

Media release

Author-editor relationships exposed

The Institute of Professional Editors ([IPEd](#)) and the Brisbane Writers Festival ([BWF](#)) have embarked on a joint project to highlight the creative collaborations between authors and editors.

Authors and Editors in Conversation is a series of 10, 45-55 minute Zoom sessions, in which editors and authors chat about their relationship and the editing process.

The series will be released monthly, with the first conversation available online from 18 February. Booking details for individual sessions or the series are available [here](#).

BWF CEO Sarah Runcie says the series aims to:

- capture, through a free-flowing conversation, the dynamics of the author-editor relationship
- explore the positive potential of creativity, serendipity and inspiration in the context of the exchange
- explore issues authors and editors face – eg, when to “kill a writer’s darlings”, negotiating disagreement, and when an editor can overstep.

IPEd CEO Karen Lee says the editor-led conversations will delve into issues the editor encountered with the author and the specific text, such as:

- manuscript structure
- establishing trust
- language tics of which authors may be unaware
- character and voice
- finding what is core to a story
- exploring writers’ and editors’ world views and how they can inform or introduce potential imbalance into texts.

The authors will expose the experience of letting an editor into their work and what that means from personal and professional perspectives.

The series was born when Ms Runcie and Ms Lee were discussing the often unsung creative collaborations in publishing between writers and editors and the need for education about the editor’s role. Together, the CEOs coined the concept of the editor-author conversations, which will feature a wide range of authors and editors across different genres.

The conversations program is:

- Editor/publisher Jane Covernton and children’s author Mem Fox (*Possum Magic*) – 18 February
- Robert Watkins and Maxine Beneba Clark, author of *Foreign Soil* – 18 March
- Grace Lucas-Pennington and Indigenous emerging writer Nardi Simpson (*Song of the Crocodile*) – 15 April

- Catherine Milne and Meg Mason (*Sorrow and Bliss*) – 20 May
- Anne-Marie Te Whiu and Tony Birch (Red Room Poetry) – 17 June
- Ashley Hay and James Bradley (collaboration over time) – 15 July
- Patrick Mangan and Vivian Pham (*The Coconut Children*) – 19 August
- Mandy Brett and Jock Serong (collaboration over time) – 16 September
- Poets Toby Fitch and Lisa Gorton (each has edited the other's work) – 14 October
- To be confirmed – 18 November.

Authors and Editors in Conversation has received assistance from the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kate Tilley, IPEd Communications Consultant
 E: communication@iped-editors.org
 P: 07 3831 7500

Release date: 11 February 2021

About IPEd

The Institute of Professional Editors Ltd is the professional association for Australian and New Zealand editors. It exists to advance the profession of editing and to support and promote editors in both countries. IPEd is a non-profit company.

About BWF

The Brisbane Writers Festival returns in 2021 for its 59th year. The festival is on 7-9 May at the State Library of Queensland. The full program will be announced in early March.