

Job Opportunities, near and far

- ◆ Check your job options.
Full time / Part time.
There are lots listed here.
See the SDB for more.

Be in to win an iPad [Important news for novice novel writers]

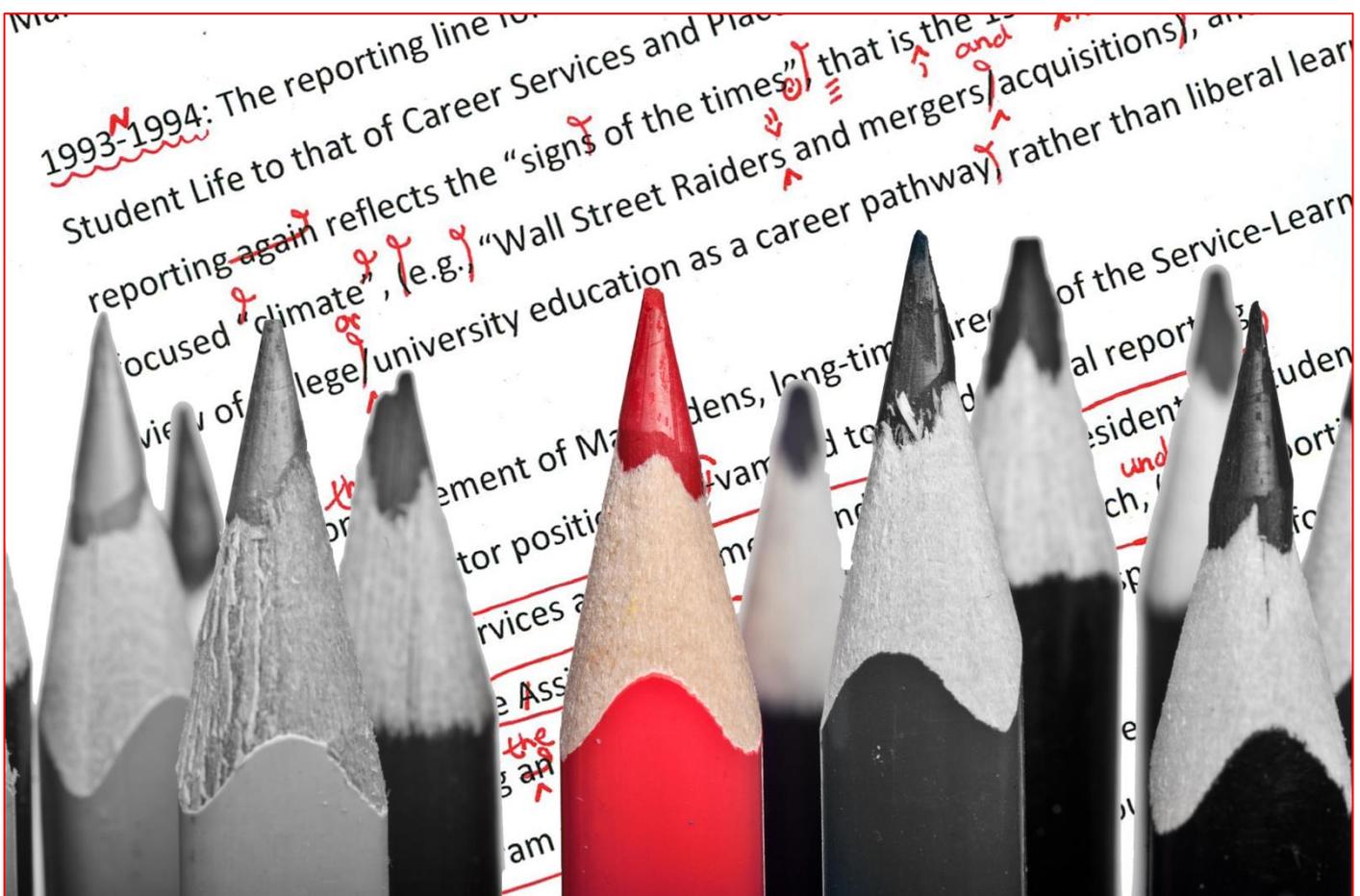
- ◆ A message from
the Principal. **P.2**

Freedom of Speech; it's always at risk

- ◆ An Australian Journalist has
been jailed in Egypt.
Tutor David Pardon looks
at the ethics of it. **P.3**

Proofreading. . .

Is there any money in that? There certainly is. **P.4**



What makes an effective editor?

- ◆ The New York Times asked its
staff. Read their opinions. **P.9**

Carol's Writing Tips

- ◆ The fifth part in the series by
Registrar Carol Morris on
easy ways you can make
your writing better. **P.8**

The Chameleon

- ◆ Chekov's bruising taunt, a
poke at Russian hierarchal
society. A great read. **P.12**

Important news for novice novel writers

If your burning desire is to write a novel, maybe a thriller or a romance, please read on to the end.

You can save \$755.



Maybe you will win a new Apple iPad.

Three NZIBS training courses have been revised and updated to make writing your novel much easier.

Now I'm confident you could complete your first novel DRAFT within 6-9 months. The days of dragging out your novel writing over 2-3-5 years are over.

OVER! Even for part-time writers. Even if this will be your first novel.

You'll learn how to develop larger-than-life characters. Heroes and heroines. Scoundrels and villains. You'll learn the simple steps that determine what is at stake. A kingdom? A business? A lover? The planet? You'll learn how to segue your story from one scene to the next; How to grasp and hold your reader's attention; How to build s-u-s-p-e-n-s-e.

There are techniques for weaving two or three sub-plot strands together.

Stories within the story.

You'll learn all these. Would this be an exciting achievement for 2014?

It can be a realistic achievement if you start in July.

Here's another reason for you to start in July:

Training course fees for:

- NOVEL writing course
 - MYSTERY writing
 - ROMANCE writing
- (all Diploma-length courses)

will increase to \$2450 on 1st August*.

B U T - if you decide to enrol during July, the old fees will still apply: only \$1695.

You will save \$755. Yes, a deposit and monthly payments will still be accepted.

*We have kept our NZIBS training course fees at \$1695 for more than five years. We have absorbed all cost increases.

But at midnight on 1st August reality sets in.

Yes, our 30 day guarantee still applies. You can try the course for 30 days and check **it is exactly what you want**. If not, cancel. Our guarantee applies.

Brian Morris ❖ Principal

Author had faith in his book

No one wanted to publish Reverend Graham Taylor's first children's novel *Shadowmancer*, so he sold his motorcycle to fund the first self-published print run. After all, he is a man of faith and believing in yourself sustains all writers.

His story is packed with history, folklore, magic, smuggling and the epic battle between good and evil.

The book sold so well on Amazon < <http://tinyurl.com/poy8fov> > that Faber & Faber offered him a contract to publish it and eight more titles as printed books.

Interestingly, Taylor sells six times as many ebooks as Faber sells the paperback versions.

Taylor says "At Amazon, self-publishers can experiment with their book's title, different cover designs, and selling prices - even offering books free online. I'm not a celebrity author but with ebooks, if it's any good people will buy it."

Taylor's book has been translated into 48 languages, and is being made into a film.

Good stories always have a moral and the message behind Taylor's experience is that any author who has written a book can put it on Amazon and see whether it sells.

You can too!

A Cautionary Tale . . .

A man received the following TXT from his neighbour:

"I am so sorry Bob. I've been riddled with guilt and I have to confess. I have been using your wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, more than you. I'm not getting any at home, but that's no excuse. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apology with my promise that it won't happen again."

The man, anguished and feeling betrayed, went into his bedroom, took his gun, and without a word, shot his wife dead.

But then his phone beeped again:

"Damn spellcheck. 'Wifi', not 'wife'."

Spellcheck doesn't have all the answers! When it matters, use a professional proofreader.

Egypt jails three Al Jazeera journalists

By **David Pardon**
NZIBS Journalism Tutor

The seven-year jail sentence imposed by an Egyptian court on Australian journalist Peter Greste and his Al Jazeera colleagues offends not only journalists but all who take for granted the right to publish within the narrow legal limits of defamation and copyright.

Who can deny the right to freedom of speech, including a free press? The answer by any legal or moral standard would have to be 'no-one'.

But we need to add a few more words to this: no-one in the democratic world.

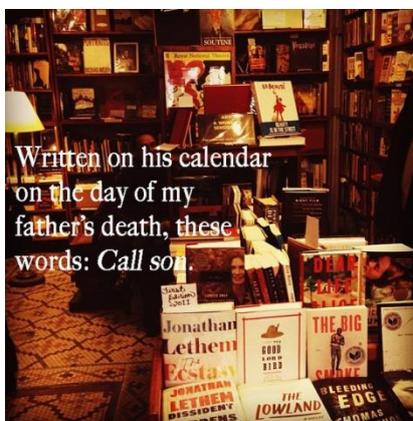
Sadly, for New Zealanders as well as for the people of every democratic nation, freedom of speech in much of the world – and especially the Middle East – is limited not just by the laws of defamation and copyright but by laws that vary from interpretations of the Koran to the dictates of whoever happens to hold political power.

Thus, while according to United States Secretary of State John Kerry and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Greste and Co have committed no crime – “they were reporting the Muslim Brotherhood, not supporting the Muslim Brotherhood,” says Abbott – the rules of media reporting in Egypt, as in most Middle Eastern nations, are not the same as those of Australia and all other democracies.

Reporting the activities of an organisation the government has branded as terrorist, no matter how factual and unbiased, is unacceptable in Egypt and Kerry’s call for Egypt to adopt “the essential role of a vibrant civil society, free press, rule of law and due process in a democracy” will fall on deaf ears.

What should concern all of us who believe in a free press should, therefore, not be whether Greste’s reporting was unacceptable to the Egyptian authorities, but that as an Australian citizen he has been arrested and sentenced by a foreign court in a foreign nation.

When his reporting became unacceptable he should simply have been ordered to leave Egypt. That would have placated the legal and moral sensitivities of not only supporters of the Egyptian authorities but of Australia, the United States, New Zealand the rest of a free world which believes media freedom is an inalienable right. □



How to get a job is an ebook you'll find at Amazon.com. This short \$5 book gives you all the steps for getting a job. Age 16 to 65? This is the book. <http://tinyurl.com/pgvgiky> Call 0800-801994 for a chat about your new career options.

Job Opportunities

[Communications Manager](#), Salt Recruitment, Auckland
Write eloquent, polished and compelling stories.
No closing date.

[Public Relations Contractor](#), Wellington
Plan and execute proactive media relations programmes.
Closes 11 July.

[Communications Executive](#), Beyond Recruitment, Auckland
Seeking Marketing/Comms/Journalist who can capture a story and bring it to life. No closing date.

[Communications Officer](#), Manawatu District Council
Work your magic across all areas of Council's communications.
Closes 13 July.

[Communications Coordinator](#), Green Cross Health, Auckland
Deliver compelling and accurate content in a variety of formats to inform, engage and inspire.
No closing date.

[Sub-editor](#), Auckland Council
Ensure communications are clear, simple and customer-centric.
Closes 9 July.

[Digital Editorial Director](#), GS Group Service, Auckland
Create engaging content in collaboration with unique storytellers. No closing date.

[Marketing Communications](#), Sysmex, Auckland
Prepare case studies, content and editorial suitable for medical or technology publications.
Closes 9 July.

[Senior Media Relations Adviser](#), Financial Markets Authority, Auckland
Develop content for a variety of audiences. Closes 15 July.

[Technical Writer](#), Hays, Auckland
Review published materials and recommend revisions.
No closing date.

Reminder
If you see the perfect job for you and the date has passed, apply anyway. There might not be any other suitable candidates.

Websites to explore

Be a Freelance Blogger

Where's the REAL money in blogging, and how do you get your hands on it?

- If you want to earn a full-time income as a blogger, this blog's for you.
- If you want to be known as an expert without spending hours on "free publicity" that barely gets you noticed, this blog's for you.
- If you want to earn extra money after work or college without taking a crappy local evening job, this blog's for you.

And if you want to work part-time from the beach, only write what you love and still earn enough to live on, this blog is for you, too. ☺

<http://beafreelanceblogger.com/>

You Write On

YouWriteOn was established in 2006 with Arts Council funding to assist new writers to develop their writing.

This enabled YouWriteOn to become one of the UK's leading independent review exchange sites with editors for leading publishers such as Random House and Orion - who publish bestselling writers such as Dan Brown, John Grisham and Bill Bryson - reviewing YouWriteOn.com's highest rated writers each month.

<http://youwriteon.com/>

Smart Passive Income

Pat says he is the 'the crash test dummy' of online business, sharing what works (and what doesn't) so you know exactly how to build your business better..

<http://www.smartpassiveincome.com/>

How to get proofreading work from foreign book publishers

There are simple steps to getting proofreading jobs from book publishers in places like London, Oxford, Dublin, Edinburgh, etc.

Did you notice what these places have in common?



Yes, they all use standard Oxford English. But look where they are on the world map.

They're all half a world distant from New Zealand. Internet means that works to your advantage.

The procedure for getting these jobs normally takes about 9-12 months. You don't just walk in off the street and get the plum proofreading jobs, even if you have a BA.

It's best to start planning today.

I'm going to assume you're a good speller. If you're not, this will look like hard work. But if you love the English language, read lots of books, appreciate seeing complicated words spelt correctly, then this is a fun way to earn a dollar or a pound.

Having your Dip.Edit Diploma in proofreading and editing is your entry ticket into this exciting world.

Your Diploma will be Level 4, the same as British City & Guilds.

Note: Proofreading is the first rung on the publishing world ladder. Next up is the 'manuscript reader assessor'. In time you might be invited to help authors as their assigned 'editor'.

Each level is important and brings huge job satisfaction.

Getting proofreading work

Step 1 is when you compile your list of topics or subjects you know quite a bit about.

You need to be familiar with the jargon of some industry or profession or activity.

This can vary from the jargon of cars, horses, boats, cooking, knitting, the Bible, health, law, dogs, sewing and 999 other fields.

Dredge your memory of previous jobs, careers, hobbies, other experiences.

Did you ever live in Dubai? Put it on your list. Do you know the Latin names of some plants? Put it on your list. Do you know the characteristics of Jack Russell dogs? Ever been in Scouts or Guides? Put that on your list.

Add to your list as you think of more things.

Tip: Write them on the December 32 page in your diary. It's blank.

The reason for creating this list is because that is where your future income will come from.

Each term is a 'keyword' which is like another ticket in the proofreading jobs raffle.

Tip: Don't take on proofreading work where you're out of your depth. Let it pass.

Tip: The specialist always earns more than the generalist. The ENT specialist earns more than the GP doctor. So look for work in your speciality niche.

The reason for having lots of topics is akin to building a dry-stone wall. A builder needs 100 rocks from which to choose the appropriate last rock for topping the wall.

Maybe only ten of your topics will be commercially useful.

But you need the full roster from which to choose those vital ten.

In the home-study training course we show you how to use small notebooks and your public library for research. It's easier than the Internet!

You'll jot down four pieces of vital information about the book publishers who will become your clients one day soon.

Those publishers can be based anywhere in the world.

When you've completed your research, you'll learn how to draft a short email to send to each publisher on your target list. You're on your way!

This is where having **Your Name Dip.Edit** is so important. The people in publishing worldwide can instantly recognise that you are a trained proofreader.

Dip.Edit is the key.

There's a Bible story about Jesus curing ten lepers. Just one came back and said "Thank you." That's only ten percent.

The same ratio applies when you make yourself known to book publishers. Ten per cent will acknowledge you. But that's OK. It's a numbers game in the beginning!

You keep on letting the other 90% of book publishers know about your availability for work and give them your keywords again. Persistence wins!

In time their regular proofreader who is knowledgeable about conservation or cricket will be up to their ears in work, away on maternity leave, or they've decided to retire. It happens.

Then your name appears at the top of their list! You'll be offered a test project.

Here is your opportunity to demonstrate all the things you've learned about spelling, proofreading, 'track changes', grammar, formatting, quoting, setting your fees etc.

Expect their first response to be cautious. You may hear: "Tell us what you've proofread recently."

That's when you send PDFs of your testimonial letters from people you've already worked for, such as *Save The Whales*, *Cust Cricket Club*, *The Red Cross*, etc.

Let these testimonials do your talking for you, and whatever first project is offered, do it willingly.

Don't set a fee but indicate you will accept "the going rate for this type of work".

This first project is your chance to build a reputation by delivering a quality job ahead of deadline. Don't worry. You'll know how to do this confidently.

If it's a big project, give them a progress report every three days.

Tip: Be easy to work with. Always deliver an hour or a day ahead of deadline. Reduce your client's stress level and they are more likely to give you more work.

Establishing a reliable work record is your first priority.

Make notes about each publisher on their page in your notebook. (For example: Mackenzie with a small k. Office closes early Wednesdays.)

Freelance proofreading and editing fees are usually set by negotiation and agreement. You'll learn how to do this. In time, you'll know when you can negotiate a higher pay figure you'll be super-happy with.

Note: If a delivery date is agreed and then you're asked, "Can you deliver the work two days earlier?" you'll learn how to ask for an urgency fee.

(For example: "Yes, I can deliver by 3pm on Friday but to do that I'll need to cancel my other appointments. Is it OK if I add a 10% urgency surcharge?")

If agreed, you just got a ten per cent increase in your fee for doing the same work.

When the proofreading client with whom you've established a good working rapport says, "By the way, I'm leaving soon to go to XYZ Publishing" (as happens) ask for the name of her replacement. Ask, "Will you recommend me to your replacement?"

If you can secure work at her new place, you'll have two clients instead of one.

After a while, you'll get more work than you can handle, so get yourself off the hook with this:

"I'm sorry. I'm fully committed."

Tip: When you have work coming in steadily, that's the best time to review your hourly rate upwards.

When that happens, you know you're in demand. Congratulations.

Let your tutor know about your successes. We get our satisfaction when our graduates do well. □

Job Opportunities

[Photographic Business Opportunity](#), Livingstone Photography, Queenstown
Photography and Photoshop skills are a must. Closes 25 July.

All these jobs are on NZIBS **Student Discussion Board**.
Fresh jobs go up every three days.

[Sports Reporter, Marlborough Express](#)

Cover all the sport going on in the region. Closes 11 July.

[Communities Reporter](#), The Press, Christchurch
Two opportunities for talented all-round reporters in the Canterbury region. Closes 6 July.

[Social Media Content Manager](#), Eight Loop Social, Auckland
Create content based on editorial calendars, specific objectives and strategies. No closing date.

[Marketing and Communications Administrator](#), Adecco Personnel, Christchurch
Assist the Communication Manager to implement communication plan actions. No closing date.

[School Photographer](#), Photolife Studios, Hamilton
Photography experience is not essential as full training will be given. No closing date.

[Rehabilitation Coach Assistant](#), Bupa Rehab, Hamilton
Help people live healthier, happier lives. No closing date.

[Senior Creative, Libby & Ben, Christchurch](#)
Skills in copywriting / illustration / animation / photography an advantage. Closes 11 July.

[Deputy Editor](#), NEXT Magazine, Auckland
Ensure there is a compelling mix of stories in every issue of the magazine. No closing date.

[Editor/Proofreader](#), User Friendly Resources, Christchurch
Proofread and edit new author manuscripts and manage the editing requirements. No closing date.

NZ Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve.

Join here:

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

The NZSA offers a MS appraisal service

There are many benefits that come with membership of the NZSA.

#1 Meet other writers and ask them questions. Learn stuff.

#2 Manuscript Appraisal Service is open to all writer / NZSA members.



The NZSA Manuscript Appraisal Service is a cost-effective way of getting initial feedback on a work. It is not meant to be a substitute for a full manuscript assessment but rather a **critical response to a work in progress with comments** on the technical ability of the writer and some advice on the next step.

Thanks to funding from Creative New Zealand, NZSA can subsidise 28 appraisals for NZSA members in 2014. (It's first in first served.)

MEDIA caps for NZIBS graduates

- ❖ Journalist,
- ❖ Sports Journalist
- ❖ Photographer
- ❖ Travel Writer.

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number. One size fits all.



The Test

This document contains SPELLING MISTAKES. They were put there on purpose SO YOU CAN FIND THEM.

That's because this is APTITUDE TEST #2 for novice proofreaders.

Every spelling mistake you find is worth \$2 off the cost of your NZIBS Proofreader Training course.

The more mistakes you find – the more we will welcome you as a novice proofreader who has 'The Right Stuff'.

>> Start checking now <<

If a 13 year old Greek kid can write well enough to change the course of history, what's holding you back?

I stepped off a ship in New York Harbour on a gray March day in 1949, an undersized nine-year-old Greek boy who had lost his mother and was coming to live with a father he didn't no.

Father drove us to our new home in Worcester, Massachusetts. As he pointed out the school I would attend, my mouth went dry. It was a huge, forbidding brick structure surrounded by a wire fence, and was bigger than my Greek village's church, school and coffee shop pull together.

Mentally I reviewed the English lessons another refugee had given me on board the ship. "One two three four five six seven eight nine ten," I recited proudly.

"Very good!" my father answered, first in English, then in Greek. "You say that for the Principal. He'll be very impressed."

He wasn't. At the primary school, the grim-faced Principal put me and my 11-year-old sister in a class for the mentally regarded. There was no facility for non-English-speaking childrens.

But four years later, after I had learned English and had even been chosen for the university preparatory steam, I met the person who would set the course of my future life.

Shortly after I arrived at Chandler Junior High we were told to select a hobby to pursue during 'club hour' on Fridays. I decided to follow the prettiest girl in my class, who led me through a door marked Newspaper Club. And there was a salty-tongued, no-nonsense English teacher named Marjorie Hurd.

Immediately it was clear that Miss Hurd had no patients with layabouts. "We're going to put out a newspaper" she bellowed in her flat Boston ascent. "So if there are any goof-offs in this room I suggest you go across the hall to the Glee Club NOW because you're going to work your tails off in where!"

I was soon so under the spell of this formidable, stealy-eyed teacher that I asked the Principal to transfer me to her English class as well.

There, in her abrasive, humorous manner she drilled us on grammar and made me fall in love with literature. I was fascinated by the way she could read a story, then open it up like a fan, displaying it's varied facets, colours and meanings. I had considered storeys to be simple adventures, but she showed me they could express feelings as well. Paine, frustration, anger and less.

One day, she assigned us to compost an essay from our own experience. Fixing me with a stern look, she added, "Nick, I want you to write about what happened to you're family in Greece."

A tale of courage. That was the last thing I wanted to write about, and so I left the assignment until the last moment. Then, on a warm weekend afternoon, I sat in me room and stared out the window.

Finally I wrote the first sentence: 'To many people the coming of spring means the end of winter, the first robin, and thoughts of love. Spring to me has a very different meaning because this was when I said goodbye to my mother for the least time.'

I kept writing, telling how the communist guerrillas occupied our village and tuck our home and food; how my mother - Eleni Gatzoviannis - planned our escape when she learned all the childrens were to be sent to re-education camps behind the Iron Curtain: and how she couldn't come with use because the guerrillas had sent her to thrash wheat in a distant village.

I wrote about our nocturnal escape down the mountain and into the lines of Nationalist soldiers who sent us to a refugee camp.

It was there we learned of our mother's torture and exacution.

I wrote that I could still hear the cries of my sisters when we were told my mother was shot by guerrillas for what they called treason – planning the escape of her children.

I did not write down the things my mother say or did on that last day. I didn't tell how she took me on her lap and told me I must be very brave and must never come back to Greece; I didn't tell that she took a crude silver cross on a chain from her neck and put it round mine to protect me; or that she was led down into the ravine and up the other side until she disappeared round a bend - a tiny brown figure who stopped for an instant to rise her hand in one final farewell.

All those things were too precious to shear.

I handed in the essay hoping that was the end of it. But Miss Hurd published it in the school paper.

I was mortified - until I saw how my classmates reacted with sympathetic and fact.

Without telling me, Miss Hurd also submitted the essay to a contest and it won an award. The local paper wrote about the award and quoted my essay at length.

For the first time I began to understand the power of the written word.

One day I vowed I would go back to Greece and discover the details of my mother's death and write about her life so her grandchildren would know of her courage.

Meanwhile, I followed the lottery path Miss Hurd had set me on. I became editor of my high school newspaper and got a part-time job at the Worcester Telegram Gazette.

Then I moved to financial four years at Boston University with scholarships and part-time jobs in journalism. An article I wrote about a friend who died in the Philippines - one of the first volunteers to lose his life in the Peace Corps - won a Hearst Foundation journalism award.

The plaque was given to me inside the White House by President John F Kennedy.

When the Worcester paper ran a picture of my standing next to the President my father clipped it, had it eliminated in plastic and carried it in his breast pocket. I found it there on the day he died 20 years later.

My mother had bribed a cousin to teach her to read, going against the custom of our isolated Greek village. She had always dreamed of an education for her children. She couldn't be there when I graduated from Boston University.

But the person who came with my father and shared our joy was Marjorie Hurd.

At my wedding and at the baptisms of my children she was dancing alongside the Greeks.

She taught for 41 years. Often her students were from troubled homes yet she would alternately bully and charm each one until the spark of their potential caught fire.

America is truly the land of opportunity and I would have enjoyed its bounty even if I hadn't walked into Miss Hurd's classroom. But she was the one who directed my grief and pain into writing. She was the catalyst who sent me into journalism and indirectly caused all the good things which came after.

But Miss Hurd would probably deny all this.

Miss Hurd was one of the first to call me on 10th December 1987 when President Reagan, in his television address after the summit meeting with Mikhail Gorbachov, told the nation that my mother's dying cry "Save my children!" helped inspire him to seek an arms agreement for ALL the children of the world.

"I can't imagine a better monument for your mother," Miss Hurd said, with a slight weaver in her voice and a tear in her eye.

>> **How many spelling mistakes DID YOU FIND?** <<<

Email registrar@nzibs.co.nz with the total you found.

Include your name and telephone number. You're a good speller.

This could be the start of something worthwhile.

Indie-Pub Book Fair, August, Auckland.

Louise de Varga is coordinating the first Book Fair for independent book publishers.

c4s@clear.net.nz

Date =
Sat 16 August 2014.

Venue =
St Paul's Church Hall,
100 Victoria Road,
Devonport,
Auckland 0624.

Map ref =
tinyurl.com/kjxvvk9

Register your interest with Louise.

Job Opportunities

[Sub-editor/Proofreader](#), VIP Publications, Auckland
Work across a range of marine publications. No closing date.

[Digital and Social Marketing Manager](#), PwC, Auckland
You'll be responsible for digital strategy and delivery.
No closing date.

[Social Media / Audience Engagement Editor](#), nzherald.co.nz, Auckland
Help drive engagement among readers who don't normally visit nzherald.co.nz. Closes 11 July.

[Deputy Chief Reporter](#), Rotorua Daily Post
Good copy editing skills are a must and an eye for design would be an advantage.
No closing date.

All these jobs were listed on the Student Discussion Board when they were first found. That could have been a week ago!

[Careers Advisor](#), NZ Management Academies, Auckland
Coach and support people looking to achieve their career goals.
Closes 11 July.

[Reporter](#), North Shore Times
Requires a good news sense and a wide general knowledge.
Closes 7 July.

[Head of News](#), The Dominion Post, Wellington
Drive coverage across the daily news cycle. Closes 7 July.

[Production and Editorial Assistant](#), McGuinness Institute, Wellington
Edit and prepare documents for publication. No closing date.

[Social Media Content Coordinator](#), Zeal Education Trust, Waitakere
Can you come up with an inspirational one-liner at the drop of a hat? No closing date.

[Proofreader](#), Calendars.co.nz, Auckland
Short-term contract proofreading calendars. No closing date.

[Business/Life Coaches Wanted](#)
Start your own YB 12 coaching consultancy. No closing date.

Online Openings

for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, search for variations of what you want, i.e.:

- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Editing**
- **Manuscript correcting**

Get creative. Look for variations.

Craigslist.org

Check this international billboard of opportunities, jobs etc.

<http://auckland.craigslist.org/>

Must we guess what is intended?

Online Writing Jobs

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations is here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

You'll probably have better English than the boss.

iFreelance

Advertise your services here:

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

Photo Competitions

More than 180 competitions are listed here:

<http://www.photographycompetitions.net>

Among them all, there must be at least ONE you'll like. **Enter it.** You only have to win once to be famous, like Lorraine Downes.

The Story Mint

Participate in a serial here:

<http://thestorymint.com/story-mintery>

You can add one chapter of up to 500 words to the latest serial.

Put your name down for a slot and write 480 -500 words to carry the story forward. That makes you an online author.

Carol's Writing Tips

Part 5:

Leaving Your Readers Hanging

Never annoy your readers.

Sometimes I read books in which the author has withheld some key information from their readers, presumably in an effort to create suspense. But failing to give readers what they want doesn't create suspense, it causes dissatisfaction. For example, don't leave a point-of-view character in the middle of an action sequence.

Perhaps, in the final sentence of a chase scene, you write that your protagonist: *"careened around the bend and crashed into the cement pylon jutting up from the side of the road . . ."*

What defines a good editor?

Amy Harmon's view

"There comes a moment in every reporting project when I realise what I'm working on is the biggest mistake ever. There is no story here. It has been a colossal waste of everybody's time. It doesn't matter that I can recognise this as a pattern.

It doesn't matter that many longish-form writers I admire also come to this moment. I know that this time, it is for real.

It is at this moment that only my editor stands between me and the depths of despair.

Great editors have the courage of their convictions, even when their reporters' courage wavers. A great editor can convince you, in the face of overwhelming evidence you supply to the contrary, that the story matters.

The preparation for this moment is extensive.

Great editors engage in your story, conceptually and in the details. They suffer through multiple bad drafts and know your characters almost as well as you do.

Only then can they talk you back from the brink — and persuade you that you'd better file the damn thing and get on with your life.

Your readers will turn to the next chapter wanting to find out if she is conscious, dead, etc.

But if that next chapter instead begins with another point-of-view character, one in a less stressful situation, readers will be impatient. They don't want to wait to come back to the woman in the car (or maybe she's in the hospital by then) a chapter later.

If readers are tempted to skip over part of your story to get to a part they want to read, you need to fix that section.

As you write, constantly ask yourself what the readers want at this moment of the story. Then, give it to them—or surprise them with something even better.



It doesn't matter how many resources you have
if you don't know how to use them, they will never be enough

Proofreading is more than checking spelling

by Jack May

"Didn't anyone use Spellchecker?" That's the reaction when people discover simple errors in websites, books, magazines, or newspapers. But professional proofreading is more than checking the spelling.

In the novel '*Lord Of The Flies*', author William Golding has the schoolboys stranded on an island. They use the eyeglasses of a boy nicknamed Piggy to start a fire.

According to the story, Piggy is terribly near-sighted, meaning his eyeglasses are concave.

Hang on. Concave lens scatter rays, not focus them.

Only convex lens will focus enough sun's rays to start a fire.

A proofreader with good general knowledge would have picked up this error.

What Makes A Great Editor?

"I am not the editor of a newspaper and I shall always try to do right and be good so God will not make me one."

So wrote Mark Twain, thus contributing to a rich heritage of comments about the editing profession.

But what of the good editors or even the great ones? What's the essence of their skill? *New York Times* asked some of their top journalists for their thoughts.

DAVID CARR

Media columnist and reporter:

Editors create fine stories by typing on a keyboard composed of human beings. Knowing which key to hit when and how hard to press it is both art and craft.

The greats manage to be both collegial and decisive.

At bottom, editing is an act of assertion. This is good, this is bad, this is fine. A good editor is right most of the time, making copy better every time she or he touches it.

The greats do the same for the people who produce that copy.

A good editor is the enemy of clichés and tropes, but not the overburdened writer who occasionally resorts to them.

Judgment, a good bedside manner and an ability to conjure occasional magic in the space between writer and reader is rare, but can produce treasure.

FRANK BRUNI

Op-Ed columnist:

A great editor is like a great meatloaf. By which I mean: There is a multitude of kinds, and all get the job done, deploying different recipes for the same result, which is your nourishment. A meatloaf is going to have non-negotiable elements: meat and an egg or two, bread crumbs, herbs, spices and onions. A great editor is also sure to have a certain foundation of ingredients, which I'll list.

A great editor revels in your best moments often enough to soften the mentions of your worst ones.

A great editor knows when to push you a little harder and when that will only sow frustration.

A great editor makes you feel safe and supported enough to take chances, but pipes up when you're taking a truly stupid one.

A great editor tells you to get to the point faster, because most of us don't get to the point fast enough.

A great editor remembers when you've used a joke twice before and that it was only funny the first time, and then only marginally so.

A great editor picks up the bar tab. That last part is the most important of all.

GRETCHEN MORGENSON

Business columnist and reporter

The best editor is the person who can take a modest story and make it big, broad and powerful. Believe it or not, some editors take big stories and make them small.

But the great editor is one who pushes a reporter to widen a story's scope or one who recognises an impact in a story the reporter might not have seen initially.

Another crucial characteristic of the great editor: She or he stands behind the reporter throughout any firestorm that ensues. A spine of steel is imperative.



Job Opportunities

[Junior Sub-editor](#), Pagemasters, Auckland

Recent sub-editing experience on a newspaper or magazine is essential. No closing date.

[Reporter](#), The Christchurch Star
Would suit someone about to embark on their journalistic career. No closing date.

[Junior Copywriter](#), GrabOne, Auckland
Put together creative online ads to sell a wide range of things. No closing date.

[Communications Advisor](#), Alpha Recruitment, Auckland
Assemble, research, write, publish and co-ordinate information. No closing date.

[Senior Reporter](#), The Southland Times
You must be capable of generating an endless supply of story ideas and be first with them. Closes 4 July.

[Communications Adviser](#), NZ Drug Foundation, Wellington
Seeking a brilliant writer and editor with proven communications and social marketing experience. Closes 4 July.

[Editor](#), Tarawera Publishing, Bay of Plenty
Edit and produce NZ Mortgage magazine, which specialises in personal finance and investment news. Closes 20 July.

[Web Content Editor](#), Place Recruitment, Wellington
Requires experience editing content for established intranets. No closing date.

[Senior Business Reporter](#), BusinessDesk, Auckland
Contribute to business coverage across the board. No closing date.

[Photographer](#), PhotoWonder NZ, Nationwide
Requires experience with portrait photography and preschool photography. No closing date.

[Sub Editor/Web Publisher](#), NZX Talent, Manawatu
Play a key role in maintaining the integrity and quality of publications. Closes in July.

GLIMMER TRAIN



VERY SHORT FICTION

Open to all writers, this category welcomes stories that have not appeared in a print publication. Maximum length: 3,000 words.

Next deadline: July 31.*

Winners are announced in the April 1, July 1, October 1, and January bulletins, respectively, and contacted directly one week earlier.

Reading fee: \$15 per story. Please, no more than three submissions per contest.

Prizes:

- 1st place wins \$1,500; 2nd place wins \$500 (or, if accepted for publication, \$700; 3rd place wins \$300 (or, if accepted for publication, \$700.

<http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>

Writer's Relief

30 day 'Know Thyself' challenge

Define who you are as a writer – and there is a prize. . .

You do need a Facebook account.

<http://www.facebook.com/writersrelief>

Taumarunui Writers' Group

Entries are now open for the Heartland 1000 short story competition. (Up to 1000 words.)

There is a prize of \$500.

Award-winning novelist William Taylor will judge the entries.

Closing date: September 30.

Email your queries and/or request an entry form and conditions from [:dickwendy@clear.net.nz](mailto:dickwendy@clear.net.nz) or helenbarryx@extra.net.nz or Heartland 1000, 9 South Street, Taumarunui 3920. (Please send a SSAE)

The
New York
Times

How do we
recognise
good
editors?

And how do we
acknowledge great ones?

TIM EGAN NYT Columnist

Every writer needs an editor, and anyone who says he doesn't has a fool for a muse.

A great editor is honest – not saying one thing and meaning the other.

A great editor has a deft touch, the ability to hack and slice and make it seem like minor surgery.

They channel your voice, rather than grafting theirs on to your piece. But whether it's a book editor or a newspaper editor, the greatest share this quality:

They ask the right questions. Genius starts with, "What if...?"

JOSH HANER NYT Photographer

To me, a great editor is willing to take risks.

Playing it safe is not what advances our profession nor expands the visual literacy of our readers.

Risks can be anything from assigning conflict photographers to bring their style of vision to cover a sporting event. Or telling a photographer to ignore the person giving the speech and focus on expressions in the crowd. Or running six pages of photos with minimal text because it's what he/she feels the story merits.

As a photographer, I'm disappointed only when we run an obvious photo.

A good photo editor will understand that pictures are not illustrations used to break up the text but rather they are content in and of themselves.

The good editor will fight to get compositions into print that challenge the norm and show us something about the artistic vision of the photographer.

Is there money in proofreading?

Anyone who says there isn't hasn't heard of the disastrous 2008 Chilean Currency error.

It's yet another example of the need for proofreaders.

In 2008, 1.5 million Chilean coins, of the 50-peso denomination, were released with the South American country's name spelled incorrectly.

The engraver, Pedro Urzua Lizana, misspelled Chile [as CHIIE] and the mistake was not caught until a coin collector reported the error. By that time, 1.5 million coins were already distributed to the public.

The mistake not only caused the country significant embarrassment, but several Chilean mint employees lost their jobs because of this massive error.



And what about the Oneida County Obama job?

In Oneida County, N.Y., 130,000 voter ballots were printed with President Barack Obama's name misspelled.

The ballots omitted the 'c' from the president's first name.

This error cost the county more than \$75,000.

According to an article released by *UticaOD.com*, the county executives discovered the error just a few business days before election day. They contacted the printer, but unfortunately the ballots were already printed. The printer was willing to reprint the ballots with the correct spelling, but said he would need to charge the County. And he did.

Competitions



Have a go! 😊

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at month's end.

See the competitions here:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

Photography competitions:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

From David Muller, on the Student Discussion Board

Calling all students:

It is not just the proofreaders who should be entering the competitions. I would have thought that all the writing groups would be honing their skills too.

"I recently read a little book called 'The First Five Pages'. Written by a reviewer of manuscripts who makes the point that your book will be won or lost with a publisher within the first five pages. He points out classic mistakes, one of which is turgid and complicated writing--just the sort of thing you present in the 'simplify' competition.

We are all very busy with our lives and it is easy to let things slide but if we look at all the extra work and practice the photographers are putting in then the rest of us should be shamed into widening our horizons and practising as well to get the most out of our studies.

from . . .

Robert V

Photography tutor

If you're sending in photos for assignments, or for challenges or competitions, please remember to give these important details:

- **Aperture setting – including why you chose that one**
- **Shutter speed – including why you chose that one**

The aperture and the shutter speed are the two most important aspects of making a photograph so they deserve serious consideration. The photography tutor can help you better if you give reasons why you chose these settings.

In Idyllic Italy . . .

Small flat for short term (European summer) rent.

Located in medieval Ventimiglia Alta, on Ligurian coast, NW Italy.



Maximum 2 people. Light, airy, WIFI, terrace, sea view, handy to shops, beaches, buses, trains. Great base for exploring. 8km from French border (Menton); Principality of Monaco 20km, Nice airport 60 km, Genova 150km. Even in July/August Ventimiglia isn't inundated with tourists.

Lots of inspiration all around for writers and photographers. My flat is on 4th floor, partly within 16th century ramparts – there are 54 steps and no lift.

I am currently in NZ because my father is ill. Special rates for NZIBS students and graduates.

Experience the Italian way of life. Non-smokers only. **Contact me: carolynmckenzie@libero.it.**

Job Opportunities

[International Recruitment and People Placement Specialist,](#)

New Life Global, Hamilton
You'll require the ability to write compelling CVs and Cover Letters, and to coach and mentor clients. No closing date.

[Sub-Editor / Web Publisher,](#)

NZX, Manawatu
Sub-edit and prepare content; proofread and provide feedback. Closes 3 July.

[Clever Content Manager,](#)

Eight Loop Social, Auckland
Requires intriguing writing, editing, designing and proofreading skills. No closing date.

[Technical Communicator,](#)

Sourced, Christchurch
Edit and proofread technical documentation for complex hardware and software systems. No closing date.

[Digital Copywriter,](#)

Hays, Auckland
Write compelling, search-engine-optimised digital content. No closing date.

[Online Editor,](#)

MediaWorks, Auckland
Requires strong writing skills and the ability to write quickly. Closes 11 July.

[Marketing Communications Assistant,](#)

Gaulter Russell, Auckland
Support the development and roll out of communication initiatives and product campaigns. No closing date.

[Intermediate Writer,](#)

Jo Bayley, Auckland
Are you able to translate business strategies and vision into compelling stories? No closing date.

[PR Graduate Role,](#)

Hotwire, Auckland
Must be a news junkie – passionate about current affairs. No closing date.

If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. You could still get lucky.

A Chameleon

by Anton Chekov

Reproduced for educational purposes.

The police superintendent Otchumyelov is walking across the market square wearing a new overcoat and carrying a parcel under his arm. A red-haired policeman strides after him with a sieve full of confiscated gooseberries in his hands. There is silence all around. Not a soul in the square . . . The open doors of the shops and taverns look out upon God's world disconsolately, like hungry mouths; there is not even a beggar near them.

"So you bite, you damned brute?" Otchumyelov hears suddenly. "Lads, don't let him go! Biting is prohibited nowadays! Hold him! ah . . . ah!"

There is the sound of a dog yelping. Otchumyelov looks in the direction of the sound and sees a dog, hopping on three legs and looking about her, run out of Pitchugin's timber-yard. A man in a starched cotton shirt, with his waistcoat unbuttoned, is chasing her. He runs after her and, throwing his body forward, falls down and seizes the dog by her hind legs.

Once more there is a yelping and a shout of "Don't let go!" Sleepy countenances are protruded from the shops, and soon a crowd, which seems to have sprung out of the earth, is gathered at the timber-yard.

"It looks like a row, your honour . . ." says the policeman.

Otchumyelov makes a half turn to the left and strides towards the crowd.

He sees the aforementioned man in the unbuttoned waistcoat standing close by the gate of the timber-yard, holding his right hand in the air and displaying a bleeding finger to the crowd. On his half-drunken face there is plainly written: "I'll pay you out, you rogue!" and indeed the very finger has the look of a flag of victory.

In this man Otchumyelov recognises Hryukin, the goldsmith. The culprit who has caused the sensation, a white borzoy puppy with a sharp muzzle and a yellow patch on her back, is sitting on the ground with her fore-paws outstretched in the middle of the crowd, trembling all over. There is an expression of misery and terror in her tearful eyes.

"What's it all about?" Otchumyelov inquires, pushing his way through the crowd. "What are you here for? Why are you waving your finger . . . ? Who was it shouted?"

"I was walking along here, not interfering with anyone, your honour," Hryukin begins, coughing into his fist. "I was talking about firewood to MiTRY Mitritch, when this low brute for no rhyme or reason bit my finger. You must excuse me, I am a working man. Mine is fine work. I must have damages . . ."

"I shan't be able to use this finger for a week. It's not even the law, your honour, that one should put up with it from a beast. . . . If everyone is going to be bitten, life won't be worth living. . . ."

"H'mm. Very good," says Otchumyelov sternly, coughing and raising his eyebrows. "Very good. Whose dog is it? I won't let this pass! I'll teach them to let their dogs run all over the place! It's time these gentry were looked after if they won't obey the regulations! When he's fined, the blackguard, I'll teach him what it means to keep dogs and such stray cattle! I'll give him a lesson! . . . Yeldyrin," cries the superintendent, addressing the policeman, "find out whose dog this is and draw up a report! And the dog must be strangled. Without delay! It's sure to be mad. . . . Whose dog is it, I ask?"



"I fancy it's General Zhigalov's," says someone in the crowd.

"General Zhigalov's, h'mm. . . . Help me off with my coat, Yeldyrin, it's frightfully hot! It must be a sign of rain. There's one thing I can't make out, how it came to bite you?" Otchumyelov turns to Hryukin. "Surely it couldn't reach your finger. It's a little dog, and you are a great hulking fellow! You must have scratched your finger with a nail, and then the idea struck you to get damages for it. We all know your sort! I know you devils!"

"He put a cigarette in her face, your honour, for a joke, and she had the sense to snap at him. He is a nonsensical fellow, your honour!"

"That's a lie, Squinteye! You didn't see, so why tell lies about it? His honour is a wise gentleman and will see who is telling lies and who is telling the truth, as in God's sight. And if I am lying let the court decide. It's written in the law. We are all equal nowadays. My own brother is in the gendarmes . . . Let me tell you. . . ."

"Don't argue!"

"No, that's not the General's dog," says the policeman, with profound conviction, "the General hasn't got one like that. His are mostly setters."

"Do you know that for a fact?"

"Yes, your honour."

"I know it, too. The General has valuable dogs, thoroughbred, and this is goodness knows what! No coat, no shape. If a dog like that were to turn up in Petersburg or Moscow, do you know what would happen? They would not worry about the law, they would strangle it in a twinkling! You've been injured, Hryukin, and we can't let the matter drop. . . . We must give them a lesson! It is high time!"

"Yet maybe it is the General's," says the policeman, thinking aloud. "It's not written on its face. . . . I saw one like it the other day in his yard."

"It is the General's," says a voice in the crowd, "that's certain!"

"H'mm, help me on with my overcoat, Yeldyrin, my lad . . . the wind's getting up. I am cold. . . . You take it to the General and inquire there. Say I found it and sent it. And tell them not to let it out into the street. . . . It may be a valuable dog, and if every swine goes sticking a cigar in its mouth, it will soon be ruined. A dog is a delicate animal. And you . . . put your hand down. It's no use displaying your fool of a finger. It's your own fault."

"Look! The General's cook. Ask him."

"Hi, Prohor! Come here, my dear man! Look at this dog. . . . Is it one of yours?"

"What an idea! We have never had one like that!"

"There's no need to waste time asking," says Otchumyelov. "It's a stray dog! There's no need to waste time talking about it. . . . Since he says it's a stray dog, a stray dog it is. Destroy it."

"It is not our dog," Prohor goes on. "It belongs to the General's brother, who arrived the other day. Our master doesn't care for hounds. But his honour does."

"What? His Excellency's brother is here, Vladimir Ivanitch?" inquires Otchumyelov, and his whole face beams with an ecstatic smile. "Well, I never! And I didn't know! Has he come on a visit?"

"Yes."

"Well, I never. He couldn't stay away from his brother. And I didn't know! So this is his honour's dog? Delighted to hear it. Take it home. It's not a bad pup; a lively creature. Snapped at this fellow's finger! The rogue is angry . . . and what a nice little pup."

Prohor calls the dog, and walks away from the timber-yard with her. The crowd laughs at Hryukin.

"I'll make you smart yet!" Otchumyelov threatens him.

He wraps himself in his greatcoat and walks off on his way across the square. •