



# PixelPapers the Twenty Seventh.

1 April, 2004.

[Verse](#) <> Contributed poetry, old & new

[Prose](#) <> Stories, Articles & First Chapters

[Editorial](#) <> Wordsworth <> News & Views <> etc.

[Gigs'n'Ads](#) <> Coming Events, advertisements, etc.

[LiveIndex](#) <> Contributors and titles in past issues:  
154 and 857 respectively.

[Back Nos](#) <> Issues to date, sans irrelevant bits

[Contact](#) <> An addressed e-mail blank instantly ready  
for your contributions to be pasted in, or news & views.  
No attachments please

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PP27 WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 1ST MAY AND PP28  
THEREAFTER.



## Editorial

Computers and internet access have become essential tools for many writers. Like the typewriters, fountain pens, pencils and quills that came before, we handle them with varying degrees of success.

The range of options has become staggering. Unlike the days when wing feathers from a goose were a marketable commodity, for

shaping with a sharp penknife into pens, we are faced with myriad brands of computers and many internet options. There has been some convergence with computers so that once a decision has been made between choosing a laptop or a desktop model, there is considerable similarity in utility and ease of use of the various brands, unlike the early days when some computers required total and exclusive concentration, leaving nothing for the process of writing.

Internet service providers are another matter. They vary widely in the quality of the service that they offer, although observation would suggest that many manage to claim a "best ISP" award from some magazine or other.

PixelPapers is currently exploring options, including broadband, but the cheaper plans either lack the webspace or worse, charge a fee to access the help desk! Long experience suggests that if a fee is being charged then the quality of the service is such that help will be needed.

One of the drawbacks with using e-mail accounts on the internet is the clogging effect of unsolicited messages. The Pixpress account had 192 accrue after being off-line for two days. Most originated in the United States, so that the Australian Government's current legislation is unlikely to have a moderating affect, unless it can be arranged to exact penalties in that jurisdiction.

Of the 192, 3 were for PixelPapers, 2 family related and one an ISP newsletter. Most were for on-line ordering of medicines (God help us if we follow the US pattern). Other categories were for dating, bogus degrees, pirate software, penis enlargement (including an extendable splint-like device that would have delighted the Marquis de Sade), a bogus lottery advice, a highly improbable Nigerian proposition, anti-aging potions as seen on Oprah Winfrey, an on-line casino hook, and three or four porn items that thankfully were in attachments that did not see the desktop.

As computers and the internet are such an important part of the writing scene, letters on the subject are especially welcome.

(PS The situation has suddenly ameliorated so that the day's inbox contains about twenty

or less compared to 50 - 70!)

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