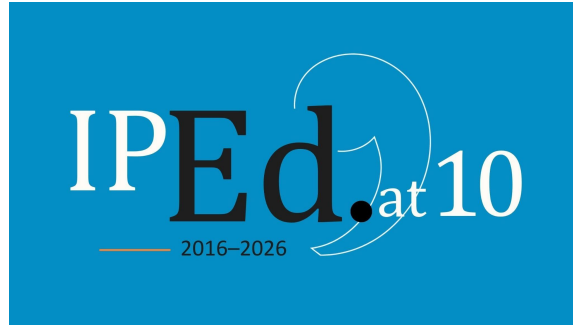




Branch voices

Reflections from editors across Australia
and Aotearoa New Zealand

As part of IPEd's tenth anniversary, branch leaders reflect on the changes shaping the profession today and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Institute of Professional Editors
2026

“Editors Victoria

“Workshops, mentoring, accreditation and the chance to gather, both in person and online, have turned those individual experiences into shared knowledge.”

The change we'd most like to see recognised is IPed's work to build a community of professionals who learn together, support one another, and advocate for the industry. The creation of a single peak body that links not only disparate groups and societies across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, but also individual editors, as we are often solitary workers.

Workshops, mentoring, accreditation and the chance to gather, both in person and online, have turned those individual experiences into shared knowledge. We've found that one of the most valuable things our members gain is that connection to colleagues who can answer a question, offer guidance, or simply appreciate our work and its challenges. Editors Victoria has been dedicated to helping deliver to our members ways to connect, both through professional development and through our networking and social events.

As for the future, the one area that will shape the profession and IPed is technology, and in particular, artificial intelligence. However, while tools will keep changing, what won't change is the purpose of good communication. Editing exists to connect people and to convey ideas and knowledge. Editors are essential in asking who the reader is and what they need, and ensuring that the words actually meet that need.

This unique human judgement, and human connection, is what editors bring, and in a sense what IPed provides, and Editors Victoria is proud to be part of that mission.

Margaret Trudgeon

President, Editors Victoria

“Editors Aotearoa New Zealand

“Our work will change, and the way we work will change, but our connections with each other will be as strong and as important as ever.”

The first ten years of IPEd have seen many achievements. As an editor from Aotearoa New Zealand, however, what stands out for me is the seven years of IPEd in New Zealand. I remember back in 2018 the excitement of realising I could belong to a professional organisation that had a branch here, and that I would meet other editors from here. Our first meeting at the Melbourne conference in 2019 brought home one of the challenges: we were spread across the country, so we had no centre of gravity, no place where the bulk of editors lived. Online meetings were the way to go, and by the time Covid arrived we knew all about Zoom. We now have access to support and training opportunities that we never had before, standards that reflect our culture and connections across the motu. We owe a lot to the members who volunteer their time and expertise for the good of our profession.

Much has changed in these past ten years, and of course we all wonder and worry about how AI will affect our jobs and businesses. Is AI going to shape our futures or will it be our ability to change that does the shaping? Our industry has already coped with so many shifts in technology and work processes, and we have always found ways to adapt and thrive.

What will get us through the inevitable upheavals in the future – and help us to gain the benefits from them – is our skills in dealing with change. It’s our responsibility to sharpen these skills, to stay curious and open-minded, and to be alert for ways to improve our profession.

Caroline Simpson AE

Founding EdANZ member and former President, Editors Aotearoa New Zealand

Community has been a big part of the editing profession. We're a friendly and welcoming bunch, with many experienced editors giving their time and expertise to help new editors to the profession. When I started editing in 2014, IPed didn't exist, and neither did EdANZ. While I got a lot from online forums and resources, what I really needed was local community. I needed people from my side of the world who understood our culture, our quirks, and the strange language landscape we sit within: a New Zealand dictionary that was last updated in 2006, UK-based English with plenty of te reo Māori included, and no capital-O official style guides.

In early 2020 when searching again for New Zealand editing groups, I saw that IPed had a New Zealand branch. I joined immediately. I still remember Joan Gladwyn's welcome email to me! I'd found my people, those who could help answer my questions and understood the projects I worked on.

Going forward, community and connection will remain as important as ever. We all learn so much from each other already, whether through the workshops and events that IPed hosts, our online groups, or the blogs and articles we write. Community and connection are how we'll continue to navigate impacts to the profession, generative AI being the most obvious and pressing. We will continue to learn from each other, ask questions, have difficult conversations, and advocate for our profession and country. Editors are not going anywhere. Our work will change, and the way we work will change, but our connections with each other will be as strong and as important as ever.

Deborah Shaw AE

President, Editors Aotearoa New Zealand

“Editors South Australia

“Shared learning, professional development and collaboration have strengthened not just our professional community, but our capacity to respond to change – and to create it.”

One of the most significant changes we've experienced over the past decade has been the way IPed has brought editors across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand together through shared learning, professional development and collaboration. Opportunities to reconnect, exchange ideas and learn from one another have strengthened not just our professional community, but our capacity to respond to change - and to create it.

Looking ahead, our profession will continue to evolve as the publishing industry, technology and the ways we work continue to develop. By remaining curious, sharing knowledge and supporting one another, editors can continue to shape the future of our profession while maintaining the high standards that define our work.

Kerrie Le Lievre

President, Editors South Australia

Thank you

Thank you to every branch, volunteer and member who contributes to a stronger editing profession across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Together, we continue to strengthen the profession through connection, advocacy, professional development and shared expertise.

