

IPEd.

To advance the  
profession of editing

INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL EDITORS LIMITED

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Annual Report

2012–13

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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), Sydney (2011) and Fremantle (2013). Each conference is organised and hosted by the local society of editors. The next conference will be held in Canberra in May 2015, a joint conference with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI).

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 2012 to 30 June 2013.

## 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.

Editors Victoria Inc.

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/- Vector Services  
14 Boathaven Road  
Point Cook VIC 3030

The company has engaged the accounting services of Vector Services, and the audit services of the chartered accountancy firm Teamwork Accounting Pty Ltd, PO Box 6083, Point Cook VIC 3030. During the period of this report, the company banked with Bankwest Australia.

The company's postal address is:

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

## About the Members

The numbers of members of the societies of editors (the Members of IPEd) are tabulated below. The societies vary not only in size but also, to some degree, in their structure and rules of association. Overviews of the seven Members are given later in the report.

The Members support IPEd financially through an annual contribution based on their membership numbers. The per capita contribution for the past three 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.

### Society membership numbers, 2012 and 2013

Society	Number of members at 31 May	
	2012	2013
Canberra	130	169
New South Wales	368	355
Queensland	247	268
South Australia	130	126
Tasmania	47	51
Victoria	569	668
Western Australia	105	117
TOTAL	1596	1754

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## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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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) until September 2012
- Alan Cummine (Canberra) from September 2012
- Pam Peters DE (Distinguished Editor) (New South Wales) until September 2012
- Owen Kavanagh (New South Wales) from September 2012
- Robin Bennett AE (Queensland)
- Rosemary Luke AE (South Australia) until September 2012
- Susan Rintoul (South Australia) from September 2012
- Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tasmania)
- Rosemary Noble AE (Victoria) until September 2012
- Robert Sheehan (Victoria) from September 2012 until April 2013
- Charles Houen (Victoria) from April 2013
- 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 until September, and **Robin Bennett** Deputy Chair. **Josephine Smith** was Honorary Treasurer. **Susan Rintoul** acted as the Chair in September, followed by **Owen Kavanagh** in October; **Robert Sheehan** was elected Chair in November and served until April 2013, relieved by **Owen Kavanagh** for one of the three meetings in January. When Robert Sheehan was forced, by pressure of his professional work, to retire at the April meeting, Owen Kavanagh was elected Chair and served for the rest of the year.

**Ed Highley** continued as Company Secretary and secretary to the council until September, when he retired, having served since IPed was founded. **Charles Houen** was appointed as secretary designate in August, and took over in September. The secretary is IPed's sole remunerated position, but various members of the exam development, implementation and marking team, the Accreditation Board Chair and the IPed Chair and Honorary Treasurer 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, except January. However, the council met 14 times in the report period.

The dates of 2012–13 teleconferences were 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December, 6, 13 and 20 January, 3 February, 3 March, 21 April and 2 June.

This was the year of the sixth national conference, held in Fremantle on 10–12 April 2013. At the face-to-face meeting on 10 April, the council met for an in-depth discussion of objectives and high-priority activities, particularly the IPed review, for the year ahead and beyond.

### Committees

There are four standing committees of council – Finance and Risk Management, the Accreditation Board, Communication (CommComm), 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 financial year 2012–13 was a busy one for IPEd and editors in general, with the national editors conference in Fremantle in April 2013 and the IPEd review ongoing throughout the year. IPEd ended the year in a sound financial position, ready for whatever the IPEd review vote will bring.

### *IPEd financial statements*

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 have been completed and are available from the secretary or on the IPEd website. They were presented at the AGM for the consideration of the Members.

### *Income and Expenditure*

The results for the year ended 30 June 2013 showed a surplus of \$21,361 (2012: deficit of \$5129) against an original budgeted deficit of \$1778.

The actual surplus of \$21,361 was mainly due to the accreditation exam held on 13 October 2012, which made a surplus of \$13,570 as the full income for the 2012 exam was recognised in this financial year, but not all of the expenses (some were incurred in the previous year). For the 2012–13 financial year, exam fee income of \$40,700 was received, with exam expenses of \$27,130 incurred. However, there was also \$4310 of expenses incurred in the previous financial year that related to the 2012 exam, resulting in a total exam cost of \$31,440. The overall surplus of \$9260 was due to higher than expected candidate numbers (75 actual, compared with 60 in the budget) and robust cost control by the Accreditation Board.

IPEd's other operations made a surplus of \$7691. Income of \$40,475 was received in membership levies from the state societies (2012: \$40,830). The membership levy remained at \$25 per society member. Additional income was received in the form of donations, interest and advertising income. Expenses were well controlled.

The council approved an honorarium of \$1000 be paid to each of the IPEd Chair and the Honorary Treasurer in appreciation of the significant services they have provided during the financial year.

Training support was only claimed by the New South Wales and Tasmania societies.

The final expenses regarding the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice* came in at the start of this financial year, resulting in a total expense for the project of \$18,170. Donations totalling \$2,500 were received from the South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria societies, and society payments (at cost) received for printed copies of the *Standards* was \$2,120, which meant a final cost to IPEd of \$13,550.

Overall, the expenses maintained the status quo for IPEd, with no promotion or any other expenditure to advance the profession of editing, as there has been no CommComm Convenor during the year through lack of volunteers, which is one of the reasons why the IPEd review is so important to the future of IPEd and the editing profession.

### *Balance Sheet*

The bank balance at 30 June 2013 was \$47,092 (2012: \$30,946).

At that date IPEd owed \$4862 (2012: \$11,279) in outstanding liabilities, including deferred income of \$2130 (exam fees held over to the next exam). The loan of \$5000 from the Society of Editors (SA) Inc. was paid back during the financial year.

### *Budget for financial year 2013–14*

The budget for the financial year 2013–14 was prepared assuming operations and related income and expenditure as of previous years, but with an additional reserve for any IPEd review costs that may be incurred during the year.

The budget for the coming year is prudent, with a predicted surplus of just over \$1500.

Regarding the IPEd review, a budget of \$3500 has been allowed for promotion, as well as \$7500 for IPEd review costs.

The next accreditation exam is due to be held on 4 May 2014 with a break-even budget assumed. Renewal of accreditation will commence in September 2013, and this process has been budgeted for on a break-even basis, with the renewal fee covering the assessors' fees and administration costs.

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

## Accreditation

For IPed, the Accreditation Board administers the national accreditation scheme for editors. The scheme provides for accreditation at the level of Accredited Editor (designated AE). To gain accreditation candidates must pass, at a designated specified level, a three-hour editing exam. 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 – Ted Briggs AE
- New South Wales – Alison Moodie AE
- South Australia – Marianne Hammat AE (until November 2012); Adele Walker AE
- Queensland – Robin Bennett AE (until December 2012); Desolie Page AE
- Tasmania – Janice Bird DE (until February 2013)
- Victoria – Susan Keogh AE (until September 2012); Kath Harper AE (until August 2013); Cassandra Ball AE
- Western Australia – Carla Morris AE (until July 2012); Josephine Smith AE (until October 2012); Sue Thomson AE.

The Tasmania delegate position is currently vacant.

The IPed Council delegate is Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tas.)

Meryl Potter DE was appointed lead writer for the 2014 exam in April 2013.

The Accreditation Board was chaired by Carla Morris AE (WA) to July 2012; Robin Bennett AE (Qld) from August to December 2012, Kath Harper AE (Vic) and Sue Thomson AE (WA) as co-chairs from January to April 2013; and Ted Briggs from May 2013.

The Accreditation Board met 15 times in the year, including a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the national conference in April 2013.

### Highlights of Accreditation Board activity during 2012–13:

- successful conduct of the fourth accreditation exam on 13 October 2012 with 75 candidates sitting the exam, 60 of them successful (an 80 per cent pass rate)
- updating sections of the website
- presentation of a paper on future directions for accreditation at the national conference in Fremantle in April 2013
- commencement of writing the next exam, scheduled for 3 May 2014
- planning for the development of a database of exam questions to be drawn on for future exams
- planning for the introduction of renewal of accreditation.

### Renewal of accreditation

Accreditation through IPed lasts five years, after which accredited editors must apply to have their accreditation renewed. For the first accredited editors, accredited in 2008, renewal is due in late 2013. Applications may be submitted any time between 30 September and 31 December 2013.

To obtain renewal of accreditation, accredited editors will be required to demonstrate that, over the five years since their accreditation, they have:

- been actively employed or involved in the editing profession
- undertaken a range of relevant professional development activities.

For this first round of renewals, a panel of Distinguished Editors will assess applications.

## Exam futures

'Examining the options for a sustainable accreditation scheme', a paper by Kath Harper, Sue Thomson and Accreditation Board members, was presented by Robin Bennett at the IPEd national conference in April 2013.

This paper outlined possible options for future exam delivery, and means of making the accreditation exams more sustainable in terms of volunteer effort, cost and the exam development process.

Over the past two years, the Accreditation Board has been investigating the current viability of the various options listed in the discussion paper prepared in 2011 by Rosemary Luke, Pam Peters and Julie-Anne Justus on behalf of IPEd and the board.

The exam options fall into three broad categories – paper-based, onscreen and online. Previous exams have shown that the paper format is workable and able to be delivered securely, but there is a clear demand from members for an electronic format, so the Accreditation Board has focused on investigating and assessing the various modes of electronic delivery.

The first task was to clarify what was meant by 'onscreen' and 'online' exams. Working definitions were developed by the board for the purposes of this paper.

- *Onscreen exam*: an electronic exam paper in Word format, which would retain the layout of the paper-based exam but allow candidates to complete answers and input text on screen, and use 'track changes' functions to indicate editing changes.
- *Online exam*: a fully interactive electronic exam developed by specialist IT professionals with content provided by an IPEd exam development team.

The Accreditation Board has undertaken to prepare sample questions from each part of the exam, appropriate for use in an onscreen format, which could be demonstrated to 2015 conference delegates, and to the members of each society, to indicate how an onscreen exam would work and to obtain useful feedback on this form of delivery. The Accreditation Board is also investigating the affordability and feasibility of a number of options to deliver an onscreen exam in the future.

The Accreditation Board prefers to gain experience with an onscreen exam before attempting to develop an online exam. It recognises that advances in technology are likely to make an online exam a more attractive and workable solution for the future and will continue to monitor developments in this area.

## Accreditation Board futures

The board has considered various ways of reducing the pressures of both time and money on volunteers who give many hours of their time, and their professional expertise, to ongoing development of the accreditation scheme.

The IPEd Council agreed to two proposals put forward by the board to try to ease this pressure on some of the hardest workers:

- Limited reimbursement of the Accreditation Board Chair for the large amounts of time spent in working on issues related to accreditation. This ongoing time commitment, without which neither the board nor the accreditation scheme would function, reduces the Chair's ability to maintain a full-time editing workload and achieve work-life balance.
- Allocation of extra funds for development of a comprehensive database of exam questions, which can be drawn on and adapted for future exams, thus easing the constant pressure on exam developers and writers to produce a fair and consistent exam paper within a short timeframe. The sum of \$7000 was approved for initial development of the database. The existence of a comprehensive and ongoing database is expected to lower costs of exam preparation in future years.

## Communication

IPEd's Communication Committee (CommComm) was inactive this year, as the council was unable to find a volunteer to fill the position, despite continued effort.

## Professional development

Until the IPEd review started to consume most of the council's attention, Robert Sheehan did research on available editing and publishing courses offered by universities, TAFEs and private industry providers, and developed recommendations for IPEd's publishing of course information. He also completed the compilation of a comprehensive record of training events and workshops conducted by the Members of IPEd. The compilation constitutes a register of professional development opportunities potentially

available, with IPed support, to the members of all the societies. Further work on these matters was put aside until the IPed review process is completed.

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

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The 2012 Annual General Meeting of IPed was held on 2 September 2012. This marked the completion of the two-year terms of Councillors Cathy Nicoll (Canberra Society of Editors), Pam Peters (Society of Editors (NSW)), Rosemary Luke (Society of Editors (SA)) and Rosemary Noble (Editors Victoria). These new councillors, nominated by their societies, took office: Alan Cummine (Canberra Society of Editors), Owen Kavanagh (Society of Editors (NSW)), Susan Rintoul (Society of Editors (SA)) and Robert Sheehan (Editors Victoria).

Retiring councillors were sincerely thanked for their support and commitment to enabling IPed to realise its charter '...to advance the profession of editing and to support and promote Australian editors'.

Council has met 14 times since then. The need for meetings additional to the normal monthly cycle was agreed by councillors in order to provide timely guidance and support to the Working Party (WP3) examining the options for the IPed future (of which more later). Susan Rintoul and Owen Kavanagh chaired the September and October meetings respectively, and Rob Sheehan was elected Chair in November 2012. Meetings were held by teleconference except for the meeting held in conjunction with the Fremantle conference. This meeting was held on Wednesday 10 April 2013, at the national conference venue and was attended by Alan Cummine (Canberra Society of Editors), Owen Kavanagh (Society of Editors (NSW)), Robin Bennett (Society of Editors (Queensland)), Susan Rintoul (Society of Editors (SA)), Elizabeth Spiegel (Society of Editors (Tasmania)), Rob Sheehan (Editors Victoria) and Josephine Smith (Society of Editors [WA]). Also in attendance were the acting Accreditation Board Chair, Alison Moodie, Fremantle conference plenary presenter Rosemary Noble, observers Kerry Davies (President Society of Editors (Queensland)) and Jacqui Smith (President Society of Editors (NSW)) and IPed Secretary Charles Houen.

At that meeting Rob Sheehan, under the pressure of a major contract workload, submitted his letter of resignation from his position as IPed Councillor for Editors Victoria (and also as IPed Chair), effective following the meeting. Owen Kavanagh nominated for the vacant chair and was duly elected. Subsequently, Editors Victoria nominated Charles Houen to fill the casual vacancy caused by Rob Sheehan's resignation.

All councillors and office-bearers have shown their commitment to IPed by taking on multiple roles and devoting much additional time to the cause. I have singled out for special mention Josephine Smith, who has not only continued in her role as Honorary Treasurer, but has also taken a leading role in the WP3 team, and Alan Cummine for using his Canberra political network to great effect in our lobbying efforts.

Ted Briggs replaced Alison Moodie as Accreditation Board Chair. A key priority was arranging to get the 2014 exam under way. A lead writer and a team of writers have been selected, and one or two additional writers may be required. A lead assessor has been identified but the appointment is not yet formalised. Renewal of accreditation is also a priority looming this year, and the main task is to finalise the renewal form, which is on the website. Feedback indicates it is close to being finished. Council had asked what the renewal fee will be, and the Accreditation Board is recommending \$150. This will cover a couple of hours work by an assessor to review each application and administration costs. The exact process for the renewal of accreditation is being finalised. The conference paper included eight actions, including a trial of an onscreen exam at the 2015 conference and, if this proves viable, offering the 2016 exam onscreen.

As incoming Chair, I took the opportunity to make a brief statement to the new council about what I see as the major issues facing IPed. The future of IPed is the top priority for the immediate future and I expect to provide active support to the members of the Working Party (WP3), which has been charged with developing a business case for the options for the future of IPed and its relationship with the Australian societies of editors, and managing the process of conducting a vote of all members of all societies to set the way forward. This vote is planned for November 2013 and the project is on track to achieve this milestone.

The working teams were initiated because of growing concern over recent years that the current IPed business model was proving inadequate for the task of fulfilling its charter. Basically, the consensus was that something had to change – either the range of services provided by IPed or the funding model itself, or both. The previous council initiated the IPed review process in August 2012. There have been two previous working parties: WP1 (Rosemary Noble (Vic), Cathy Nicoll (CSE) and Susan Rintoul (SA)), which in the latter months of 2012 surveyed IPed's member societies about how they saw the future of IPed, developed the initial definition of options based on that input and presented their report in January 2013;

and WP2 (Rob Sheehan (Vic), Cathy Nicoll (CSE), Robin Bennett (Qld), Owen Kavanagh (NSW), Elizabeth Murphy (CSE), Rosemary Noble (Vic), Susan Rintoul (SA) and Josephine Smith (WA)), which elaborated on the models defined by WP1 and produced a final report that was considered by council, distributed to the societies and their members, and presented at a feedback session at the national conference in April. WP3 (Rosemary Noble, Kerry Davies (Qld), Robin Bennett, Josephine Smith, Owen Kavanagh, Cathy Nicoll, Susan Rintoul, Charles Houen (Vic)), commissioned by Council after the national conference, is working very hard under the guidance of Rosemary Noble, and expects to complete its key activity – the vote on the preferred model for IPEd’s future – on schedule by November 2013.

WP3 has completed the first milestone in its plan, the high-level survey of members to determine the appetite for a fundamental change in IPEd’s approach and strategy, and the models for which they wanted to see business cases developed as a basis for their vote. The results were emphatic, even if surprising to some. A significant majority want a more professional approach with a defined range of services, for which they are prepared to pay an increased fee. Based on this data, the Working Party has developed a number of models for delivering this level of service to put to the vote of members of all societies in November this year.

The WP3 conducted extensive research and analysis in developing these models, but there still remains a lot of detail to be worked through. This vote therefore is seeking endorsement of a principle and strategy for IPEd’s future based on the available information, along with a clear statement that more detailed development of the preferred model will be required after the vote.

On conclusion of the vote, WP3 will be disbanded and council will assume responsibility for analysing the feedback and other related information and charting the course for IPEd (will it still be called IPEd?) for 2014 and beyond.

Among the key activities of IPEd during the previous council’s term was its role in maintaining and promoting *Australian standards for editing practice* – the outgoing council did an excellent job in having the new edition of the *Standards* available in time for the Fremantle conference.

The new council is aiming to maintain the rate of delivery of important initiatives and we have been involved in activities such as:

- lobbying the federal government to drop the planned cap on self-education expenses. (This was a concerted effort from a range of not-for-profit organisations, from the large, such as the Australian Medical Association, to the not-so large, such as IPEd, and was initially successful in having the imposition of the cap deferred. The incoming government has since announced it has dropped this proposal.)
- providing support to the Accreditation Board in its management of the exam planned for 2014 and the reaccreditation of editors who have earned the right to use the AE postnominal
- assisting the Accreditation Board in its deliberations on the option of providing an electronic exam in the future
- responding to the federal government’s decision to outsource the next version of the *Style manual*. We were unable to tender for the job but made representations for mandatory inclusion of accredited and other editors in the revision process by the successful tenderer, and have been acknowledged for our ‘peak role within the editing industry’, while making known our concerns to the managing agency, the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO)
- circulating suggestions to society presidents for cooperative initiatives that could be kicked off independently of the IPEd review, although they may be incorporated into the selected new IPEd model (suggestions include working together to develop and implement common, consistent membership grades and criteria; a shared website; and investigating the opportunities for shared administrative systems, such as membership and event registration linked to the common website)
- updating policies and position descriptions and other IPEd housekeeping activities.

The items still remaining on the outstanding list of IPEd actions will continue to be addressed as time and resources are available include:

- resolving the impasse over the appointment of the Communication Committee Convenor (CommComm), an issue taking on more urgency as we move to adopt the recommendations of the WP3 team with likely implications for the branding and promotion of IPEd
- deciding whether to pursue, at this stage, a comprehensive national review of editor salaries and hourly rates
- supporting the planning for the Canberra conference, now set for 6–9 May 2015 at Rydges Lakeside Hotel



- determining the level of IPEd ownership of the mentoring program pioneered by the Canberra society. This has been piloted and adopted by some societies, but needs to be incorporated into the chosen new IPEd model to provide the expected benefits to the editing community.

It is clear from a brief review of the lists above that there is a significant amount of work required to simply maintain the functioning of IPEd, let alone take on additional functions and responsibilities. At least part of the problem is the issue that has plagued IPEd from its inception – the lack of a larger team of volunteers on whom we can call to share the workload. This situation shows no sign of changing so the models being proposed for the vote on IPEd's future are characterised by having paid staff for key functions, supported by volunteers where appropriate. This model is being adopted by other not-for-profit organisations (including some state societies of editors) in response to the growing incidence of 'volunteer burnout'.

I am confident that with the support of the majority of society members nationwide we will develop a model that will allow us to achieve and sustain our vision for the profession, and I encourage your active participation in the IPEd review process. Most importantly, please make the time to review the material to be presented in November by the WP3 team and cast your vote accordingly. We need a strong vote to validate adoption of the preferred model.

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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 IPEd's work during the year.

### Governance

During the year, the Honorary Treasurer started the important process of reviewing IPEd's governance. Various policies have now been developed, including Delegated Financial Authority, Expenditure (Revised), Training Support, and Standing Committees and Working Parties.

Other overarching policies that are in the process of being drafted include Code of Ethics, IPEd Control, Budget and Business Plan, and Confidentiality.

Also in progress is the development of a Risk Management Plan (including a Succession Plan). A Strategic Plan will be drafted following the IPEd review. Position descriptions are being written for the key positions in IPEd. To date the position descriptions for IPEd Councillor, Chair and Honorary Treasurer have been drafted and approved, with the Accreditation Board Delegate and Chair in progress. A Marketing Plan and position description for the CommComm Convenor will be drafted once that position is filled.

Updated financial controls are now in place within the Delegated Financial Authority policy, and also with the change to requiring two bank signatories for every payment.

IPEd is now ready, both financially and in terms of governance, for whatever the IPEd review brings in November 2013.

### 2013 national conference

The 6th National Editors Conference was held in Fremantle on 10–12 April. 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 (WA). 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 'Editing across borders'. 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.

## Awards and prizes

### 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 2012 award were Kaaren Sutcliffe AE (Canberra Society of Editors) and Pamela Ball (Society of Editors (SA)). The Judges' report said:

*The 2012 Barbara Ramsden Award attracted a high quality field of entries and a remarkable array of works. The judges were hard pressed to find ways to differentiate the works based on the style and technical quality of the writing alone. Broadening the context, the judges considered the suitability of the works for their audiences and whether they were a stand-out within their field or broke new ground. While the task of choosing a winner remained a challenge, a couple of works simmered to the surface. The winning book, *The Ink Bridge*, written by Neil Grant and edited by Jodie Webster (publisher Allen & Unwin), is an outstanding work of fiction, where the collaboration and compassion of the author and editor have together produced a moving and enthralling tale that is relayed in a distinctive voice.*

## Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship

IPEd continued its sponsorship of the biennial fellowship. The 2013–14 Beatrice Davis Fellowship was awarded to Susannah Chambers. The award was announced at the Sydney Writers' Festival on 25 May. The Australian Publishers Association announcement said:

*Susannah Chambers is a Senior Editor of books for children and teenagers at Allen & Unwin, where she works on an internationally acclaimed list of original and innovative Young Adult fiction, picture books and graphic novels. Susannah has worked with many of Australia's finest and most-loved authors and illustrators, including Maureen McCarthy, Andrew McGahan, Kate Constable, Garth Nix, Chris McKimmie and Laura Buzo.*

*Susannah's Fellowship research project in the US, in both niche and large publishing houses, will examine Young Adult editing and publishing at a time of fascinating growth and transition.*

## IPEd Prize

IPEd seeks to support and foster research in editing and publishing, as part of its broader mission to enhance the profession of editing.

As part of this mission IPEd sponsors an annual prize of \$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.

The inaugural, 2012 IPEd Prize attracted eight entries. The winner was Kate Manton, whose essay, *The scope of editing in the 21st century*, was written for a post-graduate certificate in editing at Macquarie University.

The judges' comments on Kate's essay included:

- Scored well on documenting original research of relevance to those in the editorial profession and the publishing/communications industry. Succeeds in weaving into her argument a range of generic online editing issues and challenges to be faced by editors in many contexts of work.
- Manton's critical edge is continuously stimulating: her ability to harness the language of her quotations to drive her argument makes it succinct and effective. On the editorial front, she is close to professional.
- Cogent, engaging and persuasive.
- Excellent interweaving of argument with secondary material and specific examples.

Kate Manton has kindly allowed IPEd to provide [her winning entry](#) for members to read.

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## ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF IPED

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### Canberra Society of Editors

The society ran a dynamic and varied program of activities for its members over the past year. Our monthly general meetings featured outstanding and popular speakers, and a rich program of professional development workshops, seven in all, was presented on a wide range of topics – from ‘Grammar in a nutshell’ to ‘Mastering markup (PDF): XML for editors’.

Following a successful pilot in late 2012, the society’s mentoring scheme is now in full swing, with demand exceeding supply; we need many more mentors! Much interest in the scheme has also been shown by other societies at home and abroad.

CSE gained five new IPED Accredited Editors following the 2012 exam. Some 24 per cent of CSE members are now accredited: the highest proportion among all the societies of editors.

Our first publication, *Working words* by Elizabeth Manning Murphy, continued to sell steadily during the year.

A goodly contingent of CSE members crossed the continent to enjoy the 2013 IPED National Conference held in Fremantle in April. With co-host the ACT branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, we are already busy planning for the next conference, to be held in Canberra in May 2015.

Finally, it is pleasing to report a 30 per cent increase in membership of the society during the year, from 130 to 169.

### 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’ School of Arts, 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).

Highlights for 2012 included the commencement of a new, more functional website, increased social media marketing, and a full schedule of well-attended member’s meetings and professional workshops on topics such as grammar essentials, InDesign for editors, web editing, freelancing and intensive editing. NSW members also participated actively in the revision of *Australian standards for editing practice*. The NSW Society publishes its newsletter, *Blue Pencil*, ten times a year and this year moved to electronic copy only. Pam Peters completed her sixth year as president, marking a significant personal contribution to the society.

### Society of Editors (Queensland)

The Society of Editors (Queensland) Inc. began in 1990 with 86 founding members from across the publishing industry. Membership at 31 May 2013 was 268. Of total membership, 136 were full members, 127 associates and 5 life members. We also awarded special honorary membership to IPED Patron Professor Roly Sussex.

The society again had a large and active committee, with 21 members in executive, appointed and support positions. Kerry Davies AE entered her third term as president in August 2012. At that AGM it was our sad duty to inform the membership of the death of founding member Roseanne Fitzgibbon DE. Roseanne was a highly respected colleague and inaugural winner of the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship in 1992.

We were pleased to hold an award ceremony in March 2013 for ten new Queensland accredited editors, with Desolie Page AE having taken over from Robin Bennett AE as Accreditation Board delegate in January. We thank Robin for her many years of service to the Board and to IPED, for which she remained councillor.

During the year, the society produced ten issues of *Offpress* and held ten general meetings, with a wide variety of speakers and an open forum on the IPED business case in March 2013. Social occasions included a ‘Comic and Curious’ end-of-year dinner and a start-of-year picnic, as well as regular freelancer lunches.

Professional development included workshops in preparing for the accreditation exam and producing annual reports, as well as sessions for writers at the Brisbane Writers Festival and a seminar staged by Boolarong Press. We also developed a scheme involving a two-stage fiction editing workshop. Participants will be promoted by the Queensland Writers Centre in order to negotiate editing contracts with QWC members.

Following the launch of the new website, in February 2013 we opened the member-only section, including a revamped freelance register with search capability across four fields.

A number of committee members attended the first grassroots Queensland Literary Awards in September 2012, to which we had donated \$1000. We also held a sponsorship draw for two members to attend the IPed conference in Fremantle, among 21 Queensland delegates. Queensland members have also taken an active interest in the IPed review, which is likely to continue to dominate society discussions and activity for some time to come. We look forward to achieving a successful outcome for IPed and for all of its member societies.

## Society of Editors (SA)

South Australia has run an excellent program of workshops and general meetings with guest speakers. Early in the year, the committee developed a strategic plan. As part of this plan, operational procedures are greatly streamlined and the committee is working more efficiently. A teleconference committee meeting proved successful and will be repeated occasionally. Communications with members have been updated via social media, emails and the website.

Celia Jellett was awarded honorary life membership in October.

After three years, Loene Doube stepped down as president for a well-earned break. Marianne Hammat became president and has many plans for South Australia for the committee, including continuing the excellent program, focusing on being more efficient, and looking at mentorship options.

## Society of Editors (Tasmania)

Tasmania is the smallest member of IPed, with a membership in May 2013 of just 51. Our re-elected President, Elizabeth Spiegel, is supported by a committee with a mixture of continuing and new members.

Despite our small numbers, we have run workshops on social media and copyediting – the latter supported by a travel grant from IPed – as well as a number of social events. Our quarterly journal, *Catchword*, has been retired, to be replaced by an enhanced electronic newsletter, *eTExpert*.

We also contribute to the profession on a national level, with members contributing to the revision of the *Australian standards for editing practice* and attending the national conference in Fremantle.

We are developing stronger links with the Tasmanian Writers' Centre, and will be sponsoring a panel on the editor-author relationship at next year's inaugural Festival of Golden Words in Beaconsfield.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one.

## Editors Victoria

The past year has been another busy and successful one. Led by our new president, Trischa Mann, we have continued the highly popular dinner meetings, an active training program, and an expanded Freelance Register. Membership grew to 668 in May 2013, an increase of 99 since that date in 2012. A large contingent of members attended the 2013 national editors conference in Fremantle.

At the AGM in July 2012, Rosemary Noble and Liz Steele, retiring co-presidents, were awarded honorary life memberships for their outstanding service to the society and the editing profession over an extended period.

Twenty-three more members passed the October 2012 accreditation exam and are now Accredited Editors.

The society has participated actively in IPed and the IPed Accreditation Board through its councillor and Accreditation Board delegate. Rosemary Noble led the IPed review working parties during a very busy program of work that produced the initial reports to the IPed Council, and then the business case and discussion paper that was published to the members of all societies. That paper will be the basis for the national vote in November 2013 to choose an option for IPed's future.

In the latter months of 2012, Liz Steele and Lan Wang led the development of the program for Redact 2013, the society's extremely popular two-day residential editorial training workshop. The fourth Redact, held at the Grange Bellinzona in Hepburn Springs, proved the value of intensive training in a collegial setting. Trainers Sarah Fletcher (ebooks), Mandy Brett (fiction editing) and Niki Horin and Kirstie Innes-Will (project management) prepared and presented seven comprehensive and extremely useful sessions over a wonderful weekend, regularly punctuated with fantastic opportunities to network with peers and enjoy the excellent food and accommodation.

## Society of Editors (WA)

Overall this has been a very successful year for WA.

We welcomed Robin Bower back as president at the AGM in March, and said goodbye and thank you to Tanya Marwood, the outgoing president.

The main event for 2013 was, of course, the IPEd National Editors Conference in Fremantle held in April. Thank you to all who participated, and many thanks to the conference committee for making this event such a success.

Following the accreditation exam in October 2012, WA gained five more Accredited Editors (AEs). At June 2013 the total membership is 117, with 17 AEs.

In July 2013 a training program was initiated based on the revised *Standards* to ensure all WA members have the chance to keep up to date with their professional development. This program is in development and will commence in early 2014.