

## Why I belong to IPEd

by *Marja Stack AE*

Last week, I renewed my IPEd membership.

As membership fees need to be budgeted for, I thought it would be a good exercise to write down all the reasons I continue to roll over my membership.

According to its website, IPEd 'exists to advance the profession of editing, by planning and implementing activities that support its members'.

What does this mean?

### Networking

For any editor, but especially for freelancers who work from home like me, networking is important. IPEd has Facebook groups, catch-up meetings, informal Zoom meetings and an online forum, which all help me to keep up to date with the industry and learn from other editors' experiences.

I have met many editors and made friends through IPEd. It can be lonely working by yourself, but I know there is a whole network of people I can rely on and collaborate with.

### Conferences

I was excited to attend my first IPEd conference in Melbourne in May 2019. It was a chance to meet many other editors from around Australia and New Zealand, listen to amazing speakers about all aspects of the editing and the publishing industries, attend workshops, and network. (And, of course, indulge in the food and shopping of Melbourne.)

### Membership levels

There are several levels of membership, catering to beginner and student editors through to advanced editors. I'm at the Professional Member level. To reach this level, I had to provide my qualifications, show continued professional development and prove a certain number of hours of experience. All this was then evaluated by a panel — membership upgrades are not handed out lightly. Achieving this level is an added confirmation for clients that I am experienced, qualified and professional. The logo also looks good on my website.

The accreditation scheme administered by IPEd's Accreditation Board is separate from the membership levels and involves a rigorous three-hour exam, held every two years — another way for Australian and New Zealand editors to show their high level of competence.

### Directory listing

The Editors Directory lists all Professional Members who wish to be included. Potential clients can search the directory using specific keywords and filters, knowing

that the editors listed have the skills and qualifications to edit to a high standard. Being listed is a great means of finding work.

### **Professional development**

Webinars and workshops are held throughout the year by all the branches, both in person and online. These help me continue to develop my skills in all areas of editing.

### **Discounts**

An editor uses many different hard-copy and online resources from dictionaries and editing software to style guides and grammar books. These aren't cheap, so any discount is appreciated.

Members also receive discounts to professional development opportunities and resources through reciprocal agreements with international associations.

### **Code of Ethics**

Having a [Code of Ethics](#) and being bound to it by membership gives a client reassurance that I will behave ethically when working with them. The Code sets out the core principles and values expected of members of IPEd in the course of their work.

As well as the code, IPEd maintains and promotes the *Australian standards for editing practice* (2nd edition), which applies to both Australia and New Zealand, and sets out the core standards that professional editors should meet.

It is reassuring to know what is expected, and means that when I refer work on to another IPEd member, I know they will behave ethically and know the standard of work expected.

### **Advocacy from a large organisation**

And, finally, an association gives the support of a large organisation to a lone freelancer, and can advocate for issues and raise the profile of editing as a profession.

Being a member of the committee for EdANZ has given me the chance to help advance the industry in New Zealand.

So, being a member of an editing association means I know I am giving my clients a high standard of service that is comparable with that of other professional editors. And clients can have the confidence of knowing their manuscript will be edited to a high standard by someone who knows the industry and understands what is required.

All in all, not a bad list.

Worth every cent.