc.
- Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.
- Society of Editors (Queensland) Inc.
- Society of Editors (SA) Inc.
- Society of Editors (Tasmania) Inc.
- Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc.(trading as Editors Victoria)
- Society of Editors (WA) Inc.

The interests of editors in the Northern Territory are attended to by the South Australian society.

The registered office of the company is:

Institute of Professional Editors Limited  
c/- Tenbenschel & Dee  
Level 2 Coogans Building  
79 Collins Street  
Hobart Tas. 7000

The company has engaged the accounting services of Tenbenschel & Dee, the bookkeeping services of Leumas Accounting, PO Box 1387, Lindisfarne Tas. 7015, and the audit services of the chartered accountancy firm MCS Audit Pty Ltd, PO Box 281, Curtin ACT 2605. During the period of this report, the company banked with Community CPS Australia.

The company's postal address is:

The Secretary  
Institute of Professional Editors Limited  
PO Box 6585  
Point Cook VIC 3030

## Governance and management

### Council

IPEd is governed by a council comprising one nominee of each of the Members. Councillors, who are directors of the company, serve two-year terms. Retiring councillors are eligible for re-election.

Councillors during the period covered by this report were:

- Cathy Nicoll AE (Accredited Editor) (Canberra)
- Pam Peters DE (Distinguished Editor) (New South Wales)
- Robin Bennett AE (Queensland)
- Rosemary Luke AE (South Australia)
- Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tasmania)
- Rosemary Noble AE (Victoria)
- Josephine Smith AE (Western Australia).

In accordance with the Corporations Law, each councillor is bound to act in the interests of the company as a whole, and not in the interests of any one or more Members that might have assisted or nominated their appointment to the council.

**Rosemary Luke** was chair of the council for the year, her second in the position, and **Robin Bennett** deputy chair. **Josephine Smith** was honorary treasurer.

**Ed Highley** continued as company secretary and secretary to the council. The secretary is IPed's sole remunerated position, but various members of the exam development, implementation and marking team receive honoraria for their services.

### Meetings

Council members generally meet face-to-face only every two years, in association with the national conferences. Otherwise, the business of the council is conducted during two-hour teleconferences, usually held on the first Sunday of every month, excepting January.

The dates of 2011–12 teleconferences were 17 July, 7 August, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December, 6 February, 4 March, 31 March, 6 May and 10 June.

This was the year of the 5th national conference, held in Sydney on 7–9 September 2011. At a face-to-face meeting on 7 September, the council met

for an in-depth discussion of objectives and high priority activities for the year ahead and beyond. The 2011 annual general meeting of the company was also held in association with the national conference. All seven societies of editors were represented among the twenty participants who joined the council for the meeting on 9 September.

The minutes of council meetings are placed on the members-only area of the IPed website after their confirmation at the following meeting.

### Committees

There are four standing committees of council—Finance and Risk Management, the Accreditation Board, Communication, and Professional Development. Their responsibilities are outlined below. Highlights of their work during the year are covered later in this report.

#### Finance and Risk Management

The following are the main points made by the Honorary Treasurer in her report to the 2012 annual general meeting of IPed:

- The results for the year ended 30 June 2012 showed a deficit of \$5,129 (2011: surplus of \$3,648).
- The bank balance at that date was \$8,015 in the current account (2011: \$13,783) and \$22,931 in the term deposit account (2011: \$21,647) giving a total of \$30,946 (2011: \$35,430).
- Outstanding liabilities at year-end were \$11,300, including a loan of \$5,000 from the Society of Editors (SA) Inc. and deferred income of \$5,300 (membership levy received early).
- Income for the year was \$43,306, lower than in 2011 (\$78,371) as there was no exam in the financial year.
- Expenses totalled \$48,535, including the Secretary's remuneration of \$16,400 (2011: \$16,534) – less than the budgeted figure of \$18,700; the other main expense for the year was for the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice*, facilitated by Kerry Davies AE. This cost \$13,300 during the year with final costs to completion still to come in.

- The budget for 2012–13 is conservative, with a predicted deficit of just under \$2,000, assuming constant membership numbers of the societies of editors resulting in \$40,000 of member contributions. The next accreditation exam is due to be held on 13 October 2012, with a break-even budget assuming the required number of candidates register.

IPEd's audited financial statements can be found in the members-only area of the website.

All IPed's volunteer workers are covered by its Association Liability, Voluntary Workers Personal Accident, and Public Liability insurance policies.

## Accreditation

The national accreditation scheme for editors is administered for IPed by its Accreditation Board. The scheme provides for accreditation at the level of Accredited Editor (designated AE), to gain which qualification candidates must pass, at a designated specified level, an editing exam lasting three hours. The first accreditation exam, held in 2008, was developed by a group of experienced editors nominated by their societies. The members of this group were subsequently accorded the title Distinguished Editor (DE).

The Accreditation Board is made up of three types of delegates:

- *Society delegates.* These delegates are experienced editors appointed by their societies' management committees. There are seven society delegates on the board; all are answerable both to their own management committee and to the board.
- *The IPed Council delegate.* This person is responsible for representing the council's interests at all board meetings and other discussions (such as teleconferences) and for reporting to the council on the outcome of those discussions.
- *The Lead Writer.* The Accreditation Board appoints this person to lead the exam development work. The Lead Writer reports to the Accreditation Board on the exam development and liaises between the board and the assessors.

Society delegates during the period of this report were:

- Canberra—Kirsten McNeill AE (until September 2011); Ted Briggs AE

- NSW—Jenny Scepanovic AE (until December 2011); Alison Moodie AE
- South Australia—Karen Disney DE (until September 2011); Marianne Hammat AE
- Queensland—Robin Bennett AE
- Tasmania—Tina Thornton AE (until September 2011); Janice Bird DE with the support of Fin McShane AE (alternate)
- Victoria—Julie-Anne Justus AE (chair until September 2011); Susan Keogh AE (from January 2012)
- Western Australia—Carla Morris AE (chair from October 2011)

The IPed Council delegate was Rosemary Luke AE (SA). From March 2012, Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tas.) took over as the IPed Council delegate.

At the beginning of the period, while finalising the 2011 exam, Heather Jamieson DE (NSW) was the lead writer. The lead writer for the 2012 exam was Tina Thornton DE (SA). Company secretary Ed Highley provided secretarial services for the exam and Michael Vnuk AE (SA) was again appointed exam coordinator in the lead-up to the 2012 exam.

The Accreditation Board met 13 times in the year.

### *Highlights of Accreditation Board activity*

The Accreditation Board recognised that the main challenge facing accreditation was the need to increase industry awareness. With the help of Rosemary Luke from IPed Council, it undertook the following:

- setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts to give IPed and accreditation a social media presence
- writing articles for society newsletters to increase awareness and understanding of the need for accreditation
- starting the process of building a national mailing list for a direct letter-writing campaign
- assembling the writing team and writing the 2012 exam, which was almost complete at the end of the period
- communicating with BELS (Board of Editors in the Life Sciences) to organise the BELS exam in Australia in 2012–13
- improving record keeping, such as by tracking down copies of all previous Accreditation Board minutes

- upgrading the security of accreditation certificates so they are more difficult to forge
- planning ahead for reaccreditation in 2013 and discussing whether DEs also need to reaccredit
- sorting out confusion about who can claim AE status and use the AE postnominal (answer: individuals, not companies)
- updating sections of the website
- switching to Skype to save on teleconferencing costs
- revising the privacy policy so IPEd can contact former exam candidates if required.

The Accreditation Board would particularly like to thank the volunteers who helped write articles, build the mailing list and draft the letters (which were sent out after the period of this report).

From January 2012, the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) in the UK recognised IPEd's AE or DE status as evidence in membership applications. The SfEP has tiers of membership depending on an editor's professional experience. Sadly, most Australian societies still do not even have accreditation mentioned on their membership forms.

Converting the exam to a workable electronic format that mimics editors' real style of working continues to be problematic. The Accreditation Board agreed that Option 7 from the discussion

paper is the best method. Option 7 is where the exam is taken by the candidates in their own homes with the exam delivered via the Internet. Even so, no workable method has yet been found. All electronic exam options involve compromising security and large additional costs.

## Communication

IPEd's Communication Committee (CommComm) has been less than fully active this year, following the, much regretted, resignation of its convenor Rowena Austin AE and the failure, despite the strong efforts and inducements, to find a volunteer to replace her. The chair, Rosemary Luke, assisted by Carla Morris, Accreditation Board Chair, and others, has carried the extra load of publicity and PR. The situation is highly unsatisfactory.

## Professional development

This committee was led during the year by Rosemary Noble AE. As noted elsewhere, it completed the compilation of a comprehensive record of training events and workshops conducted by the Members of IPEd over the past 2–3 years. The compilation constitutes a register of professional development opportunities potentially available, with IPEd support, to the members of all the societies. The committee's ongoing work will include ensuring that this potential is achieved to as great an extent as possible.

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## Chair's report

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The 2011 Annual General Meeting of IPEd was held on 9 September 2011 during the national editors conference in Sydney. Council membership remained stable with changes in only the Canberra councillors (Ted Briggs stepping down and Cathy Nicoll taking over). Councillors were encouraged by the spontaneous statements of support and thanks for what IPEd had achieved, offered by several society members from different states who attended the AGM.

Council has met ten times since then, always by teleconference. A trial of VOIP (Skype) technology was attempted, but was unsuccessful, because not all participants were available to join the Skype conference call. Skype has been used successfully by the Accreditation Board; to conduct interviews

for the incoming company secretary; and for communication between councillors and the company secretary. Increased use of Skype will enable significant cost savings for IPEd.

Much council work is undertaken between meetings by relevant councillors and the company secretary. This has included writing and revising several policies, all of which are available on the website <iped-editors.org>. All such work is undertaken by councillors at their own expense, i.e. in time that they might otherwise be giving to paid work or to family life and other interests and responsibilities.

The council meeting held two days before the AGM in September 2011 looked at priorities for the coming year and decided to make revision

of the *Australian standards for editing practice* the priority for 2011–12. Those present agreed that it was important to finish the work started twice previously by volunteer groups, to revisit the standards and update them as necessary to accommodate changes in technology, legislation and editing practice in the ten years since their first publication. Kerry Davies AE was invited and agreed to facilitate the project and a nominal budget of \$12,000 was set. At the 2012 AGM the standards revision will be complete and the vote on the draft second edition, open to all members of all societies, will be complete. Council thanks Kerry Davies profusely for her dedication to this task. The 12-month revision took longer than was anticipated, but that was due to the highly consultative process, involving an active and equally committed working group of representatives from each society, who met Kerry regularly by teleconference, and dozens of society members who attended workshops and meetings to discuss the standards and their revision. All Australian editors are indebted to these colleagues.

Aside from the standards, IPEd's focus has been on the 2012 accreditation exam, to be held on Saturday 13 October 2012. In truth, councillors themselves, except those who double up as members of the Accreditation Board or are appointed assessors, do not take an active role in the exam preparations. This is delegated to the Accreditation Board and those appointed to prepare and mark the exam, who take on a heavy load with enthusiasm, good grace and occasional small honoraria. Council warmly thanks these editors. We should keep reminding ourselves that accreditation was the catalyst for establishing IPEd: the need to have a national system of accrediting editors and a national body that could administer it. Council supported and promoted the Accreditation Board's recommendation that all societies recognise AE and DE status as criteria for full membership of societies. To date only three societies of seven appear to advertise this fact on their websites; for WA, without tiered membership, it is not yet applicable.

IPEd has taken on other roles and activities; and it is regularly assumed by many in societies that IPEd will (or should) take on numerous other activities (for which IPEd has neither the finances nor resources). However, accreditation is IPEd's main role and it has done this well – holding four exams over five years; there will be well over 200 accredited editors across Australia by the end of 2012. If IPEd had managed nothing else

but accreditation, the standards revision and the revision of the thesis editing guidelines, it could be content. It has, in fact, tackled and achieved far more.

For the more than four years of its formal existence and for several years before that IPEd has been loyally supported by its only ongoing paid employee, our company secretary, Ed Highley. Ed has managed the business of council meetings, IPEd's relationship with ASIC, produced two-monthly 'IPEd Notes', waged his own one-man PR campaigns for editors in the *Canberra Times*, and, more recently, become exam secretary as well. This summary only scratched the surface of what Ed Highley has done for IPEd. I am sure that all who have worked with Ed through IPEd join me in offering a hearty thank you for many jobs very well done.

Ed's successor is Charles Houen, who has many years' experience in business and finance, most recently in a federal–state professional association not unlike IPEd. He is a member, and the Finance Officer, of Editors Victoria and we warmly welcome him.

During the reporting year, IPEd acquired a Patron: Professor Roland Sussex OAM. Professor Sussex is willing to write, speak and undertake other agreed activities on IPEd's behalf; he will be a keynote speaker at the April 2013 IPEd national editors conference in Fremantle. IPEd is grateful to Professor Sussex for accepting our invitation to become our patron. More information [http://iped-editors.org/View\\_News/New\\_Patron\\_for\\_IPEd.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/View_News/New_Patron_for_IPEd.aspx).

At the 2011 national editors conference, IPEd reported to delegates on the results of the national editors survey, which had been conducted using online survey technology in the months before the conference. IPEd conducted the survey, which built on a series of previous surveys conducted at national conferences by Pamela Hewitt AE. The 2011 results were posted on the IPEd website after the conference. There were 345 respondents, most members of societies, but some from outside societies, to whom the Australian Publishers' Association had sent the survey at IPEd's request. A summary of results can be found at [http://iped-editors.org/View\\_News/Editors\\_survey\\_summary\\_of\\_results.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/View_News/Editors_survey_summary_of_results.aspx).

IPEd once again sponsored both the Beatrice Davis Fellowship and the Barbara Ramsden Award. The 2012 Beatrice Davis Fellow's report makes interesting reading at <http://www.publishers.asn>.

au/emplibrary/Jane\_Morrow-BDEF\_report\_2012.pdf . The IPed-appointed judges of the Barbara Ramsden Award were disappointed in the small number of submissions from publishers for this award that acknowledges the collaboration between an editor and author, and in the general organisation of the event. The judges recommended that IPed reconsider its sponsorship of the award.

In an effort to build stronger links between IPed and editing programs in higher education, IPed announced the IPed prize, worth \$250, for an essay or paper written as part of the requirements for a postgraduate degree in editing, publishing or another discipline that permits a focus on editing. Few entries have been received to date, but more are expected before the closing date in December 2012. In addition, program coordinators of editing programs were asked to provide IPed with the titles of Masters or Doctoral theses on the subject of editing so that these can be listed on the IPed website. The lack of a volunteer to drive this activity has caused a temporary halt in its progress.

On the question of building links, IPed has strengthened ties between itself and editing organisations in other countries. As council chair, I have twice visited the UK Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) and spoken to directors of the organisation. At council's request, Elizabeth Murphy DE of the Canberra Society of Editors spoke briefly at the 2011 SfEP conference. These activities have resulted in the IPed qualifications of accredited and distinguished editor giving advanced standing for Australian editors applying for membership of SfEP. Elizabeth Murphy has also established ties with the Professional Editors' Group (PEG) of South Africa, which we hope the incoming council will strengthen. IPed has, further, been in touch with the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC), during the standards revision, about acknowledging the debt that elements of the Australian standards owe to the Canadian. In these ways we see the strength and advantage of a national organisation, which can speak comfortably and representatively with our international colleagues, to the mutual benefit of all.

As I step down as council chair, I would like to thank three people, in addition to the retiring company secretary, for their work over the past 12 months. Jo Smith, the WA councillor, has been an exemplary Honorary Treasurer, managing budgets, cashflow and monthly reporting with great efficiency. She has also set up a detailed system of financial

controls that ensure security and transparency in IPed's financial transactions. Thank you, Jo, for your contribution over the past year. We are delighted you can continue as Treasurer for 2012–13. Rosemary Noble, an inaugural IPed councillor, steps down after more than five years' service, including one as chair. Rosemary has driven the work that underpins IPed's 'transportable professional development scheme', which enables societies to engage interstate workshop presenters, with travel and accommodation costs paid by IPed, just one of many examples of the societies' financial contributions coming back to support their members.

Finally, I'd like to single out Carla Morris, who agreed after the last annual general meeting to become chair of the Accreditation Board. All previous Accreditation Board chairs have put in long hours and outstanding effort, not always well-supported by board members, societies and councillors. Carla has been no exception, overseeing exam preparation, completed several months ahead of the exam, establishing documentation procedures, writing and revising relevant policies, and editing the website. Carla also took on the task that many of us have given up on in the past: directly contacting managers in government, business and publishing about the importance of editing and accreditation. As a result of her energy and determination, and with the assistance of a few others, August 2012 saw a mail-out of approximately 2,000 letters on this topic, accompanied by IPed's 'Editing: words' best practice' flyer.

Carla Morris had to stand down as Accreditation Board chair in late July, unable to maintain the pressure of what she had taken on. This highlights one of the biggest problems, shared by IPed and its constituent societies: a dearth of volunteers and the burn-out of those who make a serious commitment to our organisations. IPed will be seeking a new Accreditation Board chair from early 2013.

The Communication Committee of council has not existed since its former convenor had to resign after accepting a demanding full-time job. The IPed chair has largely carried the communication role for the past year. This is unsustainable. Publicity and advocacy are key to the success of IPed's prime objective: accrediting editors and doing its utmost to ensure that accredited and other professional editors are employed where words need to be used well, and that they are appropriately remunerated for their knowledge, skills and experience.

I hope that the incoming council will be able to find solutions to the critical matters of inadequate human resources and national promotion of editors. To do this, councillors need to keep working with their local societies to ensure that members are well informed about IPed, its goals and activities; to explain to members that IPed

works on their behalf, not in competition with the societies; to encourage editors with relevant experience and skills to volunteer to work on IPed, as well as society, projects. A fleet is stronger than a battleship, or even several battleships following their own courses.

*Rosemary Luke*

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## Activities during the year

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Summaries of some of the main activities of IPed during the year follow. Other highlights are covered in the Chair's report and elsewhere in this account of the Institute's work during the year.

### 2011 national conference

The 5th National Editors Conference was held in Sydney on 7–9 September. The national conferences are held under the aegis of IPed, and organised and hosted by the local society, in this case the Society of Editors (NSW). There were just over 300 participants in the conference, some 250 of whom were members of one of the seven Australian societies of editors, all of which were represented. They enjoyed an interesting program framed around the theme 'New horizons for editing and publishing'. Six full-day workshops that supplemented the conference program were well attended, with those on 'Writing for the web' and 'Running a freelance business' being particularly popular.

IPed made two presentations at the conference: one general, on developments since the last national assembly; the other by the Accreditation Board, on the results of its survey of preferences for the future form of the accreditation exam. Two papers were prepared and provided in the documentation provided to registrants: a special issue of IPed Notes, covering events over the past two years, and a report of the 2011 national survey of editors conducted by IPed.

An informative and entertaining account of many of the presentations at the national conference is given by Jennifer Beale in an article in the September 2011 issue of *Offpress*, the newsletter of the Society of Editors (Queensland) at <editorsqld.com> or via the IPed website. There are also conference reports in the October and November 2011 issues of *Blue Pencil*, the NSW society's newsletter.

### National survey of editors

IPed surveyed Australian editors from June to August, using an online questionnaire, which was widely advertised by IPed, the Australian Publishers Association and the state societies of editors. There were 345 responses. The survey built on and expanded the surveys conducted by Pamela Hewitt AE at previous national editors conferences, and at the joint Canberra Society of Editors – Australian Society of Indexers conference in 2001, making this the sixth such snapshot of the profession. The report on the findings of the survey was distributed to participants in the national conference in Sydney in September 2011, and is also available to societies of editors' members at <[http://iped-editors.org/About\\_IPEd/2011\\_survey.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/About_IPEd/2011_survey.aspx)>.

### Setting priorities

At its face-to-face meeting in Sydney at the time of the national conference, councillors took the opportunity to focus on planning for the next year or so. They resolved that the highest priority activity for the immediate future should be the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice (ASEP)*. Kerry Davies AE, freelance editor and president of the Society of Editors (Queensland), offered to facilitate the process and the plan she subsequently put to council was accepted. The work began during October with society presidents, IPed councillors and Accreditation Board delegates receiving a background paper and supporting documentation to allow them to convene meetings of their members to discuss the revision and convey their views to the facilitator. As reported by the Council Chair, thanks to the dedication of Kerry and a host of contributors, the process is now almost complete and publication of the second edition of *ASEP* imminent.



Two other activities were accorded high priority by council: updating and elaboration of IPed's professional development (PD) register; and ongoing promotion of, and advocacy for, the profession. The PD register is a list of society workshops and courses, run recently or forthcoming, which forms, in effect, a training database with the potential, with IPed support, to be drawn on by all the societies. If the members of a particular society want to host a training activity that has been successfully conducted in another society, IPed will, the presenter being able and willing, and other circumstances permitting, provide material support for that to happen.

Thanks to the efforts of Rosemary Noble and colleagues in the Society of Editors (Victoria) [now rebadged as Editors Victoria], a comprehensive 'Database of professional development' covering all professional development sessions and training workshops held by IPed's member societies over the past three years is now available on the members-only section of the website. The societies are encouraged to consult the register to explore how they might expand the range of professional development services they provide. Societies that wish to provide for their members activities that would involve inter-state travel by a specific trainer can apply to IPed for funding support. Societies can also use the register to identify and contact trainers whom they might wish to invite to their society.

## IPed website

Traffic on the website, which was redesigned over an 18-month period spanning 2009 to 2011, has been steadily increasing and, during the year, many more society members signed up to access the members-only resources on the website.

Following a call to the societies for a volunteer web minder, Paul Bugeja, a member of the Victorian society, accepted the position in late 2011.

## Policy development

During the year, the Council developed the following new policies: Use of the IPed logo; Review and promotion of books authored by editors; Communication and information dissemination; and Privacy: use of personal information; and revised its policy covering reimbursement of costs incurred by participants in IPed meetings and IPed-sponsored events. The policy statements can

be read at <[http://iped-editors.org/About\\_IPEd/IPed\\_Council/Policies1.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/About_IPEd/IPed_Council/Policies1.aspx)>.

## Barbara Ramsden Award

IPed continued its sponsorship and judging of the Barbara Ramsden Award for excellence in editing, one of the national literary awards organised by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW), Victoria. FAW describes the award:

A major literary award for a book of fiction or non-fiction. The sponsors provide two specially-cast bronze plaques valued at \$500, designed by renowned sculptor and medallionist, Michael Meszaros. These are presented to the author and editor to recognise the combined effort of both parties to produce a quality product. The design is of the Origin of Art, showing the creator at work, and a figure representing the forces that ensure its effective communication. All entries must include two copies of the book and a commentary from the author or publisher (of no more than 100 words) on how they felt the editor contributed to the final result.

The judges for the 2011 award were Rosemary Luke AE and Rosemary Noble AE. They chose a book celebrating Captain William Bligh's extraordinary small-boat journey from Tofua to Timor after the mutiny on the *Bounty*. *In Bligh's hand: surviving the mutiny on the Bounty*, published by the National Library of Australia (NLA), brings to life Bligh's notebook, meticulously kept during the 47-day, 6,700-km voyage of the 7-metre open boat, during which only one of the 19 men aboard died. Dr Jennifer Gall wrote and Joanna Karmel edited *In Bligh's hand*, which, in both words and facsimile illustrations, celebrates the notebook, now held as one of the treasures of the NLA.

The judges wrote:

... this is a beautiful and comprehensive book, which shows clear evidence of Joanna Karmel's hand in project managing a complex production that would have required extensive consultation with a range of contributors in addition to the author. The finished work complements the text in every way possible through illustrations, additional explanations and a helpful index, all managed and cross-referenced by the editor.

Jennifer Gall's text itself is clear, accessible, interesting, informative and illuminating. The

author's style is such that the book is a real page turner. Background information is provided unobtrusively, usefully and valuably. No copyediting or proofreading infelicities mar the reader's interaction with the text.

## Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship

IPEd continued its sponsorship of the fellowship. The 2011–12 Beatrice Davis Fellow was Jane

Morrow, an editor of chiefly nonfiction books, both narrative and illustrated. The fellowship award allowed Jane to spend some 10 weeks in placements in US publishers on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Her report on her fellowship, 'Going digital: an Australian editor's observations of developments in US publishing' is a fascinating report that everyone interested in the future of the 'book' should read. It's available through a link on the IPed website.

## About the members of IPed

### Canberra Society of Editors

The Canberra Society of Editors turned 20 in 2012. We began in May 1992 led by Loma Snooks, and 58 so-called 'inaugural 1992' members. These included Gil Garcon, our President for 2011–12 until illness sidelined him, and Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE who took over for the remainder of Gil's term. We now have around 120 members working in-house and freelance in all genres but with an emphasis on government publications and project documentation, and some thesis editing (four universities are represented in Canberra). This year has seen recovery from interrupted leadership – accomplished by a dedicated committee. It also saw a successful venture into book publication with *Working words*, including launches in Canberra, Sydney and Cape Town (Cape Town Book Fair) and a promotion in Oxford (SfEP conference). We are looking ahead to a comprehensive mentoring scheme designed to suit a broad range of needs to complement our existing lively training program.

### Society of Editors (NSW)

Founded in 1989, the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc. has grown from a small group who met in each others' homes to a well-established association of over 400 members, professional, associate, corporate, and seven life members. Members gather for monthly meetings with speakers from remarkable editing and publishing backgrounds (trade and professional, print and e-publishing). They meet in the downtown Sydney Mechanics Institute, with

its large fiction library and special Thomas Keneally Collection (mostly nonfiction from the author's own library, since he turned to the web for researching his subjects). The climax of 2011 for the NSW Society was staging the 5th National Editors Conference in Darling Harbour, with Catherine Etteridge leading a team of many players. The NSW Society publishes its newsletter *Blue Pencil* in print and online, ten times a year, and runs at least six professional workshops every year. The current president, Pam Peters, is in her fifth year in the position.

### Society of Editors (Queensland)

The Society of Editors (Queensland) Inc. was founded in 1990. Services provided to members include professional development (workshops), the society's monthly newsletter *Offpress*, ten general meetings per year (speaker meetings), a freelance register for full members and regular lunches for freelancers. The society's current President is Kerry Davies AE.

As of 31 May 2012, the society had 247 members, including five life members. Most members currently work freelance or combine freelancing with part-time employment. A significant number of in-house and freelance members have worked as education and technical editors.

Highlights of the past year include development of a new website and two very successful workshops, one on working with writers and the other on the business end of freelancing, which have enabled the society to donate \$1,000 to the Queensland literary awards.

Queensland members also participated actively in the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice*.

The committee is concerned about the future facing the society's members.

## Society of Editors (SA)

The Society of Editors (SA) had 100 full and 32 associate members at 30 June 2012, an increase on previous years, and the highest number of members in the society's 22-year history.

About one-third of SA members are freelance editors. The remainder work predominantly for government departments and authorities, and corporate enterprises, there being few publishing houses in South Australia.

Loene Doube AE will begin her third year as president at the annual general meeting on 28 August.

During 2012, SocEds (SA) played an active role in developing the second edition of the *Australian standards for editing practice*, developed a new website, conducted a telephone survey with all members to ascertain what they want from the society, and conducted workshops and meetings on accreditation, mentoring, grammar, English taught in schools, reading, and making grammar fun.

Future plans include fine-tuning the website and establishing a mentoring scheme. Like many other organisations, the SA society finds progress on plans is slow, because of the small number of volunteers willing to accept committee roles.

## Society of Editors (Tasmania)

Tasmania is a very small society – in May 2012 we had 47 financial members: one honorary life member, one corporate member, 11 associate members and 34 full members. The committee has decided to no longer offer corporate membership.

Nevertheless, this year we have held workshops on proofreading and the business of freelancing as well as a well-attended workshop on grammar presented by Pam Peters and sponsored by IPed. We contributed to the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice* and found time for

two social events – a Christmas dinner and a 'Longest night' book chat.

We produced four issues of *Catchword* as well as our monthly e-newsletter, *eTextpert*. In the coming year we will be reviewing our communication strategy with a view to reducing the workload involved in producing these newsletters.

At the society's AGM Sheelagh Wegman accepted the role of president, heading a new executive committee consisting of four continuing members and three new. The hope is that the combination of experience and new ideas will be fruitful, because the year ahead will be a challenging one.

## Editors Victoria

This year the society celebrated its 41st year by adopting a business name, Editors Victoria (the registered name of the society remains unchanged). This new branding coincided with the launch of a new logo, website and new-look, enhanced monthly newsletter.

The society has had a bumper year, with the following other major achievements:

- record-breaking attendances at our monthly dinner meetings, which featured a selection of excellent guest speakers
- a membership of almost 600 by July 2012, with a further increase expected due to the introduction of a new category of membership for students
- a full schedule of well-attended and popular training workshops and seminars throughout the year
- the development of a focused, three-year directional plan, as a result of a strategy day and subsequent planning meetings.

Editors Victoria will be going into the next year with a newly invigorated committee under the leadership of our recently elected president, Trischa Mann. Apart from business as usual, we will be concentrating our energies on strengthening our ties with IPed, the publishing industry and other related institutions.

## Society of Editors (WA)

The Society of Editors (WA) was founded in August 1992, and we plan on holding our 21st anniversary celebrations next year.

As at July 2012, our membership was 113. Of our current members we have 59 freelancers, 14 AEs and 1 DE, 2 honorary Life members of the society, but only 18 members are male. Our AEs now cover a distance of 2,500 km, from Broome in the north, down to the south-west.

In March 2012 we welcomed a new president, Tanya Marwood, along with a nearly all-new committee. A huge thank you goes to the outgoing president Robin Bower for all her dedication and enthusiasm, and for dragging the society into the 21st century.

The main focus for the WA society is the 6th IPed National Editors Conference to be held in Fremantle next April. Thank you to all the volunteer members of the conference committee.

# IPEd.

To advance the  
profession of editing

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