

MEDIA RELEASE  
Monday, 12 July 2021

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## ANNOUNCING the launch of *I am magpie* by Bronwyn Eather



*I am magpie* cover image and photograph of Bronwyn Eather are courtesy of the artist. All rights reserved.

### Bronwyn Eather launches *I am magpie*, a short lyric novel of historical fiction published in a series of audio-podcasts.

The orated collection reimagines the first three years of colonisation through the eyes of a young widow Eliza Collins née Swift, who is a student of the enlightenment and a mystical dreamer.

The story draws on Bronwyn's love of songwriting and poetry to construct stanzas of dreams, imaginings and endeavour. Written with three major threads using first-person narration and the Yura (Eora) language, we listen and watch as Eliza takes centre stage. We become her audience.

*"I love the taste of words and how they roll and flow from mind to mouth into the world."*  
Bronwyn Eather

Launch address provided by Professor Jakelin Troy, an aboriginal Australian for the Ngarigu community of the Snowy Mountains and Director of Indigenous Research, University of Sydney, who is interested in the use of Indigenous research methodologies, and community engaged research practises. A poetry performance by Bronwyn Eather, and an in-conversation with Angela Stretch, Creative Director, Poetry Sydney.

*I am magpie* podcasts are released semi-weekly as 20 episodes over 10 weeks. Each episode is a selection of chapters from the audio-book and can be accessed on the author's [website](#) or from any podcasting app. The spoken word is set to music and soundscape composed by the artist. The book includes a glossary of Yura words used in the story.

Poetry Sydney partners with Sydney Underground Streaming Sessions ([SUSS](#)) to present their first live digital event and digital live event service.

## Bronwyn Eather launches: *I am magpie*

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Please join us online on Sunday 18 July 2021

3.00pm – 4.00pm AEST

Poetry Sydney and Bronwyn Eather would like to invite you to join the digital event launch of *I am magpie*.

Register now to receive a link to the live broadcast.

Or, to simply view the live broadcast, and stream the live event with Poetry Sydney:

01 ps website <https://poetrysydney.org/>

02 ps facebook event page: [HERE](#)

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**Dr Bronwyn Eather** is a linguist, writer and musician. She was drawn to linguistics early in her education. An adventurous spirit took her from Tasmania to Canberra and then to Arnhem Land for a decade, where she conducted pioneering field research on unrecorded indigenous languages. After careers in academia and commercial language technology in Sydney, Bronwyn combined her love of language, music and performance to begin writing songs and poetry. She released an EP in 2015, then albums in 2017 and 2020. Bronwyn then turned her attention to writing this lyric novel, *I am magpie*. She composed instrumental pieces for each chapter, then recorded the music and narrative to create this podcast series.

**Professor Jakelin Troy** is the Director of Indigenous Research, [Sydney University](#) and the Editor in Chief, 'ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations First Peoples' Cultures', [Penn State Press](#). She is also a Life Member of [Foundation for Endangered Languages](#). Her research interests are currently focused on documenting, describing and reviving Indigenous languages.

'I have a new focus on the Indigenous languages of Pakistan, including Saraiki of the Punjab and Torwali of Swat. I have two Australian Research Council Discovery Projects one with Prof John Maynard on the history of Aboriginal missions and reserves in eastern Australia and the history of Aboriginal people who were not institutionalised. The other DP is about the practise of 'corroboree' by Aboriginal people in the 'assimilation period' of the mid C20 in Australia. I am interested in the use of Indigenous research methodologies and community engaged research practises. I am Aboriginal Australian and my community is Ngarigu of the Snowy Mountains in south eastern Australia.'

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### Poetry Sydney:

Poetry Sydney nurtures innovation, discovery, and inspiration through the poetry of today. We present established, emerging and early career poets from diverse poetry practices. For more information please visit our website: [poetrysydney.org](https://poetrysydney.org)

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Poetry Sydney gives respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation,  
 the traditional owners of the land we live, create, meet and work.