



**The English Teachers
Association of Queensland Inc.**

Providing professional support
and advocacy for English teachers

Secretary's Report

Presented to the 58th Annual General Meeting of
The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

*Saturday 15 March 2025
Brigidine College, Indooroopilly*

Report compiled by: Belinda Hampton

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Purpose of the report

This report provides an account of the activities and interests of The English Teachers Association of Queensland Inc. (ETAQ) across the 2024 school year. Its readership extends to members of ETAQ as well as the general public.

Our Strategic Pillars

1. Member Engagement and Services
2. Awareness and Advocacy
3. Professional Development
4. Communication and Publications
5. Promoting the Study of English
6. Governance

Management Committee

The Management Committee met eight times. Meetings were held monthly with the exceptions of January, April, August and December. The March 2025 meeting is the final for the elected committee and includes members of the outgoing committee.

The table below records the elected positions, and meetings attended:

Position	Name	Meetings attended
President	Anne Wood - A.B. Paterson College	7/8
Vice President	Dr Julie Arnold - QUT	8/8
Secretary	Belinda Hampton - Atherton SHS	8/8
Treasurer	Adam Myers - Terrace	7/8
Professional Learning Director	Fiona Laing – Forest Lake SHS	8/8
Member	Dr June Balfour - QASMT	7/8
Member	Garry Collins - retired	7/8
Member	Carley Elliot – Ipswich Grammar	7/8
Member	Candice Green – St Joseph’s Nudgee College	7/8
Member	Elyse Smallacombe	6/8
Member	Debbie Owens - St Ursula’s College, Yeppoon	8/8
Member	Trish Purcell	8/8
Member	Kelly Whiteway - A.B Paterson College	7/8
Member	Antoinette Mizen - John Paul College	7/8
Member	Cate Wilson - Wynnum SHS	6/8

Patron

Dr Claire Hansen continued in her second year as elected patron of ETAQ. ETAQ thanks Dr Hansen for offering support, advice, and insights to the teaching of English in our Queensland educational settings during a particularly busy and rewarding year on both professional and personal fronts.

Patron Statement

As ETAQ patron, I look forward to learning together in our annual Shakespeare seminars. In 2024, we spent a wonderful morning discussing Shakespeare's complex, fascinating tragedy, *Othello*. In 2025, we will explore *Twelfth Night*. I hope that in this role I can continue to provide space and time for our educators to come back to Shakespeare and to find joy in learning and teaching his works. Practically, I also hope that each year, you can take something back into your classroom to make teaching Shakespeare just a little bit easier!

My door is always open to ETAQ members, and you can find me here:

claire.hansen@anu.edu.au.

Administration Officer

Trish Purcell continued in her role as the association's part-time Administration Officer. ETAQ extends its ongoing appreciation for her tireless service to the ETAQ community.

Venue for Management Committee meetings

Meetings are held both online and face to face. Meetings are held at IEU-QNT Building Wharf Street, CBD. ETAQ thanks IEU for its ongoing and continuing support.

Membership

The number of financial members of the Association for the last six years are as follows. The trend to corporate membership reflects the value for money to schools with regards to professional development. Into 2025, ETAQ will continue to focus on increasing membership and engagement.

Year	Life	Full (i.e. individual)	Student	Retiree	Corporate	Total
2019	10	254	37	17	169	487
2020	10	263	34	9	184	500
2021	10	262	50	2	173	497
2022	10	266	28	3	189	507
2023	10	259	21	6	185	491
2024	10	265	29	4	176	484

Professional Learning Activities

Delivering high quality and high equity professional development to members across the state has remained a central purpose for ETAQ. Titled '**CHANGING LANDSCAPES**', the central theme in 2024 emphasised the importance attending to the shifting classroom and state politics around English teaching, as well as the diversity of learning experiences and landscapes in English. Fiona Laing led professional learning activities.



[Charting a Course for Success in Essential English - Essential English Community of Practice](#)

- **Date:** Saturday, 17 February
- **Format:** Keynote and workshops; Face-to-face + online
- **Keynote** Melanie Ralph- Kelvin Grove State College
- **Attendance:** 126
- **Venue:** St Joseph's Nudgee College, Boondall
- **Convenor:** Candice Green
- **CPD Hours:** 3 hours 45 minutes

[Texts and Contexts that will take us forward - March Seminar](#)

- **Date:** Saturday 2 March
- **Format:** Keynote and workshops; Face to face + online
- **Keynote:** Cara Shipp
- **Attendance:** 131
- **Venue:** Iona College, Lindum
- **Convenors:** Cate Wilson and Adam Myers
- **CPD hours:** 3 hours 20 mins

[Digital Landscapes– May Seminar](#)

- **Date:** Saturday 11 May
- **Type:** Face to face + online
- **Keynote:** Jason Lodge
- **Format:** Keynote + workshop sessions
- **Venue:** University of Queensland, St Lucia
- **Attendance:** 72
- **Convenors:** Garry Collins and Antoinette Mizen
- **CPD hours:** 3 hours 45 minutes

External Assessment Preparation

- **Dates:** Teacher videos from Saturday, 20 July; Student videos from Wednesday 24 July
- **Type:** Online video + Zoom Q&A
- **Format:** A total of 16 videos examining the essay genre and text-specific lectures. Live student and teacher discussion. Text workshops offered by various academics and experts.
- **Venue:** Zoom and Vimeo
- **Attendance:** 410
- **Convenors:** June Balfour and Fiona Laing

State Conference – Journeys of Joy and Justice

- **Date:** Saturday, 17 August
- **Type:** Face to face + online
- **Keynote:** Anna Funder and Prof Mary Lou Rasmussen
- **Format:** 2 keynotes + various workshops
- **Venue:** Lourdes Hill College
- **Attendance:** 260
- **Convenors:** Candice Green, Carley Elliot, and Kelly Whiteway
- **CPD hours:** 7

Early Career Conference 2024: Navigating in the New Landscape

- **Date:** Saturday, 26 October
- **Type:** Face to face
- **Format:** Workshops and panel discussion
- **Venue:** Wynnum SHS
- **Attendance:** 59
- **Convenor:** Elyse Smallacombe
- **CPD:** 3 hours 45 minutes

Grammar Workshops

Garry Collins continued the tradition of promoting and presenting Grammar workshops for members. 2 Saturday workshops were conducted via Zoom on 25 May and 16 November 2024.

Regional Events and Branch information

Darling Downs Professional Learning Activities

The following executive members enthusiastically represent the Darling Downs ETAQ branch:

President: Rob Moore (Highfields Secondary College)

Vice-President: Troy Edwards (Sophia College)

Secretary: Kriss Menzies (Toowoomba SHS)

Treasurer: Kathleen Hannant (Centenary Heights SHS)

[AI to collaborate or not](#)

- **Date:** Thursday, 22 February 2024
- **Format:** Face-to-face
- **Presenter:** Rian Roux, University of Southern Qld
- **Attendance:** 42
- **Venue:** Toowoomba SHS, Mt Lofty
- **Convenor:** Kriss Menzies
- **CPD Hours:** 2 hours

[Townsville Branch Professional Learning Activities](#)

The branch in Townsville maintains strength for regional voices in the activities and services of ETAQ. ETAQ thanks Nicole for her work as Treasurer; she will be stepping down at the Townsville AGM.

President: Heather Fraser (James Cook University)

Vice President: Alison Lloyd (Townsville Grammar School)

Treasurer: Nicole Broadley (Annandale Christian College)

Secretary: Carmen Franks Weier (Good Shepherd Catholic College)

The Townsville Branch once again produced outstanding, high quality professional learning resources, supporting teachers in our regional areas. Branch interests are represented by President Heather Fraser at ETAQ meetings.

[Othello](#)

Date: Saturday, 24th February

Format: Online

Presenter: Dr Claire Hansen

Attendance: 166

CPD: 2hrs

[ETAQ – Townsville Branch and FALs Celebrating our Local Authors](#)

Date: Thursday, 29th February

Venue: Hosted at Umbrella Studio, Townsville

Jointly sponsored by Mary Who? Bookstore

[Creative Writing](#)

Date: Saturday, 27th April via zoom

Format: Online

Presenter: Dr Emma Maguire

Attendance: 83

CPD: 2 hours

[Drama Practical](#)

Date: Saturday, 12th October

Format: Online

Presenter: Todd Barty

Attendance: 13

CPD: 2 hours

2024 AATE/ALEA National Activity

AATE, the Australian Association for the Teaching of English, is the umbrella national body with which ETAQ and the other state and territory English teacher associations are affiliated. ETAQ is represented on the national council by our president, Anne Wood. The council met four times 2024, including face-to-face in Adelaide. During 2024, *English in Australia* (EinA), the official journal of AATE, was renamed to the *Australian Journal of English Education* (AJEE). This change reflects AATE's ongoing commitment to advancing the field of English education in Australia. Over the past year, AATE has also released several publications, complemented by webinars designed to support English teaching practices. Among these is Issue Two in the 'Perspectives Series' focuses on implementing language knowledge. It was authored by ETAQ Past Presidents Dr Lindsay Williams and Garry Collins, to support teachers to navigate the teaching of the Language strand of the *Australian Curriculum, Version 9.0*.

Assisted attendance: ETAQ continued to offer financial assistance through application to members to attend professional learning in 2024.

Assisted attendance for National conference: Anne Wood, ETAQ president.

Publications

To reflect the ETAQ 2024 epigraph, **Changing Landscapes**, each edition of Words'Worth focused on variants of the theme. Practitioners and contributors were invited to connect with their own perspectives on the literary constructs of landscape in the concrete and abstract. This extended to the broader landscape of the teaching profession. Longstanding editor, Debbie Owens, continues to guide and curate Words'worth. The following editorial extracts identify the connectivity between the concrete and the abstract for subject English practitioners.

No. 1: The issue of formulaic teaching practices and their impact on subject English teacher self-efficacy, pedagogy, and pleasure in teaching writing skills. As subject English teachers we were invited to ponder what can we as practitioners achieve for student engagement.

No. 2: Tactile landscapes and the utilisation of handwriting in class and for assessments. It is known that control of textual features in the written form is an integral part of content and assessment elements. The implementation of handwriting in class was the focus, asking teachers to encourage students to explore and own their ideas through the tactile qualities of handwriting.

No. 3: Thinking about the ethereal landscapes of narratives voices and incongruities that challenge reader response. There are the literary conceptual landscapes — speculative, invigorating, tangible — visited through the texts we engage our students in. Then there is the landscape of teaching. The landscape has its rocky outcrops; the weather can be dire and clouded by 'friction between ideology and practicality' on weighty issues; and the constant threat of intemperate climatic forces. A nationwide landslide that threatens to but doesn't bury us all. I live in hope.

Despite the anomalies in Volume numbering undetected for nos. 1 & 2, and a slimness of contributions, it was a successful year for the publication. As editor I will again be requesting from ETAQ committee members article contributions and/or engaging others in their locales or regions in the professional opportunities associated with contributing articles to Words'Worth.

Debbie Owens - Editor

In 2024, the motion to digitise the Words'Worth kept in archive by ETAQ was presented. This motion was agreed to, and the process is underway.

Peter Botsman Memorial Award

Instituted in 1998, the Peter Botsman Memorial Awards are the mechanism by which ETAQ seeks to recognise the contributions made by members of the Association and others to excellence in English education in Queensland. In 2024, May Christiansen from Palm Beach Currumbin State High School received the award for her ongoing commitment to English education in the school setting. This was presented at the State Conference in Brisbane.

Digital Technologies and resources

ETAQ remains committed to the improvement of online resources, with attention to the website. Access to professional learning is located in the "Members only resources" tab, as well as online copies of the journals Australian Literary Studies, English in Australia, and Words'Worth.

Podcast – Hoops of Steel



In 2024, work began on our community connection project: a podcast. *Hoops of Steel* was launched on 1 February and 7 episodes will be released via all the usual channels, one per month, across 2025. The intention in this project is to provide a space where English teachers are invited into a community of practice where their concerns and interests resonate. *Hoops of Steel* is hosted by Julie Arnold and produced by Corey Maree Green, Transducer Audio.

ETAQ extends its thanks to members of our English teaching community who have participated in interviews so far: Melanie Ralph,

Dr Kelli McGraw, Professor Sarah Holland-Batt, and Jeffrey Lewis. The first episode, "The Sisyphean Task of Teaching English" with guest Mel Ralph is out now.

Engagement with social media

Under the committed coordination of Kelly Whiteway, ETAQ's engagement with social media platforms to support and promote ETAQ and its activities, continues to show robust growth.

Of particular notice in 2024 was the increase in collaboration and connection through Facebook. Social media represents an important part of ETAQ’s service to members across the state.

Expanding our online engagement

Statistics for membership engagement across our platforms are represented as follows:

Year	Facebook page (likes)	Facebook closed Groups	Twitter	Instagram	Linkedin
2019	2722	1202	873	491	N/A
2020	3081	2202	903	549	30
2021	3280	2925	906	627	67
2022	3504	3455	905	669	128
2023	4029	3910	878	706	185
2024	4121	4155	825	754	257

Competitions

QIEU-ETAQ Literary Competition 2024

The Independent Education Union of Australia: Qld & Northern Territory Branch (IEUA-QNT), The English Teachers Association of Queensland, and Penguin Random House jointly sponsor the Literary Competition.

Once again, the competition was marked by excellent submissions across the state, and generous support from judges, sponsors and hosts. Thank you, Cate Wilson, for convening this event.

Entries for the categories are shown below:

Year 9 and 10 Short Story	178
Year 9 and 10 Poem	57
Year 7 and 8 Short Story	223
Year 7 and 8 Poem	103
Year 5 and 6 Short Story	227
Year 5 and 6 Poem	108
Year 11 and 12 Short Story	123
Year 11 and 12 Poem	74
Year 11 and 12 Non-Fiction Prose	26
Open Short Story	37

Conclusion

Supporting teachers to be empowered curriculum makers with informed advice, resources and knowledge to make localized decisions remains a core value to ETAQ. During a time when teachers across the state are experiencing challenges with changing relationships with AI, time poverty, and staffing issues, now more than ever we need to feel empowered to understand our collective professional agency balanced against curriculum requirements. ETAQ provides guidance, professional learning and a strong collective sense of teacher professionalism built on the archives of our shared histories and praxis in Queensland.

Belinda Hampton

Secretary for The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

March 2025