

IPEd.

To advance the
profession of editing

INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL EDITORS LIMITED

Annual Report

2013–14

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 event 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 2013 to 30 June 2014.

ABOUT IPED

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 listed 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, 2013 and 2014

Society	Number of members at 31 May	
	2013	2014
Canberra	169	186
New South Wales	355	356
Queensland	268	263
South Australia	126	126
Tasmania	51	40
Victoria	668	659
Western Australia	117	112
TOTAL	1754	1742

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:

- Alan Cummine (Canberra) until September 2013
- Ed Highley (Canberra) from September 2013
- Owen Kavanagh (New South Wales)
- Kerry Davies AE (Queensland) from September 2013
- Susan Rintoul (South Australia) until April 2014
- Loene Doube AE (South Australia) from April 2014
- Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tasmania) until May 2014
- Charles Houen (Victoria) from April 2013
- Josephine Smith AE (Western Australia) until March 2014.

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.

Owen Kavanagh was Chair of the council during the period covered by the report. The position of Honorary Treasurer during the year was held by **Josephine Smith AE** and **Kerry Davies AE** (from April 2014).

Charles Houen continued as Secretary and Company Secretary. In September 2013 Council appointed **Lana Mitchell** as Communication Officer for a short-term contract ending in January 2014. In April 2014, **Mary-Ann Came AE** was appointed as Communication Officer and in May 2014 **Rosemary Noble AE** was appointed as Project Manager of Working Party 4 (WP4) for the transition to direct membership of IPed.

These contract positions are IPed's only paid officeholders, 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 December.

The dates of 2013–14 teleconferences were 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 5 January, 2 February, 16 March, 4 May and 1 June.

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 2013–14 was a busy one for IPed and editors in general, with the IPed review ongoing throughout the year. IPed ended the year in a sound financial position, ready for the transition to a national direct membership body with branches replacing the current societies.

IPed financial statements

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 have been completed and are available from the Secretary or on the IPed website. They will be presented at the AGM in September for the consideration of the Members.

Income and expenditure

The results for the year ended 30 June 2014 show a surplus of \$19,601 (2013: surplus of \$21,361) against an original budgeted surplus of \$1,569.

The actual surplus of \$19,601 was due mainly to the accreditation exam held on 3 May 2014, which made a surplus of \$22,108 on account of the number of candidates and corresponding fee income being 50% higher than budgeted. Exam fee income for the year of \$55,017 was received, with exam expenses of \$32,909 incurred, including one-third of the cost of the development of an exam database. This database will reduce the cost of exam development for future exams. The renewal of the accreditation of those editors who were accredited in 2008 was also carried out; the aim was to break even, and a small surplus of \$788 was achieved. Overall, after Board expenses, the Accreditation Board achieved a total surplus of \$16,120.

IPEd's other operations made a surplus of \$3,481. Income of \$42,575 was received in membership levies from the member societies (2013: \$44,305), and \$1,730 in bank interest. The membership levy remained at \$25 per society member. Expenses were well controlled.

The council approved an honorarium of \$1,000 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.

The New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania societies claimed training support, to subsidise the travel costs of interstate presenters, totalling \$1,746, well under the budget of \$4,000.

Expenses that were not originally budgeted included the Communication Officer at a total cost of \$8,275, and the employment of the contract Project Manager for the IPed transition project at a cost of \$5,200. However, careful expense control in other areas kept the total cost of IPed operations, other than the Accreditation Board, to \$4,546 over budget.

Balance Sheet

The bank balance at 30 June 2014 was \$64,882 (2013: \$47,092).

At that date IPed had \$11,575 (2013: \$4,862) in outstanding liabilities, including deferred income of \$1,500 (exam fees held over to the next exam).

Budget for financial year 2014–15

The budget for the financial year 2014–15 was prepared to cover the following operational assumptions: no accreditation exam during the year; renewal of accreditation for editors accredited in 2009; receipt of an additional transition levy of \$45 per society member to cover the ongoing costs of preparing the comprehensive implementation and operation plan for IPed restructured as a national direct membership association; Council and Accreditation Board expenses for the 2015 national editors conference; the national mentoring program; increased training support for societies; and continuation of an active communication program.

The budget for the coming year anticipates a deficit of nearly \$23,000, which will be largely offset by the 2013–14 surplus, therefore unaffacting IPed's sound financial position.

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, to a 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. All delegates are accredited editors.
- *The IPed Council delegate.* This person is responsible for representing Council's interests at all board meetings and other discussions (such as teleconferences), and for reporting to 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 – Adele Walker AE (until November 2013), Valerie Mobley AE

Queensland – Desolie Page AE

Tasmania – Janice Bird DE (until February 2013)

Victoria – Kath Harper AE (until August 2013), Cassandra Ball AE (until December 2013), Andi Jones AE

Western Australia – Sue Thomson AE

Tasmania – Elizabeth Spiegel AE (from June 2014)

The IPed Council delegate was Elizabeth Spiegel AE (Tas.) (until May 2014)

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

The Accreditation Board has been chaired by Ted Briggs since May 2013 and met 16 times during the year.

Highlights of Accreditation Board activity during 2013–14 were:

- successful conduct of the 5th accreditation exam on 3 May 2014, with 90 candidates sitting the exam, 57 of them successful (a 63% pass rate)
- development of a database of questions available for use in future exams
- renewal of accreditation for editors accredited in the first exam in 2008; of the original 112 AEs, 85 sought renewal, all of whom were successful
- planning for renewal of accreditations of 2009 AEs
- planning for the development on an onscreen exam.

Renewal of accreditation

Accreditation through IPed lasts five years, after which accredited editors must apply to have their accreditation renewed.

To obtain renewal of accreditation, accredited editors are 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.

The first accredited editors, accredited in 2008, were required to renew their registration in late 2013. Applications were invited between 30 September and 31 December 2013, although this was extended to the end of January because of the Christmas period. For the first round of renewals, applications were assessed by Accreditation Board members, assisted by a panel of Distinguished Editors.

The second set of accredited editors, accredited in 2009, will be required to renew their accreditation in late 2014.

Exam futures

At the 2013 conference, the Accreditation Board undertook to prepare sample questions from each part of the exam, appropriate for use in an onscreen format. These 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 working towards providing conference attendees with the opportunity to trial the sample exam and provide feedback.

Providing this trial is successful, it is planned to offer the next exam as an onscreen exam in early 2016.

As part of the development of the 2014 exam, extra funds were allocated for development of a comprehensive database of exam questions that can be drawn on and adapted for future exams. This will ease the constant pressure on exam developers and writers to produce a fair and consistent exam paper within a short timeframe. This is expected to lower costs of exam preparation in future years. An initial set of questions has been developed, but the repository will be expanded during 2014–15.

Communication

IPEd Council appointed Lana Mitchell as Communication Officer on a short-term contract ending 31 January 2014, to assist with member communication during the 30 November vote on the IPEd review business case, and to provide comment on the draft communication strategy. IPEd's Communication Committee (CommComm) was revived briefly in January 2014 by Elizabeth Spiegel AE, Kerry Davies AE and Ed Highley in order to make updates to the website, particularly the Guidelines for editing theses, Professional development, the IPEd review and Member news.

In February IPEd began the recruitment process for a Communication Officer, receiving 17 applications. This was narrowed down to nine applicants and a final shortlist of four for interview. The quality of the applications was very high, with Mary-Ann Came AE appointed from the beginning of April.

Mary-Ann has developed a communication strategy aimed at promoting the profession of editing and IPEd to a broad national audience. This includes communicating the benefits of membership of the societies of editors, promoting the accreditation scheme, developing relationships with publishers and employers of editors and assisting WP4 with member communication.

Activities undertaken from April 2014 to June 2014 included member communication through IPEd Notes, updating of the website and input to the new IPEd member survey.

A relationship was established with the journalist of the CareerOne supplement which appears in News Corp Saturday newspapers. A media campaign to promote editing was launched, which involved a member being featured in a 'Career Change' feature in this supplement. It appeared in *The Courier-Mail*, *The Advertiser* and *The Daily Telegraph*. The same feature included an interview with IPEd Patron Roly Sussex. It is anticipated that CareerOne could feature additional articles on promoting editing as a career in the year ahead.

IPEd's social media activity on Facebook and Twitter was reactivated with regular posts on both platforms. From May to July, Facebook 'Likes' grew from 384 to 403 and Twitter Followers from 653 to 707.

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 continued work on IPEd's record of training events and workshops conducted by the member societies. 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.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of IPEd was held on 1 September 2013. This marked the completion of the two-year terms of Councillors Alan Cummine (Canberra Society of Editors) and Robin Bennett (Society of Editors (Queensland)).

The following new councillors, nominated by their societies, took office: Ed Highley (Canberra Society of Editors) and Kerry Davies (Society of Editors (Queensland)).

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 eleven times since then. There was no meeting in April 2014 due to difficulty in obtaining a quorum over the protracted Easter-Anzac Day holiday period.

Meetings were held by teleconference and all councillors and office-bearers have shown commitment by taking on multiple roles and devoting much time to IPEd.

In July 2013, the much-discussed mentoring scheme was launched by Elizabeth Murphy and Ted Briggs from the Canberra Society of Editors, and its success can be judged by the fact that other societies have joined the scheme and there is a growing demand for the service.

Ted Briggs continued as Accreditation Board Chair, overseeing another successful exam process in May 2014. Both Ted and Alison Moodie continued to work on developing an onscreen exam option, which will be piloted at the 2015 conference and, if well received, will be offered for the 2016 exam.

The position of Communication Officer was advertised as a paid part-time contract. Society of Editors (SA) member Mary-Ann Came was appointed in April 2014 and has revised the communication strategy and is addressing the outstanding list of communications-related activities. Her work also involves ensuring alignment with the work of other IPEd committees and liaising with member societies on communication issues.

It was noted at the March 2014 council meeting that this would be Josephine Smith's final one. Her fellow councillors all expressed their gratitude for her considerable contributions to Council and IPEd. Josephine indicated that she intended to continue her WP4 participation.

In the previous Annual Report I wrote:

... 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 ...

Twelve months down the track, I am very happy to report that the move to determining the future of IPEd took a significant step forward with the completion of the survey of members. This aimed to seek members' views on the options developed by the working party established to achieve this milestone (WP3). The survey was completed in November 2013 and in accordance with its charter, WP3 was disbanded in December 2013 following the successful vote process. It was succeeded by WP4, whose charter is to manage the transition to the IPEd direct membership model (DMM) for which members voted. This work has started and will be continued by the council to be elected in September 2014.

At its February 2014 meeting Council agreed to appoint a paid part-time Project Manager for WP4 to take responsibility for managing the various teams charged with developing the processes and procedures to deliver the desired outcome. The position was advertised and Rosemary Noble was appointed. With her background including work at both Society and IPEd levels, Rosemary is an excellent appointee and has taken to the role with the drive and energy that those who know her would expect. The project is generally on track and deadlines have been set for later this year and early in 2015 to enable the formal vote to establish the IPEd replacement organisation and restructure the existing member societies.

WP4 consists of Rosemary Noble (Chair), Charles Houen (Victoria), Denise Holden (NSW) (until July 2014), Kerry Davies and Robin Bennett (Qld), Elizabeth Murphy (Canberra), Marianne Hammat (SA) and Jo Smith (WA) (until April 2014). WP4 works under the direction of the IPEd Council and all major documentation and decisions are sent to Council for endorsement before circulation.

The operational activity of WP4 is focused on five working teams: Legal & governance (Charles Houen, Col Roberts, Roberta Blake, Rob Sheehan, Loene Doube); Finance & operations (Charles Houen, Maree Petersen, Karl Craig, Wendy Elks, Loene Doube); Membership (Kerry Davies, Anna Boots, Bronwen Perry, Adele Walker, Alexandra Davies); Communications (Denise Holden, Katy McDevitt, Deborah Singerman, Sue Pavasaris, Rebecca Harris, Iaan Wiltshire, Zoi Juvris); and Professional development (Robin Bennett, Elizabeth Murphy, Hilary Cadman ELS, Trischa Mann, Renee Otmar, James Dixon, Meryl Potter). The project plan and relevant documents have been widely circulated and updates are regularly provided via the societies.

As Chair, I saw it as my highest priority for the year to continue to provide support to WP4 in its implementation of the infrastructure for the 'new IPEd', while working with Council on the other priority actions identified during the year. The outgoing Council continued to deliver operational and governance initiatives, including:

- updating the IPEd website
- preparing the ground for the piloting of an onscreen accreditation exam
- agreeing to shift accounting systems from MYOB to Xero
- negotiations by Kerry Davies with our UK counterpart SfEP (Society for Editors and Proofreaders), which has established that society members can now receive a 35% discount for the five available online courses offered to SfEP members
- updating IPEd position descriptions and policies, thanks to Josephine Smith
- the 21st anniversary of the Canberra Society of Editors
- awarding the 2013 IPEd Prize to Meredith Bramich and publishing the announcement and sending it to the societies of editors
- working with other industry bodies, such as the Australasian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE)

- the appointment on contract of a new secretary, Margaret Telford
- updating of the thesis editing guidelines in liaison with the Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDoGS)

The September 2014 meeting marks the conclusion of my two-year term as Chair and I have indicated that I will not nominate for re-election.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the other councillors on the important issues facing IPed and the profession, and offer my sincere thanks for their commitment and support. It has been a pleasure working with you.

There is no doubt in my mind that the incoming Council will successfully establish the new IPed, whatever its title, as the peak professional body that Australian editors want and deserve.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

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, Honorary Treasurer Josephine Smith continued the process of drafting new policies and reviewing existing ones. All of the existing policies have been reviewed and revised as appropriate.

Position descriptions have been written for the remaining key positions in IPed, the Communication Officer, Accreditation Board Delegate and Chair. A communication strategy and plan was developed by the Communication Officer in consultation with Council members, and approved.

2015 national conference

The Canberra Society of Editors and the ACT branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers are co-hosting 'Write | Edit | Index', the 7th National Conference, which will be held in Canberra in May 2015. There was a good response to the call for papers and development of the conference program is proceeding apace. The growing body of information about the conference is at writeeditindex.net.au.

Awards and prizes

Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship

IPed continued its sponsorship of the biennial fellowship. The 2014 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 2013 IPed Prize winner was Meredith Bramich, whose essay, *Editing in the 21st century*, was written for a postgraduate certificate in editing at Macquarie University.

The judges' comments on Meredith's essay included:

- *Through analysis of a carefully selected job advertisement, this essay provides insight into the topics of editing and publishing. It does so in the accessible and engaging manner usually seen from senior writers and editors.*
- *The essay is well structured and well written, with a clear argument successfully illustrated by secondary sources and concrete examples.*
- *The author has expertly incorporated primary and secondary sources into her text, and they are well documented.*
- *This is a strong, clearly argued and cogently written essay that offers the reader an intellectual journey which doesn't disappoint.*
- *The text is well edited and proofread. References are consistently styled.*

The entries were judged by Robin Bower AE, Bruce Robins AE and Anne Ryden from the Society of Editors (WA) and Agata Mrva-Montoya from the Society of Editors (NSW).

Meredith has kindly allowed IPed to provide [her winning entry](#) for members to read. Meredith is a member of Editors Victoria.

ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF IPed

Canberra Society of Editors

The society came of age in 2013 and marked its 21st birthday with a memorable celebratory dinner in December. Among the balloons, birthday cake and historical artefacts, a number of founding members were present in the 65-strong crowd to hear some historical reflections from Honorary Life Members and founders, Loma Snooks and Peter Judge. Members also enjoyed a stirring talk from *Canberra Times* Editor-at-Large, Jack Waterford, and welcomed four new Life Members – Ted Briggs, Ed Highley, Elizabeth Manning Murphy and Virginia Wilton.

Started by a pioneering group in 1992, the society has grown steadily and this year has some 186 members. They are a mix of freelancers and editors employed in government, academia, and business and commerce.

During 2013–14, the society ran a varied program of activities for its members. We were able to engage dynamic and popular speakers and topics for our monthly general meetings, which were generally well attended as a result. A rich program of professional development workshops was presented on a wide range of subjects – from grammar and copyediting to e-publishing. Informal networking lunches introduced during the year are also proving highly popular. Six issues of *The Canberra Editor* were produced during the year. The newsletter is now published online only.

The mentoring scheme pioneered by the society has grown and grown and now also operates under the guidance of coordinators in most of the other societies, with Canberra keeping a hand on the national helm. It has spread even as far as South Africa.

Canberra editors recognise the value of IPed accreditation. Another 13 members became AEs following the May 2014 exam, taking our total number of AEs to more than 50.

Members of the society continue to make strong contributions to the review of IPed begun in 2012, and to its outcome. In the November 2013 vote on IPed's future, the society came out narrowly in favour of the DMM. The management committee and a significant number of members are now closely engaged in assessing, developing and managing the process for transition to the DMM.

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 professional, associate and corporate members and seven life members. Meetings are held monthly with speakers from remarkable editing and publishing backgrounds, from trade and professional to print and e-publishing. They meet in the downtown Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, with its large fiction library and special Thomas Keneally Collection. Most of this is nonfiction from the author's own library, since he turned to the web for researching his subjects.

Highlights for 2013 included the commencement of a new online administration website with the help of Editors Victoria, increased social media marketing and a full schedule of well-attended members' meetings and professional development workshops. The topics covered included editing scientific, medical and technical texts, structural editing of fiction, converting manuscripts into ePub, editing annual reports, Microsoft Word, XML, grammar, and plain English.

Monthly members' meetings included topics such as Copyright for editors, Legal issues for editors, IPED update, Editing skills in the era of digital [r]evolution, Editing across state, national and disciplinary borders, Seizure: multiplatform content and the changing role of the editor, Q&A session with the Australian Publishers Association, and Editing for horticultural publications. Fantastic feedback was received from the workshop participants and a survey of members in September 2013, focusing on professional development needs, provided a valuable basis for the 2014 program of workshops.

In October, Rochelle Fernandez and Jacqui Smith represented the society at the Australian Society of Authors' National Writers' Congress: Authorship 20/20. It was a great opportunity to meet with members of a like-minded organisation and discuss ways that our two societies could collaborate in the future.

The society publishes its newsletter, *Blue Pencil*, ten times a year and this year moved to electronic only. Jacqui Smith completed her first year as president of the society, under the guiding hand of Pam Peters, who continues as one of the society's vice-presidents.

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 2014 was 263 (another 19 members had joined by 30 June). Of total membership, 138 were full members, 119 associates and 6 life members, with Kerry Davies AE being awarded this honour at the August 2013 AGM.

The society again had a large and active committee, with 20 members in executive, appointed and support positions. Kerry ended her third term as president at the AGM and became vice-president, with Linda Hale elected president. Unfortunately Linda was unable to continue, for family reasons, and resigned in March 2014.

The society's first regional sub-group was formed in April 2014, for members on the Sunshine Coast and hinterland. The 13 inaugural members held their first get-together in June and aim to meet quarterly.

We were pleased to welcome seven new Queensland accredited editors, following the May 2014 exam, with Desolie Page AE as Accreditation Board delegate.

During the year, the society produced ten issues of *Offpress* and held eleven general meetings, including two member forums on the IPED transition process, with a wide variety of speakers. Social occasions included a 'Morish and Musical' end-of-year dinner and a start-of-year picnic, as well as regular freelancers lunches.

Professional development included a two-part workshop on fiction editing, which also established an agreement with the Queensland Writers Centre, with a special deal for its members to have their work edited by workshop participants. Other workshops included Advanced Word, preparation for the accreditation exam, ebooks 101 and Project Management, as well as a session for writers for Moreton Regional Libraries and a Q&A session on thesis editing for staff of the Science and Engineering Faculty of QUT and HDR Students Centre.

The society joined the National Mentoring Scheme and also participated in the Write Around Queensland project, established by the Writers' Web, with funding for 48 short stories to be edited by 46 members to showcase the value of editing. Both versions of the works will be published online at the end of 2014. The committee continued to support the grassroots Queensland Literary Awards in September 2013, to which we donated \$500.

Queensland members have also taken an active interest in the IPED transition process, with representatives on each of the five project teams. We look forward to achieving a successful outcome for IPED and for all of its member societies.

Society of Editors (SA)

At 31 May 2014, the Society of Editors (SA) Inc. had 126 members, unchanged from the same time last year. The committee increased membership fees last year in preparation for an increase in monies to be

paid to IPed. We expected to lose some members as a result, so it is very pleasing that our membership is unchanged.

We had between 11 and 13 members on the committee in the year until the AGM in August 2014. The committee has worked hard to continue to offer a high-quality program to our members including six general meetings and three workshops, two with interstate presenters, and six networking lunches held at various locations, including Kangaroo Island.

This year the committee elected a Communications Coordinator. This has led to a coordinated communications strategy and some long-awaited innovations including:

- the use of Mailchimp to forward regular emails to all members about events, jobs and other matters of interest
- a company LinkedIn page as well as Facebook and Twitter accounts and the new website that was launched last year
- a closer relationship with the SA Writers' Centre, which led to networking opportunities for our members, and the chance to have Mark Tredinnick as a speaker at one of our general meetings
- direct contact with training institutions, which brought our professional development program to the attention of emerging editors. For the first time this year, the Society of Editors (SA) sponsored a prize for Excellence in Editing, which was awarded to an outstanding student of the Professional Writing course at TAFE SA.

We continued to publish the newsletter, *the word*, which remains a favourite with our members.

The Society of Editors (SA) has for some time been researching mentoring programs and sounding out members about the best approach to mentoring. So we were very excited this year when vice-president Katy McDevitt AE took on the role of SA Coordinator for the National Mentoring Program run by the Canberra Society of Editors. We already have some applicants and are looking forward to pairing up mentees with mentors.

And last, but not least, the Society of Editors (SA) has contributed to the national discussion about the future of IPed. We are looking now to the challenge of negotiating the transition to a branch of a national organisation, which we hope will bring greater recognition of, and greater opportunities for, editors.

Society of Editors (Tasmania)

The Society of Editors (Tasmania) Inc. is the smallest member of IPed, with a membership in May 2014 of just 40. 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 manuscript assessment and structural editing – the latter supported by a travel grant from IPed – as well as a number of social events. Our electronic newsletter, *eTexpert*, is supplemented by Twitter and Facebook accounts. We are developing stronger links with the Tasmanian Writers' Centre, and in March sponsored a successful panel on the editor–author relationship at Beaconsfield's inaugural Festival of Golden Words.

Editors Victoria

Editors Victoria Inc. had another very successful year, its 44th since foundation. The highly popular dinner meeting program with guest speakers continued, as did an active training program and the freelance register, which was changed to online only following a survey of organisations that previously received a printed copy. A mentoring program started, and a new membership and event management system was implemented. Membership was 659 in May 2014.

In August 2013, members voted to change the registered name of the society from Society of Editors (Vic) to Editors Victoria, and the constitution was revised to meet the requirements of the *Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

In 2014, the committee reviewed and updated the membership policy; the IPed Accredited Editor award is now a complete qualification for full membership, and other requirements were clarified. Seventeen members passed the May 2014 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. In the November 2013 vote on IPed's future, just over 60% of members on a preferential basis favoured the DMM. Rosemary Noble was appointed by the IPed Council as project manager of the IPed transition project, which is developing a comprehensive implementation and

operating plan for IPed, restructured as a national, direct membership association of editors. This plan will be voted on when complete, which is expected to be in the first half of calendar 2015.

Editors Victoria joined the national mentoring program. The local coordinator, Davina Dadley-Moore, was guided and assisted by Elizabeth Manning Murphy and Ted Briggs of the Canberra Society of Editors, following the practices that they developed for their society's pioneering mentoring scheme. The program is off to an active start.

In March 2014, the society started the implementation of a new membership and event management system, MEMNET. This provides members with an attractive browser interface for self-service maintenance of their details, subscription renewal and event registration. It has other capabilities that will be gradually taken advantage of, such as a member directory that can support the freelance register. It also provides the committee and staff with easy-to-use administration functions, including distributing emails and the monthly newsletter.

Society of Editors (WA)

The past year has been a very busy and successful one, although a period of significant change for the committee.

In August 2013 we celebrated our 21st anniversary with past and present members at a lovely dinner overlooking the Swan River in Perth.

We ran a variety of professional development activities during the year, including our highly successful full-day seminar 'Editing with impact: science, standards and style sheets' in July 2013. Other workshops covered an accreditation exam preparation workshop, Australian editing qualifications, editing poetry, editing academic theses, editing fiction and memoirs, and making the most of social media.

We assisted in the new national mentoring scheme and so far out of five registered mentors and five aspirant mentees we have two mentoring relationships in place, one focusing on formatting and the other covering business skills.

Another achievement was the redevelopment of our website, which now features an online membership payment system and a more dynamic register of editors.

In November 2013 we participated in the national IPed vote with a majority of our members who voted supporting the national society option. At the AGM in March 2014 IPed Chair Owen Kavanagh spoke to us about the DMM and the future of IPed.

At the AGM we said goodbye and thank you to four committee members who had been instrumental in the successful running of the society and the success of the 6th National IPed Conference in Fremantle in 2013. They were Robin Bower as president, Amanda Ellis as vice-president, Jo Smith as IPed Councillor and Marisa Wikramanayake, committee member and conference convenor. Since then Cheryl Bettridge has stepped in as president, Sue Thomson as vice-president and Jan Knight, as alternate IPed Councillor, covering the gap of IPed Councillor. In such a small (numbers-wise) state as ours we continue the struggle to recruit members to positions of responsibility and remain without a secretary (currently a rotating role), IPed Councillor or representation on most of the IPed working parties. Our committee members continue to make significant contributions to the society and to IPed's council and Accreditation Board despite the small number of committee volunteers.

In June 2014 we had 112 members, with 16 AEs. We gained three more AEs following the May 2014 exam, which now brings our total to 19.