

## From the President



### Registration

There are levels of competence which all those practising a profession should aspire to. With this goal professional organisations conduct and sponsor, in various combinations, formal courses, formal and informal mentoring, seminars, and workshops with recognition in various forms such as degrees, certificates or accredited memberships.

In our case, in the absence of formal courses leading to tertiary qualifications in indexing, the Society's registration system acts as a professional standard for indexers who have demonstrated expertise and gained some experience in indexing.' (*Registration Background* – website)

*Indexers Available*, which is accessible via the Society's website, lists 88 members apparently looking for work. Of these 46 are already registered. Of the 42 who are not registered 21 list published works which they have indexed. Presumably the other 21 are still to find their first commissions or do not feel confident of the work they have done.

These observations suggest two questions:

1. Among the 21 who have listed published works, are there some or all who are ready to submit work to the Registration Panel? In the survey reported by Mary Russell in the November/December newsletter, 29% (35 replies) stated that they intended to apply for registration.

2. Are there means by which the Society can help members to achieve the competence and confidence to apply for registration? The present courses are mainly at an introductory

level. Mentoring carries new indexers further but does not duplicate the harsher reality and pressures of the commercial world. At this point they are on their own especially if they live where they cannot meet more experienced indexers. Perhaps this is a factor in New Zealand where only one of the eight listed in *Indexers Available* is registered.

Answers to these two questions would be helpful.

There is another question which arises from the survey: what of the registration of database indexers? In the survey 37% (45 replies) expressed interest in this matter.

### Conferences

Australians and New Zealanders are among the world's most ardent travellers. Indexers might think of incorporating attendance at a conference in their overseas travel. (Tax deductions may be available.) This year there are three conferences in interesting places: Denver, 30 April – 3 May; Vancouver, 2–3 June; Winchester, 11–13 July. And closer to home already planned for next year: Sydney, October 2009. Expressions of interest in representing ANZSI at the Canadian and British conferences should be directed to our secretary. Both societies are offering a free place for those who perform this role.

*John E. Simkin*

## ANZSI Medal 2008

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers' Medal is offered annually for the most outstanding index to a book or periodical compiled in Australia or New Zealand. Indexers may nominate their own work. More details were in your March newsletter – don't forget that entries open on 5 May and close on 14 July 2008.

A nomination form is available from the Returning Officer, Alan Eddy, at <aeddy@surf.net.au>, phone +61 3 9853 0991.

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**Deadline for the May 2008 issue: 2 May**

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This newsletter is published monthly 10 times per year, with combined issues for January/February and November/December. It is sent free to all members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society.

It is *your* newsletter, and we are totally dependent on contributions, both large and small, from members. Please contact the editor if you have any questions about the suitability of items for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or abridge contributions.

Please send files via email in MS Word, .doc files or .rtf, but NOT .html or .pdf. And please, no images or footnotes in Word files.

### Next deadline

2 May for the May 2008 issue.

### Graphics

Image files can be accepted in most common formats. Do not embed images in text files. Camera-ready art and photos can be scanned by the editor. Note that photos need to be clear, sharp and contrasty if they are to copy well in black and white.

### Advertising charges

Full page A\$175; half page A\$90; quarter page A\$35; full year 10 for the price of 8.

### Membership charges

A\$60 per year; A\$35 half year (Jan to June).  
Student member A\$35.  
Subscriptions to the Newsletter A\$45 p.a.

### The Indexer

(*international indexing journal*)

Maureen MacGlashan, Executive Editor  
<editor@theindexer.org>

### ANZSI Corresponding Member

Glenda Browne <world@theindexer.org>

To subscribe at the special rate for indexing society members, go to <www.theindexer.org> and click on the subscriptions link.

### Registration

Michael Harrington  
Ph +61 2 6248 8297  
<registration@aussi.org> or  
<www.aussi.org/profissues/registration.html>

### Indexers Available

<www.aussi.org/IndexersAvailable>

## News from Queensland

### Indexing training in Brisbane

Max McMaster came up from Melbourne to conduct three days of indexing training at Brisbane's Marquee Hotel, beginning with a full-day basic introductory session on 10 March and an intermediate session on the 11th. Nine future professionals attended the first session and ten the second, enough to provide interaction and lively discussion.

Attendees included published authors and experienced indexers, editors, librarians and a solicitor, who had come not only from within Queensland but also from Sydney and Casino in New South Wales. We had hired computers for the second session, so that all

attendees had a chance to create their own index, ensuring a real sense of achievement.

Fifteen people attended two half-day training sessions on 12 March, on indexing journals and annual reports. Once again, a lively discussion from the attendees made for a very stimulating day for all.

We thank the ANZSI Council for covering all the extra costs to allow Max McMaster to run these indexing courses in Brisbane. We also thank Max for his suggestion to provide the training, and all those whose attendance made Brisbane training happen.

### Nuts & Bolts of Indexing

The Nuts & Bolts of Indexing gathering in Brisbane on 10 March was held in the relaxed atmosphere of the Salisbury Hotel. Seventeen people attended and there was vigorous networking with each other and the man that they had all come to see – Max McMaster.

We began with a meal and a chat, but as the meeting progressed questions centred mainly on how to make a living from indexing, how to find work and where and when training could be accessed to keep abreast of changes. Many participants focused on the fact that there is no Queensland Branch of ANZSI and seemed keen to change this situation.

It would seem that the minimum requirement of ten ANZSI members to form a Branch in Queensland could be easily met. There are currently 25 ANZSI members in Queensland and I will shortly be inviting them, and all who attended the Nuts & Bolts session, to attend a meeting at which we may vote on whether to form a new Branch.

Meanwhile, our thanks to all those who attended this session, and to Max McMaster for supporting and advising us in our endeavours.

Let's do it!

Moira Brown, ANZSI Queensland contact  
<brown5moira@yahoo.com.au>

### **The Indexing Life: Proceedings of the ANZSI Conference 15-17 March 2007, Melbourne on CD ROM**

Price A\$15.00 (includes GST and postage within Australia or overseas).  
Please supply ..... CD ROM copies of *Indexing Life* at A\$15.00 each.

Name:

Address:

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Send order form and payment either by cheque or money order payable to ANZSI Victorian Branch, or by VISA / Mastercard (circle which)

Card No: ..... Expiry Date: ..... / .....

Name of Cardholder: ..... Signature:.....

Send to: ANZSI Vic Branch, PO Box 1006, Caulfield North VIC 3161 Australia  
Inquiries: Max McMaster, phone +61 3 9500 8715, <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>

## ACT and NSW Branches' combined 'Evaluating indexes forum'

The ACT and NSW Branches of ANZSI invite members to participate in a joint Evaluating Indexes Forum to be held on Saturday 21 June from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm at Craigieburn Resort, Centennial Road, Bowral, NSW.

Some indexes are easy to use, others take more effort. Some indexes are rather sparse, others very detailed. Are they 'good' or 'bad' indexes? What does 'detailed' mean? What qualities do judges look for in award-winning indexes? The Evaluating Indexes Forum will discuss these questions and the criteria used to evaluate indexes, using the Yellow Pages' Fast-Find Index as the basis of this discussion. Bring a copy along with you if you can, or arrange to share with someone. It doesn't matter which edition you bring – page locators differ but the framework is standard in all directories.

The discussion leader will be Michael Harrington, Chair of the Registration Committee. Other participants will include members of the Panel of Assessors and Alan Walker, Chair of the Awards Committee.

Craigieburn Resort is on Centennial Road, Bowral (5 minutes drive from the Bowral railway station), phone: +61 3 4861 1277, <www.craigieburnresort.com.au/>. It is a heritage hotel set in the beautiful Southern Highlands, surrounded by a 36 hectare garden estate and including a private 9-hole golf course. There is a restaurant and spacious guest lounges with open fires (of course!).

The Forum will take place in a comfortable meeting room, with open fires, views and complete privacy. As the room has been booked for the whole day, participants are welcome to arrive early and relax or sightsee in and around Bowral (e.g. the Bradman Museum is here) – see <www.highlandsnsw.com.au> and <www.thesouthernhighlands.com.au/>.

There is no charge for attendance at the Forum, but if you stay overnight you will need to cover your accommodation and dinner. The ACT and NSW Branches will cover the costs of light refreshments during the afternoon and drinks at the dinner. We anticipate that informal discussion and networking and some entertainment will take place after the dinner.

A single room costs \$199, including breakfast; twin-share or double is \$248, breakfast included. To book a room you should contact Craigieburn directly at least six weeks ahead of the scheduled date, saying that you are part of the ACT/NSW Indexers' group booking. A deposit of \$100 per room is required.

Dinner will be in the Craigieburn restaurant: two courses \$55; three courses \$65.00. A sample menu is on the website. You are welcome to bring spouses/partners to the dinner.

As well as booking directly with Craigieburn, all those wishing to attend should also contact Sue Flaxman <sueflaxman@optushome.com.au>, who is coordinating the numbers and dinner arrangements with Craigieburn.

### ANZSI (ACT Region)

#### Annual reports workshop for indexers

Saturday 10 May, Seminar Room A, Coombs Building, ANU

#### Program

9.30 am – 12.30 pm      Workshop conducted by Michael Harrington  
12.30 – 2.00 pm      Lunch (BYO); morning and afternoon tea provided  
2.00 – 4.00 pm      Open discussion, queries, tips and suggestions

**Cost:** members \$100, nonmembers \$130

**Enquiries** to Eleanor Whelan <Eleanor.Whelan@bigpond.com>

## Branch activities

<i>Date &amp; time</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>Name of activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
Tues 29 April	Vic Branch	Follow-up indexing workshops	Holmesglen Conference Centre	Max McMaster <max.mcmaster@masterindexing.com>
Sat 10 May	ACT Region	Annual reports workshop	Seminar Room A Coombs Bldg, ANU	Eleanor Whelan <eleanor.whelan@bigpond.com>
Sat 24 May	NZ Branch	Introduction to back-of-book indexing	Christchurch, NZ	Carol Dauber <carol.dauber@xtra.co.nz> Max McMaster will be the trainer
Sun 25 May	NZ Branch	Intermediate back-of-book indexing	Christchurch, NZ	Carol Dauber <carol.dauber@xtra.co.nz> Max McMaster will be the trainer
Sat 21 June Sun 22 June	ACT Region and NSW Branches	Joint get-together: Evaluating indexes forum	Craigieburn Resort, Bowral NSW	See details above. Contact Sue Flaxman <sueflaxman@optushome.com.au>
Sat 2 Aug	Vic Branch	Seminar	Armora Riverwalk	Details to follow

## The new ANZSI website

By the time you receive the May issue of the *ANZSI Newsletter* the new ANZSI website will be live at <www.anzsi.org>. It has taken ages, but I hope when you see it you will agree it has been worth the wait.

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to make the new website possible, including Lynn Farkas, Shirley Campbell, Jon Jerney, Glenda Browne, Kathy Simpson, Alan Eddy, Max McMaster, Margaret Findlay, the NSW Branch and ANZSI Council members. The website has been designed by Link Web Services, a Canberra based company, using a content management system. The information architecture was developed by ANZSI members, and content was added by Mary Russell.

Secondly, I would like to stress that this is *your* ANZSI website, so I am keen to hear what you think of the site and how you think it could be improved. Is there something you would like to see included? Please let me know.

What is different?

Each branch or group has their own webpage. This is where local events, of interest to indexers, can be promoted. They do not necessarily have to be ANZSI events. Perhaps the local editors are running a course of interest, or there is a local conference or workshop of interest.

The Publications area includes:

- *ANZSI Newsletter* since 2003, with details of what is in each issue. The current three issues are located in the Members' area.
- *Conferences* section, with details of the 2009 Conference, as well as details of past conference papers, with links to papers, where available.
- *ANZSI Indexing Series*, the series of indexers published as part of the Mentoring Scheme.

In an effort to promote *ANZSI Newsletter* articles and conference papers, *Indexing Resources* has been totally redeveloped. Key print and electronic indexing resources, from around the world, have been grouped into sections covering:

- indexing;
- standards;
- names;
- types of indexing;
- subject specialism;
- indexing as a business;
- thesaurus;
- software;
- email lists;
- indexing societies.

*Training and Awards* includes details of training courses available, distance learning, mentoring scheme, registration, and the ANZSI medal.

There is a member's area which requires a password. The password you use is the same one you used to update your entry on the old website. If you have forgotten your password please contact Joanna McLachlan (Membership Secretary) at <bandoola1@bigpond.com>

When you first login you will be asked to update your details. Please take time to make sure all the information is correct. Under the *ANZSI Inclusions* section of the form you can say if you want to receive the *ANZSI Newsletter* via email (to start soon), have your name only appearing in the Member Directory, or be included in *Indexers Available*.

At the bottom of each page is a link to the website index.

Payments via credit card for renewals, registration, new memberships will be available soon.

The style of the website is such that you will need to move your mouse over the text to see the links.

So keep an eye on <www.anzsi.org> and use your mouse to explore the information available on the new website. And, as I mentioned earlier, I welcome your suggestions and comments.

Mary Russell  
ANZSI Web Manager

### ANZSI Victorian Branch Follow-up indexing workshops / Refresher indexing workshops

ANZSI (Vic Branch) will be conducting half-day follow-up indexing workshops / refresher indexing workshops for participants who have completed the intermediate book indexing course in the past, but feel they require some additional indexing training prior to being involved in the ANZSI Mentoring scheme or branching out on their own.

Participants will be provided with a copy of a 125 page non-fiction book, *Let's Haggle! The Fun Guide to Garage Sales, Op Shops & Markets*, by Dianne Duncan (Dunnell Books) about 3–4 weeks prior to the course. Participants will be expected to have completed indexing this title and to bring along their completed index to the workshop where we will discuss how you indexed the work, approaches and assumptions you made, and any difficulties you encountered.

Other parts of the workshop will involve a question and answer session where any conceptual problems of indexing can be discussed and resolved, so come armed with those questions! The final session of the workshop will look at setting up and running your indexing business, e.g. choosing a business name, getting an ABN and registering for GST, equipment needed to get started, income protection insurance, finding work, quoting.

**Venue:** Holmesglen Conference Centre

**Date:** Tuesday 29 April, 2008, 9.00 am – 12.30 pm OR 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm

**Cost:** \$150 (GST inclusive) which covers the book, postage, course notes, morning or afternoon tea.

**Presenter:** Karen Gillen

## ANZSI NSW Branch: Introduction to book indexing

**A**NZSI NSW Branch will hold a basic book indexing training course over two days on Saturday 17 May and Saturday 24 May 2008. The course will run from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm with a half-hour lunch. It will be held at Thomson Legal & Regulatory, 100 Harris Street, Pyrmont, Sydney. Parking onsite if you provide your registration number in advance. The building is near the John's Square tram station and bus stops on Harris Street. Lunch and morning and afternoon tea are included and a workbook will be provided.

**Course description:** This is a two day introduction to the principles of book indexing. It includes:

- useful references;
- indexing context (working with editors);
- indexing processes (reading, highlighting, indexing, editing);
- approaches to project planning, analysis of text, selection of indexable concepts, and indexing to the appropriate length;
- principles of indexing, including the wording of entries, and creation of cross-references;
- types of entries (subjects and names), elements of entries (headings, subheadings, locators);
- names – special issues in the indexing of people, places, and organisations;
- alphabetical order, and other filing conventions;
- style of entries;
- editing and evaluating entries;
- indexing software – a brief introduction.

The course is presented using lecture format, class discussions and exercises, and take-home exercises. Students receive a substantial workbook.

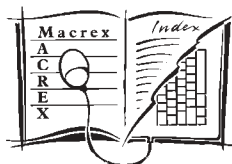
Payment in advance is required. Cost will be \$540 for members, \$600 for non-members (no GST involved). There is a 40% discount for long-distance travellers (travel requiring an overnight stay). As the course is on just before the end of the financial year, we will accept membership for 2008/2009. You will have to pay the membership fee separately to the ANZSI Treasurer (details at <[www.aussi.org/membership/index.html](http://www.aussi.org/membership/index.html)>).

Course enquiries to Glenda Browne: +61 2 4739 8199 or <[webindexing@optusnet.com.au](mailto:webindexing@optusnet.com.au)>.

Venue and parking enquiries to Lorraine Doyle: +61 2 8587 7229, or <[Lorraine.Doyle@thomson.com](mailto:Lorraine.Doyle@thomson.com)>.

Bookings and payments to Sue Flaxman: +61 2 4861 3589 or 0423 197 044. Payment can be made by cheque to ANZSI NSW or by direct deposit to account no. 2640 1017 0440 at the Commonwealth Bank Blaxland Branch – BSB 062-640. Applicants should ask for their name and 'ANZSI COURSE' to be put as the reference number (if the bank won't do this, just put a 4-digit number and let us know what it is. This allows us to track the deposits). Cheques should be posted to Sue Flaxman at 4 Loris St, East Bowral NSW 2576.

*Glenda Browne*



## MACREX INDEXING PROGRAM

[www.macrex.com](http://www.macrex.com)

**MONITOR PROGRESS:** MACREX records time taken indexing, entries per page, references per entry, etc.

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**MACREX VERSION 8** is now available, and runs on Windows™ NT, 2000, XP and Vista. For other platforms please contact us. **NEW FEATURES IN VERSION 8** include the option to use a hierarchical and non-hierarchical autocomplete /authority file; optional automatic heading changes; creation of single-keystroke RTF and text file; comprehensive text-sensitive help; facility to open indexes directly from Windows Explorer as well as from icon or Command prompt; many built-in macros; and a wide range of program enhancements. Many more features will be introduced into the program during the life of version 8, and updates will be sent out free to registered version 8 users.

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# From the literature and other thoughts



## Online at *The Indexer*

Issues of *The Indexer* dating back to 1974 are now available online, if permission to publish has been received from copyright holders. Select 'Online Issues' from the home page at <<http://www.theindexer.org>>. What a wonderful resource this is! Thanks to Maureen MacGlashan and the others who have worked so hard to put these up.

Interesting to see the title 'Indexers will not be replaced by computers' in the April 1974 issue. Perhaps true, perhaps not. Recent discussions on Index-L have highlighted the loss of indexing jobs relating to list compilation-type indexing and journal indexing. In both cases the publishers are relying on free-text searching as a substitute.

## Teleread, on e-indexes versus p-indexes

The Teleread blog contains many posts of interest about developments in the publishing industry. Carol Jurd <[www.teleread.org/blog/2008/03/20/a-history-of-the-later-roman-empire-begging-to-be-studied-in-e](http://www.teleread.org/blog/2008/03/20/a-history-of-the-later-roman-empire-begging-to-be-studied-in-e)> notes that *A History of the Later Roman Empire*, by Bury, is now available as an e-book (I wonder how many others of you used it as your high school textbook).

She bemoans the time taken using print indexes: 'But it also points out the horrors of trying to research a subject using the old p-book index. Students are struggling to finish the amount of work as it is, so who needs to waste an hour trying to locate references in a book?' (not sure why it takes them an hour) and is enthusiastic about the opportunities that electronic publication brings: 'Being able to search the text is one thing, but to be able to hyperlink references, add notes, bookmark sections—now that could be a real time-saver with the right software in use. And no more of those dog-eared volumes with broken spines and lots of underlining (usually by someone who liked red pens)!'

On first reading I took this to be praise for general searching of e-books, but on a second reading I saw it referred to the value of indexes when made available online. This is the sort of approach that will be crucial for the future of indexing when more and more books are available electronically.

## Teleread, on e-books

David Rothman <<http://www.teleread.org/blog/2008/03/31/in-case-you-missed-em-e-book-stats-youve-never-seen-before-documenting-the-shortage-of-e-titles-from-big-publishers>> notes that despite the large numbers of e-books available through Amazon, the contribution from major publishers appears to be minuscule (which those of us at the 2007 conference learnt, from Pam Peters, should not be spelt miniscule). But while developments may be slower than the techies wish, there are changes on the way. For example, *The Indexing Companion* is now available as a Kindle book through Amazon and in Adobe Reader format through Dymocks.

## Fiction index, published

Hazel Bell, an advocate and practitioner of fiction indexing, has published cumulative indexes to A.S. Byatt's novels: Bell, Hazel K. *The Frederica Indexes: Cumulative Indexes to A.S. Byatt's Novels "The Virgin in the Garden"/"Still Life" and "Babel Tower"/"A Whistling Woman"*. HKB Press, 2007. 21 p. £6.00 ISBN-13: 978-0955250361

She has also written a history of index makers, to be published in July by Oak Knoll Books in Delaware, and HKB Press in the UK. David Crystal has written the preface.

## Sequestration

Strong publishing areas, with a long tradition and many ongoing projects, are the least likely to change. This has always been a problem for library classifications and subject heading lists, which are used by thousands of libraries around the world, and where changes impact on other areas and require a large amount of work if they are to be fully integrated (often, however, the changed system is simply added to the old). The sequestration is perhaps strengthened by the fact that there is no single, agreed authority in the area, and that certain subject areas are considered to have special needs, so that more generally applied rules are thought not to apply. The same probably applies in government publication, where a strong style guide ensures consistency between departments and over time.

## Risk management for contractors

Indexers who work on large or non-traditional projects, often find they are required to have certain insurances, and to take on liability for certain risks associated with the projects. This problem is not limited to indexing contractors, and an article in *Building and Construction Law* (v.22 n.5 December 2006) noted some of the problems (some bullet points deleted): 'A study of major construction contracts in Western Australia found:

- risks were not allocated to the party best able to manage the risk;
- risks were transferred to consultants and contractors which were impossible for them to manage;
- cost savings would have occurred had risks been more effectively allocated;
- disputes and claims increased as a consequence of changes to risk allocation.'

A freelance indexer has to increase their hourly rate by a significant proportion to cover required professional indemnity insurance and other risk mitigation approaches for a job. This, of course, varies a lot depending on the amount of work done. It is also an ongoing cost, as professional indemnity insurance has to be held at the time a claim is made, not just at the time the work is done. Given the low risk associated with most indexing work, it would seem to be more cost-effective for employers to take on the risk associated with the work done.

Glenda Browne

## ACT Region Branch meeting: 'Show and Tell'

On 4 March ten members of the ACT Region Branch met in the Friends Room of the National Library of Australia for a 'Show and Tell' session.

Philip Jackson reported on the maintenance task recently undertaken at APAIS at the National Library. Data from old records, particularly monographs, has been moved to new appropriate fields.

Prue Deacon reported on the AGLS Working Group meeting held on 4 March. (AGLS used to stand for Australian Government Locator Service but the old name is no longer used because the standard has gone beyond the government sector). The meeting focussed on proposed revisions to the AGLS metadata element set (Australian standard AS 5044-2002). One proposal is a major change to the syntax of HTML/XHTML displays of metadata - this is to bring AGLS into line with changes in Dublin Core metadata. A second proposal, of interest to indexers, is that the subject element of metadata will no longer be mandatory. It will still be highly recommended but with the advice that quality control is essential if the subject metadata is to be usable. Prue also reported that HealthInsite has finalised a contract for a new search engine.

Shirley Campbell reported on the annual reports she indexed in 2007. It was apparent that some Commonwealth government departments had received and acted on the letter about the process of editing and indexing annual reports sent to the Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet from the Canberra Society of Editors and the ANZSI ACT Region Branch. The employment of a professional indexer rather than preparation of the index in-house was evidence of this.

Tracy Harwood joined the Victorian Branch for the weekend visit to Colac in November 2007. She enjoyed this weekend and found the indexing activity most useful. This visit was reported in the January/February 2008 issue of the Newsletter.

Michaela Olde reported on indexing a publication on animal health; the subject matter was healing with Australian bushflower essences. The author provided keywords to be included in the index. The author also required passing references to bushflower essences to be included and these headings were not to be further refined which resulted in entries with multiple locators.

Sandra Henderson prepared the index to the annual report for the Australian Public Service: *State of the Service*. This was a rush job but it was very interesting. She also worked on a project indexing the website content of the National Prescribing Service. The work involved assigning subject terms from a very detailed thesaurus, as well as more general checktags and a brief description. The NPS website <[www.nps.org.au/](http://www.nps.org.au/)> offers professional and consumer information. A team of indexers worked on this project, which was coordinated by Glenda Browne.

Geraldine Triffitt indexed the history of a family whose origins are from Finland. A great deal of time was spent experimenting with peoples' names and names of places. She found the most useful starting point was the descendants table. She had to resolve the issue of whether to index photographs and decided to index all photographs. Hospitals, schools, churches and cemeteries were also indexed.

Lynn Farkas was contracted to evaluate a thesaurus that had been prepared for Medicare Australia. All functions of the then Health Insurance Commission were covered in the thesaurus. Although it is an excellent thesaurus it has not been used agency-wide. A more focused thesaurus is now needed for subject access to the electronic information service used by counter staff in Medicare Australia branches. Lynn described the process she used to come up with recommendations for refining the original thesaurus to produce a working list for branch staff.

Barry Howarth described a recent indexing project where he produced an index to a thirteenth century language textbook used to teach Chinese to Koreans. The book consisted of a series of dialogues. Barry had only a hard copy of the text to work on as the author had managed to scramble the digital copy! The author wanted three indexes (in-depth indexing was required): books, proper names and subjects. Barry had to go along with some non-indexing practices, such as long strings of locators, which the author wanted. The index ended up more like a dictionary but Barry did add social concepts.

These sessions are always popular as they enable members to learn of the diverse indexing activities of other members.

*Shirley Campbell*

### ANZSI Vic Branch

*Committee meeting at the Courthouse Café, Warragul on Saturday 15 March (photo by Catherine Tully).*

*From left: Jenny Restarick, Alan Eddy, Bev Mills, Max McMaster, Margaret Findlay.*



# ANZSI and Branch Committee contacts

## ANZSI Council 2007–08

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