

# **BOOK WORM**

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (WA) INC.

**February 2005**

## **From the Chair**

### **Accreditation Vote Carried in All States**

Members of all state and territory societies of editors have voted in favour of the introduction of accreditation for Australian editors.

A secret ballot on the scheme developed by the CASE Accreditation Working Group and accepted by CASE was held during late November—early December 2004.

Some 400 (29%) of the almost 1400 society members eligible to cast a vote did so.

The vote to adopt the accreditation proposal was carried nationally by 307 votes to 91; that is, for every vote against the proposal, there were 3.4 votes in favour of it.

Since the members' vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal, CASE is now seeking the endorsement of the executive committees of all state and territory societies to proceed forthwith towards implementing a national accreditation program.

CASE will be meeting in Melbourne on 12-13 February to discuss this and other matters, and we will keep members informed of progress.

*Janet Mackenzie*

*Liaison Officer*

*Council of Australian Societies of Editors*

[www.case-editors.org](http://www.case-editors.org)

## **Editorial**

Hello and happy New Year to you all! Like many members, I have been wondering (probably unnecessarily) what the accreditation decision will mean for me—will the process prove onerous, will I be deemed 'good enough' and will it enhance the confidence of my clients and potential clients? Only time will tell, as the old cliché goes!

Meantime, I've boosted my confidence a little by confirming once again how much I *do* know (albeit in a not-very-confident kind of way) about the publishing industry. I was asked by the web-master of a site that I administer whether copyright law would be breached by what I was asking him to do. I'd asked him to post short news items from various sources onto the relevant page of the site, with the source

acknowledged. I thought this was permissible—but wanted to check—so I asked a print media colleague. He confirmed that the ‘fair usage’ clause allows us to use small portions of published material in cases like this, so long as their source is listed, though he said if the original publisher of the material ‘wanted to get nasty’ they might be able to make a case. It seems we skate on firm ice most of the time, but when we make enemies, it can thin pretty quickly!

In the same ‘legal issues’ vein, I am also particularly interested in the topic for the next meeting. Unfortunately I have recently had an incidence of non-payment and hope to hear of a practical way of solving it. Even if you have not yet encountered this phenomenon, don’t think it can’t happen to you! Come along on the 1<sup>st</sup> and ‘be prepared’...

***Tanya Marwood***

## **Forthcoming Meetings**

### **Getting Paid on Time!**

**Our February meeting** will be an opportunity to share tips and resources that can be used to combat slow or non-paying clients.

To stimulate discussion, Mar Bucknell will speak about the results of his experience with a recalcitrant creditor. We also hope to have a representative from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

Do you have some helpful advice on how freelancers can make certain they get paid? If so, please inform Chris to ensure your chance to speak on the evening.

**When: Tuesday 1 February**, 7:30pm until 9:00pm

**Where:** Tresillian Community Centre, 21 Tyrell St, Nedlands

**Cost:** \$2 (wine and nibbles will be provided)

**RSVP** to Chris Walker, [cdwalker@ca.com.au](mailto:cdwalker@ca.com.au), by **Sunday 30 January**.

**The March meeting** will be the Society’s **Annual General Meeting**. Janet Mackenzie, from the CASE accreditation working group, will be talking to us about the implications of accreditation. Janet will commence her address at 8 pm.

The Annual General Meeting will start at 7 pm on **Tuesday 1 March 2005** and will be held in a new venue, namely, **the Kimberley Room of the Alexander Library**. The AGM will follow the customary format of reports, special resolutions (Anyone want to change the constitution? If so, see Betty.), and election of the new

committee. The AGM will then close and be followed, should the incoming president choose, by a short committee meeting to set the new year in train. All business will be concluded before 8 pm.

The session which will then follow will provide an excellent opportunity to find out the latest on accreditation: how to make it work and how it will be funded. Ms Janet Mackenzie, who is a member of the Society of Editors (Vic.), author of the acclaimed *Editor's Companion*, a freelance editor with 30 years' experience, and convenor of the Accreditation Working Group will be joined on a panel by our WA members Anne Surma and Chris Walker. A selection of fine wines and delectable morsels of food will be served. Please come along to make this a lively and informative evening.

Members may expect to receive more details by email in the near future. Also "going out" will be nomination forms for the election of new committee members, so please give these your earnest consideration. As well, membership fees for the current year are due as from 1 February, so there'll be a form for these, too. (It is possible to nominate for a committee position in advance or on the night, which can also be a convenient time for giving the treasurer your membership fee!)

## **Report on the December meeting**

*Ceri Clocherty*

On a delightful Tuesday evening in December, the Society celebrated all things festive with a Christmas meal overlooking the ocean at C Blu restaurant in Cottesloe.

We enjoyed bread, dips and calamari for entree (enough for a main meal really) as we watched the sun slipping into the water—one of those perfect Perth moments. We then progressed to mains: again, beautifully presented and all washed down with a few bottles of the South West's finest.

Talk turned from forthcoming holiday plans to work we'd enjoyed that year (and some we didn't enjoy), and on to what 2005 will bring for us as individuals and also to the profession as a whole.

Tea and coffee were served with plates of the richest truffles we'd ever tasted (too rich to eat all at once—some members were seen collecting take-home packs for later).

It was a wonderful way to finish a productive and enjoyable year—and the wait staff were relieved to know that no-one found any rogue apostrophes on the menus...

## **Deadline for March 2005 *Book Worm* issue:**

Tuesday 1 March 2005.

*All submissions gratefully accepted.*

## Contacting SOEWA

*President:* Betty Durston, [bdurston@cygnus.uwa.edu.au](mailto:bdurston@cygnus.uwa.edu.au)

*Vice President:* Ceri Clocherty, [ceri@cambridgemediacom.com.au](mailto:ceri@cambridgemediacom.com.au)

*Secretary:* Ffion Murphy, 9450 1546, [f.murphy@ecu.edu.au](mailto:f.murphy@ecu.edu.au)

*Treasurer:* Linda Browning, 9266 2253, [L.Browning@curtin.edu.au](mailto:L.Browning@curtin.edu.au)

### *General committee members*

Anne Surma, 9287 1494, [asurma@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:asurma@murdoch.edu.au)

Michele Crawford, 9246 4116, [michele.crawford@westnet.com.au](mailto:michele.crawford@westnet.com.au)

Chris Walker, 9228 0793, [cdwalker@ca.com.au](mailto:cdwalker@ca.com.au)

Tanya Marwood, 9291 3723, [tanya.m@globaldial.com](mailto:tanya.m@globaldial.com)

### *Newsletter*

*Editor:* Tanya Marwood, 9291 3723, [tanya.m@globaldial.com](mailto:tanya.m@globaldial.com)

*Proofreader:* Michèle Drouart, 9382 2930, [drouart@netfactory.com.au](mailto:drouart@netfactory.com.au)

*SOEWA Web Site:* <http://www.editorswa.iinet.net.au>

*Web editor:* Ceri Clocherty, [ceri@cambridgemediacom.com.au](mailto:ceri@cambridgemediacom.com.au)