

Monthly general meeting

The future is now: How journalism has evolved from the splicing-tape days to the digital world

Wednesday 4 May 2016, 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm

The Gabba Ward Office, 2/63 Annerley Road (Cnr Annerley Rd & Crown St, Woolloongabba) – yes, our true and tried original venue.



Hello, editors!

Our guest speaker for May is journalist, digital story producer and SocEd member Kerri Harris.

Journalism has changed a lot since 1993, when Kerri first worked as a radio journalist, initially in Perth, and later in Brisbane for the ABC, B105 and Triple M. Her 'traditional' roles in radio focused on the newsroom: writing, interviewing, editing and presenting. Several of her roles took in the demanding weekday drive-time slot and others had her slogging through much of the weekend, 'writing, interviewing, and presenting news on the hour'.

But that was radio. Fast-forward to 2014 when Kerri took on her current role – that of digital story producer for [ABC Regional Online](#). One of the many challenges Kerri finds in this role is maintaining the ABC's reputation for quality and accuracy in a medium that, unlike radio, constitutes a permanent record. Taking the copy of former radio and TV journos and knocking it into shape for the online platform is no easy thing, according to Kerri, who recently enrolled in a master's degree in UQ's Writing, Editing and Publishing program to bolster her expertise as a 'rewriter' and editor. Another challenge she finds is 'making sure that photos are used appropriately and effectively', a task that can make or, if not done with care, break an online story – in the bad sense of the word.

Kerri says that combining her 'old' journalism skills with her 'new' writing, editing and publishing skills has given her an edge in the digital environment she's found herself in, so much so that she's had a number of 'air-punching' moments, including working with the ABC's regional journalists to polish their stories to the point where she is able to pitch them to the national desk. Pitching is a big part of Kerri's job, and when, recently, Kerri's team was mentioned in Federal Parliament as 'maintaining the quality of rural and regional journalism', she knew that she and her band of journos were hitting the mark.

So, where has that splicing tape gone? Has the future of journalism actually arrived? If so, is ABC Online – the content, delivery and process – the pinnacle of that future, or is a more distant future still beckoning, one that Kerri and her team have glimpsed, after they've revelled in their air-punching moments?

Curious? Of course you are! Please come and join your fellow editors in May to hear Kerri present "**The future is now: How journalism has evolved from the splicing-tape days to the digital world.**"

Remember, **entry is via the rear door** in the parking area.

Ample parking is available in the carpark and on the street.

Cover charge – members \$10, non-members \$15 – includes drinks and nibbles on arrival. Meeting ends at 8 pm. But why not **kick on and join us for dinner** afterwards. Just let us know if you're intending to come to dinner when you RSVP. **For catering purposes, please RESPOND to Speaker Secretary Michael Lefcourt at meetings@editorsqld.com or on 0417 869 953 by Monday 2 May 2016.**