

P.F. (TERRY) O'CONNOR

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SUMMARY

- Journalism tutor at QUT
 - Private journalism tutoring, by arrangement
 - Taught sub-editing and media law via the News Ltd online training system
 - Trained Queensland Newspaper journalists in online writing and editing
 - Revamped The Courier-Mail style and implemented a new style manual
 - Rewrote and broadened the style manual into the book *Hold the Front Page: Writing for Newspapers*, which was published commercially in 1993 and bought by many universities for use by their journalism students.
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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2005 – 2010

couriermail.com.au

Production Editor

Achievements:

- Developed advanced systems for editing the newspaper website, saving sub-editors hours each week.
- Developed curriculum for training reporters in online writing and producing audio for publication online, and delivered the training to approximately 30 journalists. This greatly increased The Courier-Mail's capacity to publish high-quality text and audio within minutes of news events occurring.
- Queensland Media Awards joint finalist, Best Online/Wire Report 2006, for "Steve Irwin Dead".
- Developed curriculum for training online sub-editors in full range of skills needed, thereby removing a major blockage in the production system which had been caused by the need for print sub-editors to develop skills in an environment foreign to them.
- Developed curriculum for training online sub-editors in a new content management system, FatWire, and delivered the training, enabling smooth transition to the new system despite its flaws.
- Developed faster methods of operating the FatWire system, which were adopted by other News Ltd online divisions.

Responsibilities:

- Oversight of daily publishing
- Training Queensland Newspaper journalists in online writing and editing
- Training reporters, sub-editors, photographers and designers to produce animated audio-visual presentations
- Designing website
- Helping develop the new content management system, FatWire

1999 – 2005

The Courier-Mail

Computer Editor

- Achievements:**
- Developed, from scratch, an entirely new weekly section for The Courier-Mail, increasing sales each Tuesday by approximately 8000.
 - Developed, edited and had produced a CD-ROM of computer shareware programs called *The Well-Dressed Computer* which The Courier-Mail made available for sale to the public. It sold out.
 - Developed and maintained high-quality professional contacts in the computing and technical environments enabling all the section staff to enhance both their knowledge and their reporting abilities.
 - Appointed tutor with the News Ltd online training system, teaching sub-editing and media law

- Responsibilities:**
- Editing weekly high-tech magazine, called E-Mail
 - Supervising and training reporters and cadet reporters, three at a time, to write for the section.
 - Overseeing artists and designers
 - Writing reports on computer-related issues
 - Reviewing software and new high-tech equipment

1995 – 1999

The Courier-Mail

Literary Editor

- Achievements:**
- Established strong relationships with writers, publishers and editors, to the extent that The Courier-Mail books section became a “must-read” both for the industry and for its consumers.
 - Started the annual *Courier-Mail* Young Reviewer awards. Was awarded a certificate of merit by the Children’s Book Council for work supporting children’s involvement in literature.
 - Elected Chair of the Queensland Writers Centre.
 - Wrote and had published for two years, a daily column on words and language, *Word for Word*

- Responsibilities:**
- Revitalising the almost-dead books section of The Courier-Mail.
 - Commissioning book reviews from writers around Australia and sometimes overseas.
 - Interviewing authors.
 - Writing feature articles about writers, writing trends, publishing trends and the like.

1992 – 1995

The Courier-Mail

Chief Sub-Editor

- Achievements:**
- Revamped the newspaper “style” – the set of rules used by journalists – and implemented a new style manual, bringing modern styling and updated facts to a new generation of reporters and sub-editors, eliminating many potential errors.
 - Rewrote and broadened the style manual into the book *Hold the Front Page: Writing for Newspapers*, which was published commercially in 1993 and bought by many universities for use by their journalism students.
 - Represented The Courier-Mail at the annual Macquarie University Style Council and delivered two papers.

- Responsibilities:**
- Supervising a team of up to 70 sub-editors covering all sections of both The Courier-Mail and The Sunday Mail.

- Directly managing up to 35 general news sub-editors on The Courier-Mail.
- In consultation with the Editor and News Editor, selecting and being responsible for the content of The Courier-Mail general news section.
- Overseeing the layout of The Courier-Mail's three editions each night.

EDUCATION

- Belvedere College, Dublin.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Hold the Front Page: Writing for Newspapers* (Queensland Newspapers, 1993)
- *A Pictorial History of Queensland* (Robert Brown & Associates, 1996).
- An updated and expanded edition of *A Pictorial History of Queensland* was published in 2009 by Acacia Press. It sold out and was reprinted in 2010.
- Currently researching two other books about Queensland for Acacia Press

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Queensland Secretary; Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance
- Member; Demotix picture agency

IT COMPETENCIES

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| ▪ Word, | ▪ Snag-It |
| ▪ Excel | ▪ Joomla CMS |
| ▪ Outlook | ▪ FatWire CMS |
| ▪ Frontpage HTML editor | ▪ Audacity |
| ▪ Photoshop | ▪ Sony Digital Voice Editor |
| ▪ In-Design | ▪ TypeltIn |
| ▪ Jalbum | ▪ FileZilla |
| ▪ XatShow | ▪ Skype |

INTERESTS

- Creative writing, photography, computers

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Designed and developed the website for the Queensland Clarion Awards for excellence in journalism, at <http://clarions.org>.
- Tutor to gifted young writers at the annual Meanjin Young Writers' residential camp since 1995.
- Visiting tutor in journalism at the University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology, regularly running workshops in both journalism and creative writing for schools and community organisations such as Guides Queensland.
- Writer-in-residence at Villanova College in 1998.

- Guest lecturer at QUT, the University of Queensland and Griffith University.
- Previously Secretary, Queensland Judiciary Committee, Australian Journalists Association (investigating breaches of journalistic ethics)
- Previously Member, Warana Writers' Week organising committee.
- Developed a computerised cliché checker for writers, based on Greg Chapman's Word Crayon at [Tech Trax](http://pubs.logicalexpressions.com/Pub0009/LPMArticle.asp?ID=506) (<http://pubs.logicalexpressions.com/Pub0009/LPMArticle.asp?ID=506>).
- Edited approximately nine non-fiction books, the latest of which was *A History of the Cattle Industry in Australia*, published in 2009 by Acacia Press.
- Established and managed Plateau Press, which published four volumes of poetry – by Jayne Fenton Keane, Tim Collins, Silvana Gardner and Manfred Jurgensen.

REFEREES

Available on request