



# EDITORIAL

Stewart Riddle  
University of Southern Queensland

For this second issue and the forthcoming third issue of *Words'Worth* in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we are bringing you some of the classic hits from our back catalogue. I have to say, it has been quite overwhelming browsing through nearly fifty years of the journal, with the difficult choice of which ones to include. There is such an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience contained within the past 50 volumes!

One thing did strike me – and I think you might agree from the handful of pieces included in this issue – that the more things change, the more they stay the same. After all, English teaching is very much a game of change and continuity. Take this quote as one example among many, which was from the opening paragraph of the first (and only as far as I can tell) issues of the *ETAQ Journal* in 1981:

The 1970s had seen English teachers under attack through media-inflated allegations of falling standards of literacy and claims of increasing numbers of students leaving school with insufficient literacy skills to enable them to find employment (J. Talty, *ETAQ Journal*, Vol 1(1), August 1981).

It seems to me that we could simply replace the “The 1970s had” with “The 2010s have...” and the statement would be completely appropriate to our current context. In the spirit of change and continuity, for this issue, we are republishing a small sample of pieces from the last two decades. They are:

- “*I woke up and realised the ground had shifted*”: *the shifting terrain of English curriculum* – Anita Jetnikoff, *Words'Worth*, Vol 42(2/3), 2009
- *Grammar at the coalface: discourse elements in texts* – Lenore Ferguson, *Words'Worth*, Vol 40(3), 2007

- *Critical literacy: what's writing got to do with it?* – Barbara Kambler, *Words'Worth*, Vol 3(2), 2002
- *Affective objectives: the revenge of the unassessed* – Ray Misson, *Words'Worth*, Vol 33(2), 2000

The plan for next issue is to go even further back in time. We are also slowly working through a process of scanning and digitising back issues of *Words'Worth*, which will be made available in the members' section of the ETAQ website. You can already access several years' worth of the journal there, and it makes for a very handy resource.

The rest of this issue is dedicated to celebrating the imaginative and inspiring writing submissions from 2016 Literary Competition winners. I am sure you will agree with me that they make for delightful reading indeed.

Finally, if you have not yet registered for the upcoming state conference on Saturday 19 August, don't forget to do so soon, because it's going to be a big one. The theme is *Fifty and fabulous: a narrative of English teaching in Queensland*. Added to the usual great suite of keynote addresses and workshops, we are turning the entire weekend into a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with a birthday bash on Friday 18 August with Nick Earls. Following the conference on the Saturday evening is the official anniversary dinner at the United Service Club, with guest speakers, Glyn Davies and Frances Whiting. It is going to be a do-not-miss weekend!

Yours in English teaching,

Stewart Riddle

University of Southern Queensland  
stewart.riddle@usq.edu.au