Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI)

ANZSI NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, number 3, April 2005

Indexers' Medal 2004

Report of the Panel of Judges

There were 15 entries for the Indexers' Medal this year, five from New Zealand and ten from Australia.

While most indexes would serve their purpose well, there was one aspect which reduced the effectiveness of several. Some Australian and New Zealand indexers tend to forget that their work will be used by others who know little of the customs or conventions of particular societies, e.g. a New Zealand book which uses the terms 'Maori' and 'indigenous people' in the text has no index entry for either, and a book on Australian politics with considerable material on Aboriginal people in Australian society but no entry under or cross reference from 'Aborigines' or 'Australian Aborigines'. Some mistaken idea of political correctness seems to have inspired the indexer to use the entry 'indigenous people', a quite nonspecific term.

A similar problem occurs with unfamiliar names. We indexers have textbooks which tell us how hyphenated names, Aboriginal names, Arabic and Hebrew names, etc. are entered, but if our readers are to find what they want they need cross references. Many readers will not know that the poet formerly known as *Kath Walker* will be found under *Oodgeroo Noonuccal*, and, those of us who are not familiar with Maori names will puzzle over whether to look for *Te Ata Awa* under '*Te*' or '*Ata*' or '*Awa*'.

If we want to speak to the world we may have to help our audience, and cross references are one way to do so.

Another problem is evident in some of the works, for which the publisher and designer are responsible. This occurs where sub-entries carry over into a new column. In one of the indexes the designer had managed to scramble the order of the sub-entries, which finished up in two sequences separated by three columns. When indexers find this out it is usually too late to remedy. In many cases indexers will have done some supplementary proofreading—surely the courtesy should be returned in the form of greater care with the index.

Tordis Flath, winner of Indexers Medal 2004 with Max McMaster, 'Highly commended'.

I would like to comment on three entries:

A Sort of conscience: the Wakefields, by Philip Temple (Auckland University Press, 2002).

This work suffers from the lack of some cross references as well as by the chronological arrangement of sub-entries which makes searching tedious, and from cramped layout. However despite these limitations **Simon Cauchi** is to be congratulated for a very good index which will be particularly useful to serious readers and researchers.

Biology: an Australian focus, by Pauline Ladiges, Barbara Evans, Robert Saint and Bruce Knox 3rd edition (McGraw Hill Australia, 2005).

This is a very substantial textbook, with a new index to this revised third edition. The index has created order out of an enormous amount of information with consistent indication of the various kinds of illustrative material. A weakness noted is some limited use of cross references, e.g. while T-cell receptors are referred to in the text by the abbreviation TCR, only the full version appears in the index.

This index is by **Max McMaster**, President of the Victorian Branch of ANZSI. He is highly commended for this work.

Toss Woollaston: a life in letters, edited by Jill Trevelyan (Te Papa Press, 2004).

This work combines letters and life story, with a separate section devoted to biographies of people in the artist's private and public life. The index is thorough, including references to footnotes, biographical entries and illustrations, and with clearly expressed

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GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601

Newsletter, Webmaster and Registration contacts

Editor: Peter Judge
<newsletter@aussi.org>

Web Manager: Jon Jermey
<webmaster@aussi.org>
Website: <www.aussi.org>

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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 Rich Text Format or plain text (ASCII). Do not embed footnotes in Word files.

Next deadline
29 April for the May 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$55 per year, A$28 half year (July to Dec). Subscriptions to the Newsletter: $40 p.a.

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Maureen MacGlashan, Executive Editor
16G Main Street, Largs,
Ayrshire KA30 8AB, UK.
<td64@dial.pipex.com>
Cost: $30 for AusSI members

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

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News and coming events

ACT Region Branch activities

Tuesday, 12 April, 5.30–7.30 pm. We will hold a light-hearted 'post mortem' on last month's Melbourne National Conference in the Friends' Room, National Library of Australia. Drinks and nibbles will be served. Come along and say what you thought about the conference, or, if you didn't go, come and listen to those who did. We hope to have a report on this meeting in the next newsletter.

Tuesday, 19 April, 5.30 pm. **Mentoring in the ACT.** Mentoring has become an important issue for various branches of the Society. The ACT Region Branch will be holding a meeting for those interested in the mentoring process at the ACT Heritage Library, on the second floor of the Woden Public Library, next to the Woden Plaza.

Edyth Binkowski, secretary

Victorian Branch: button up your overcoat ...

Do you have a shoe box full of odd buttons stored in your attic, sewing room, garage or under the bed? If so, bring them along to an exhibition of buttons collected over a period of 20 years by a retired school teacher and craftsperson which explains her interest in conservation. Such is her passion she goes by the unofficial name of Sally Buttons and her extensive collection includes historic buttons from around the world, representing many eras and fashions. More than being mere clothes fasteners, Sally says they are a link to the past.

If you would like to hand over some or all of those matched or loose items you have at home, do bring them along, together with any button tins you may have. Apparently button collecting is the second biggest hobby in the USA where they hold national competitions to show and award prizes. As is our custom, we have asked Sally to join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant and we would love to have your company also. It will be on **Wednesday, 8 June,** at 6.00 for 6.30 pm. The venue is ACER, 19 Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell. We will ask for a $5 donation in aid of Camberwell North Disabled Scouts Troop. RSVP to:

Jenny Restarick, phone (03) 9528 2539, email <cliffres@connexus.net.au>.

(Yes, we're running this notice again because the event is still a long way off and we don't want you to forget to mark your diary.)

Jenny Restarick, Vice President

News from the NSW Branch

The NSW Branch welcomes new member **Helen Payne** of St Leonards.

At the recent conference, the information architecture for the new ANZSI web site was presented to a meeting of the National Executive. Recommendations from the committee will be discussed at the next meeting of the project team in April.

Caroline Colton, President

(Indexers' Medal, 2004, continued from page 1)

sub-entries. The judges considered this to be a very creative piece of indexing especially in the framing of sub-entries. The minor weaknesses noted were one reproduction which missed being indexed and a small case of run-over sub-entries without heading. One judge queried the entries under the artist's in-laws as 'Mr' and 'Mrs' Alexander without use of their forenames, Joseph and Margaret. But these do not affect the usefulness of the index.

One judge described the artist as the 'Lloyd Rees of the New Zealand art world' who deserves to be better known in other countries. This collection of his letters with some 48 reproductions of his paintings will help to achieve this.

The index is by **Tordis Flath**, President of the New Zealand Branch of ANZSI. She is congratulated for this fine piece of indexing work and awarded this year's Indexers' Medal.

Judges: Ann Bentley, Pam Jonas, Michael Ramsden, John Simkin (Chair)