

**Media release****IPEd announces 2021 Janet Mackenzie Medal winner**

**The Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) has presented its highest award to Edwin (Ted) Briggs AE.**

Mr Briggs is the second recipient of the Janet Mackenzie Medal (the Mackenzie), which honours the memory of revered editor, author and IPEd member Janet Mackenzie DE (1947–2018).

The medal was presented by IPEd CEO Karen Lee and Chair Ruth Davies.

Mr Briggs said it was “a big honour to be mentioned in the same breath as Janet Mackenzie” and her book, *The Editor’s Companion*, was invaluable to him.

IPEd launched the Mackenzie in 2019 and it was first awarded in 2020 to Elizabeth Manning Murphy DE. The award is given to an outstanding professional editor who has lifted the standard of the editing profession and/or given exemplary service to IPEd.

Mr Briggs is a former chair and remains a member of IPEd’s Accreditation Board. He was instrumental in the accreditation exam moving to digital delivery in 2016, demonstrating his ‘technical expertise, editorial acumen, patience and tenacity’, his nomination statement reads.

He served what is now the IPEd Board from 2009 to 2011 and is an Honorary Life Member of IPEd and the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE).

Mr Briggs made significant contributions to the development of *Australian standards for editing practice* and played a key role in developing what is now the IPEd Mentoring Program.

Initially established with Elizabeth Manning Murphy for CSE in 2012, the program is now available to all IPEd branches across Australia and New Zealand and Mr Briggs and Ms Murphy are the coordinators.

Mr Briggs’s professional career as an editor and technical writer, both in-house and freelance, has spanned several federal government departments. More recently, he has worked as a fiction beta reader.

He has promoted better English usage through engaging enthusiastically with professional development by participating in a wide range of workshops and courses; presenting papers at IPEd conferences; training non-editors on written communication skills in workplace courses and workshops; and publishing blog posts on aspects of grammar and usage for a general audience.

Mr Briggs led IPEd’s review team for the digital version of the *Style manual*, produced by the Federal Government’s Digital Transformation Agency.

Mr Briggs said Janet Mackenzie had taught him that the editor's role was like a prism in a telescope – it was not to change the view but to bring it into focus more clearly and closer.

“Another lesson from Janet was that a good editor knows the rules of grammar but has the judgement to know when not to insist on them,” he said.

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**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.