

Editors Victoria celebrates 50 years with online party
(Let's go behind the scenes beforehand and on the night)

By Marie Pietersz (edvic.events@iped-editors.org)



And so it was, all done and dusted, the 50th birthday online celebrations of Editors Victoria. And what a production it was. In the words of branch President Stephanie Holt, the team of enthusiastic members turned producers, directors and Zoom technicians were left ‘agog to realise that it went so well and on time’.

Secretary and long-standing member Margaret Trudgeon said: ‘It really came together very well. From being part of and witnessing the earlier events [other milestone celebrations], I have to say this one stood up very well.’

The idea of an online party was born from brainstorming with Maryna Mews, another long-standing member, and being inspired by her suggestions of things that had worked in the past. Not fazed by the inability to have an in-person event and not willing to miss out on celebrating this milestone of our beloved EdVic, we rolled with the punches and settled for an online version with lots of variety and interaction.

Soon a search was launched for volunteers for the planning committee. We are grateful to Katie Purvis for volunteering to produce the couch choir and to Liesha Northover for her design work on the invitation and costume accessories (eye masks and birthday badges). Their contribution of time and skills played an important part in the planning process. Meeting by Zoom initially, the planning committee continued their communication via email to finesse the activities which made up the event.

Then at 6pm on 11 December 2020, nervous yet confident and able production team members, armed with detailed and daunting ‘running sheets’, took their places and prepared for 70 guests – most in festive gear and some wearing special costume accessories – to join the Zoom room ready for the fun to begin.

BOARDING PASS

You are cordially invited to attend the **50th** birthday celebrations of Editors Victoria and our end-of-year Christmas event.

MEL ✈ MEL



COZ WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE!

The evening will include singing, dancing and a brain teaser. Be prepared to be interactive!

LOCATION: IPed Zoom Room
DATE: Friday 11 December 2020

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 pm
DRESS: Dress to impress! (hats, streamers) and definitely a glass of champagne.

RSVP: Friday 27 November 2020

A MEMORABLE EVENT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.
STEPHANIE HOLT PRESIDENT EDITORS VICTORIA

ITINERARY

Welcome ✈

✈ Turning Fifty ✈

✈ Stretch Your Brain with Quiz Master ✈

✈ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ✈

✈ Couch Choir ✈

✈ Thank yous ✈

✈ Raise a Glass ✈

✈ Congratulations on our 50th! ✈



IPed. To advance the profession of editing

Glasses modified from template at © www.firstpalette.com

Production team members included:

Host/Admin – Marie Pietersz (Events Officer)

Co-host/Admin (Tech) – Nichole Mathers (IPEd Secretary)

Co-host/Admin (Chats) – Jane Fitzpatrick (Vice President)

Co-host/Admin (Slides) – Donna Quinn (Administration Officer)

Co-host (Musical Director) – Maryna Mews (Victorian Mentoring Coordinator)

General Member – Margaret Trudgeon (Secretary)



Speakers:

Stephanie Holt – Introduction and trivia game

Renée Otmar – Down 50 years of memory lane

The start



Events Officer Marie Pietersz kicked off proceedings with housekeeping matters (the event would be recorded, for archival and historical purposes only, and any future use of snippets would be with the necessary approvals). She said: ‘Who knew we would be celebrating our 50th birthday online? Just imagine being able to recall your participation in this 50th birthday celebration. We would not be beaten by COVID, lockdown restrictions or anything in celebrating this wonderful journey of Editors Victoria. From little things, big things grow.’

The speeches



Branch President Stephanie Holt then took over to welcome guests, acknowledge country and dignitaries and to thank past members and interstate colleagues who joined in honour of the occasion. She commented on ‘the challenges of an “extraordinary” year, or “unwanted”, “monstrous”, “bizarre”, “grotesque”, “improbable” – we could throw the thesaurus at it – and the list goes on ... and yet there have been some strange compensations and discoveries along the way. The impact of the year has been hard and it has fallen unevenly and unfairly ... but we hope the worst is truly behind us and we are able to look tentatively forward. Despite all that, the branch committee (outgoing, new and continuing) have kept the valuable activities of events, news and Zoom connections rolling along and those activities are so valuable and inspiring because of the enthusiasm and generosity of the members who join them. And, this is not just any year we are finishing – it is our 50th year of founding!’

Given that significance, Stephanie thanked the members who sent warm messages: Davina Dadley-Moore, Melanie Dankel and Sara Kitaoji. A special mention went out to Jan Llewelyn, one of the founding members and instigators of The Society of Editors Victoria who was present at the first meeting (wow), and who is now celebrating the 50th year online event with us (thanks to Jeanette Birtles). Also, the warm messages accompanying apologies from Kate Cuthbert, Diane Brown, Liz Steele, Michael Webster, Trevor Barr and Charles Houen.

Turning 50 – down memory lane



The baton was passed to Renée Otmar, EdVic member since April 1992 and our most recent branch delegate to IPEd. Renée took guests on a trip down 50 years of memory lane.

To read a transcript of Renée’s presentation, click on the link [here](#) [PDF 335KB].

Preparations for the presentation uncovered a collection of memorabilia from early newsletters and events, which can be viewed [here](#) [PDF 13MB].

Trivia on the theme ‘50’

The next activity was the trivia quiz run by Stephanie Holt (maestro of trivia). Trivia games have always been an EdVic tradition at Christmas parties and other events. This time the format was changed to a Zoom version, played individually rather than in groups. The game comprised three rounds on a theme of ‘50’ to honour our special anniversary. The prize was boasting rights as EdVic’s official champion.

Round 1 was the try-out, with multiple-choice questions. Scores were sent by private chat to Stephanie before players with scores of seven or more proceeded to Round 2. The knock-out round meant serious trivia buffs with scores of four or above went on to answer a third set of questions, this time without hints or multiple choices. Finalists sent their scores and Jim Hart was announced the trivia champion with a score of 6/6, taking it from equal runners-up Jane Fitzpatrick and Lorna Henry, an admirable feat.

But wait, there was a challenge! Is this correct? Oh, no, Jim had been too late with one of the answers in the previous round, so he was already eliminated and therefore ineligible to be the winner. As a result, a tie-breaking question became necessary to fight out the championship between Jane and Lorna. Then, the question was out, and in a split-second Jane provided the right answer and was announced the winner, with Lorna the runner-up. It was a nail-biting game, the questions well pitched and entertaining, with lots of humorous bits. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

If you weren't there on the night but would like to play along with a special abridged version of the quiz, you can click [here](#) [PDF 103KB] and have some fun testing your trivia knowledge.

Dancing the night away

Guests filled their glasses while the changeover for the next activity took place, shifting tempo and format from the mental to the physical.

Following a run-through of the dance routine by Marie Pietersz, guests cleared spaces around them in their lounges and took to the floor, grooving with individual energy and style, to give an EdVic twist to the South African hymn/song dominating the music charts in 2020, *Jerusalema*. It was a lot of fun to see our multi-talented editors enjoying their physical freedom with eyes turned away from the usual computer screens and manuscripts.





Couch choir

Next on the agenda was singing. Mental, physical or vocal, our editors proved that given a challenge, they could rise to it. Coordinator Katie Purvis talked about her call-out for volunteers to take part in the couch choir and the excellent response received, resulting in the awesome video she was very proud to premiere in celebration of the 50th anniversary of EdVic. Titled *The editor works tonight*, to the tune of *The lion sleeps tonight* (Mbube), with new lyrics by Katie Purvis assisted by Maryna Mews, the performance featured 10 editors demonstrating their ability to sing in perfect harmony.

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful clip by the EdVic couch choir, expertly produced and edited by a technician friend of Maryna Mews, Roger Rassool. It had rave reviews from the guests, with some chat messages calling it ‘our new anthem’.

The video clip featured the images and voices of Julie Cantrill, Jane Fitzpatrick, Helen Koehne, Maryna Mews, Maryanne Park, Helen Penrose, Marie Pietersz, Katie Purvis, Fiona Walters and Susan Pierotti.



To see the lyrics of the song *The editor works tonight*, click on the link [here](#) [PDF 90KB]. If you would like to listen to the performance again, or see it for the first time because you weren't at the party, you can do so at this YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hCqSIHa_Cc&feature=youtu.

The birthday song

As is traditional for birthdays, we sang the birthday song, with revised words by Maryna Mews:

Happy birthday to us
Happy birthday to us

Happy 50th Eds Victoria
Happy 50th to us.

Maryna Mews cued the singing by sounding the appropriate starting note, then led us through the rendition. This provided a perfect segue for cutting the cake.



Cutting the cake

Glasses were raised, the cake was cut, candles were blown out virtually and a gusty 'Hip hip hooray' was heard.



The finale

Then it was back to Stephanie Holt to thank the 50th birthday celebrations committee for the creativity and energy that went into the production, and all members and members-at-large who have served the organisation throughout its 50 years.

Stephanie shared a slide with the names of those who have served as committee members during that time. To see the list click on the link [here](#) [PDF 75 KB].

Stephanie delivered a fitting finale with festive wishes for the season, a hopeful conclusion to 2020 and a safe, joyous and happy new year.

The encore

Branch Vice-President Jane Fitzpatrick turned the recording to give guests the freedom to chat freely.

The night concluded with the *We wish you a merry Christmas* and *Auld lang syne*.

EdVic hopes to launch a commemorative souvenir to complete its 50th birthday celebrations. An in-person picnic is also on the cards, if COVID restrictions permit, in the new year.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the President, committee members, production team, speakers and activity leaders who generously gave their time and talents to make this online event a most energetic, enjoyable and memorable one, and to all the guests present for being there to share the celebration with us. Online, did you say? Yes, it certainly was! And everyone had a good time.

To see a list of credits for production of the 50th birthday celebrations online, please click on the link [here](#) [PDF 44KB].

All image credits: Editors Victoria