

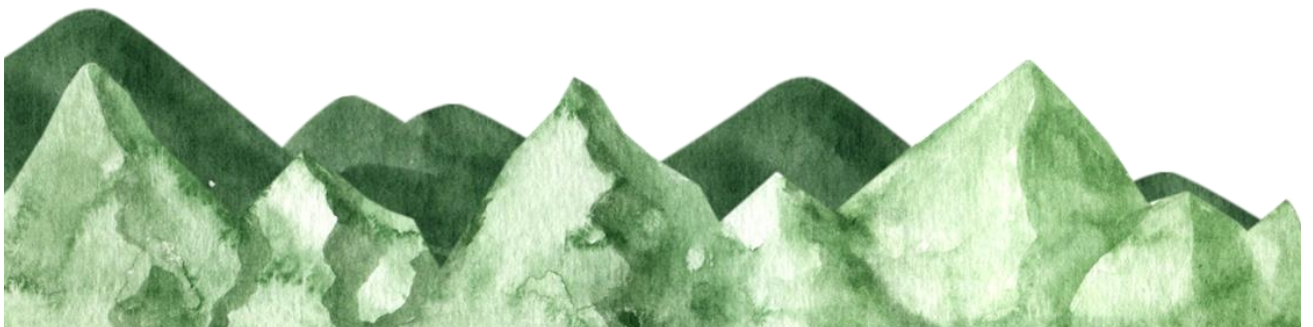


etaq.org.au

Early Career Conference

**Navigating new landscapes:
Mapping a journey through
diverse terrains**

Sat 26 October | Wynnum SHS



Program

Context

Now in its fourteenth year, the Early Career Teachers Conference provides high quality professional development specifically tailored to English teachers in their first five years of practice, and to those who may be experienced teachers, but are new to teaching English. Another aim of the conference. is to provide beginning teachers with the opportunity to boost their professional profile through seminar presentations. As such, this year's program features sessions covering a range of professional and curriculum-related issues, presented by both emerging, and experienced English teachers.

Ultimately, this professional development opportunity offers new-to-English, beginning and pre-service teachers the chance to extend their professional network, whilst attending workshops that offer practical strategies and ideas relating to the teaching of English

Time	Activity	Presenter/s
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 9:05	Introduction and welcome	Anne Wood - ETAQ President
9:10 – 10:00	Session 1: 1A: Keeping pace with Gen-AI 1B: Building longevity as an English teacher 1C: Supporting students and scaffolding lessons through OneNote 1D: The craft of sentence writing	Kelli Crawford & Jake Lane June Balfour Danielle Alympic Mel Dixon
10:05 - 10:55	Session 2: Q&A Panel	Sarah Gunn, Anna McKay, Ryan Anspach, June Balfour and Elyse Smallacombe (chair).
10:55 - 11:25	Morning tea, book sales and networking	
11:20 – 12:10	Session 3 3A: Thinking beyond limits: Practical strategies for teaching creative writing. 3B: Danger ahead! Setting up for success. 3C: Making generative AI your friend 3D: Leveraging data and technology to enhance teaching and research	Elyse Smallacombe Will Sunerton Megan Dunstan Mark Mather
12:10 - 1:00pm	Session 4 4A: Mastering your full teacher registration: Portfolio tips for English teachers 4B: How can I and when should I use AI? Developing an understanding of best practice for using AI in and out of the classroom. 4C: English beyond the range: My rural teaching adventure 4D: Calling all aspiring leaders	Sasha Paulin Victoria Snell Laura Pratt Kimberly Costello
1:00	Conference Close	

Details of Workshops

Session 1

Workshop 1A

Keeping pace with Gen AI

Abstract

As educators, we are racing to keep pace with the evolution of Gen AI and its use by our students. But this new frontier doesn't have to be daunting, we just need to know how to support our students to use it wisely and with purpose. From writing good prompts to idea development, and from generating feedback on writing to ethical editing suggestions, AI can be a great tool for students to embrace. Early Career Teachers Kelli Crawford and Jake Lane will offer practical strategies for ethical use in the classroom, as well as examples of ways that teachers can help students use AI to enhance their learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Presenters

Jake Lane is a second-year teacher at All Hallows' School, specialising in Study of Religion and English. This year, he integrated AI into his Year 8 English classroom, with an emphasis on ethical use, and developing student confidence in using AI. Jake's focus has been on ensuring AI is used responsibly, aligning with academic integrity guidelines.

Kelli Crawford is an English and Inclusive Learning teacher at All Hallows School and blends her I.T. background with a passion for ethical AI use in education. She is currently conducting an AI action research project with her students, all while striving to ignite a love for English in diverse learners.

Workshop 1B

Building longevity as an English teacher

Abstract

Being an English teacher is tough and in the early years; it can seem that the workload is overwhelming. This practical workshop will provide participants with the tools to create processes and develop strategies to build

career longevity as an English teacher, as well as looking after their well-being and developing their teacher identity.

Presenter

June Balfour is an English teacher with more than 30 years' experience. She mentors early career teachers and second career teachers through to full teacher registration and provides support for teachers new to the English teaching space.

Workshop 1C

Supporting students and scaffolding lessons through OneNote

Abstract

As a beginning teacher you are inundated with resources and teaching styles, and while PowerPoint is a great go-to, there is another option: OneNote. Are you interested in using a working document and supporting student learning? OneNote is an excellent resource to differentiate your teaching, while also giving students agency to adjust content to suit their own unique preferences. Together we will look at lesson sequencing, collaborative learning and how OneNote can be used to reduce the teaching workload, help students organise their findings and provide discreet check-ins and feedback for students. This resource can be used in Laptop or iPad schools. Keep in mind this model moves away from PowerPoints and printed worksheets - instead OneNote is used as lesson plan, student notebook and source of diagnostic insight. Examples will be from EALD, English, History and Food Studies classes.

Presenter

Danielle Alympic is English 2IC at Kelvin Grove State College. She is passionate about supporting students and engagement through accessible learning. With a focus on building student agency and designing resources that are designed around student interest. In 2024, Danielle was shortlisted for the Queensland TEACHx Excellence in Beginning to Teach award and is QCAA External Marker and Confirmer.

Workshop 1D

The craft of sentence writing

Abstract

Good sentences are central to good writing. In this session we will look at some ways that we can encourage better sentence writing to suit different purposes. The session will look at how grammar can support better sentence construction for creative and persuasive writing.

Presenter

Mel Dixon has taught in Queensland schools for over twenty years in Townsville, Toowoomba and Brisbane, with ten as Head of Department. She was editor for 'Wordsworth' and then for the NSW state journal, 'mETaphor'. In her role as Education and Publications for the NSW ETA she wrote and edited resources and has presented many PD sessions including Grammar in Context. She is a principal writer for the Cambridge literacy series: 'Connecting English'.

Session 3

Workshop 3A

Thinking beyond limits: Practical strategies for teaching creative writing

Abstract

If I had a dollar for each time I have read “as fast as lightning” or “as big as an elephant” I would certainly have a few dollars. It can be tricky to help students break free from clichés and feel confident enough to think outside of the box with their creative writing. I want to share with you some practical creative writing activities and teaching strategies that you can easily pick up and use on-the-go, regardless of your teaching experience.

Presenter

Elyse Smallacombe has been an English teacher for six years now, and currently teaches English and Religious Education at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe. She has experience teaching in a variety of schools across Brisbane, including Somerville House and St Laurence's College, and is studying a

Master of Arts (Writing and Literature) with Deakin University.

Workshop 3B

Danger ahead! Setting up for success

Abstract

Starting to teach a new class can be daunting. Early-career teachers face the pressure of learning new content, delivering the curriculum requirements, and catering to the diverse needs of their learners, not to mention behaviour management! This workshop will offer a variety of practical tools and techniques to help teachers lay the foundations for success with any class, as well as strategies for managing challenging behaviours that might erode these foundations.

Presenter

Will Sunerton is currently the Acting Head of English at Wellington Point State High School. Prior to this, he served in a variety of teaching and leadership roles in Queensland state schools. Will is a teacher with several years of experience teaching challenging classes across various subject areas. He is passionate about working with early-career teachers to develop their capabilities, engaging students in the study of poetry, and teaching the Literacy Short Course.

Workshop 3C

Making generative AI your friend

Abstract

In the ever-evolving space of generative AI use in education, this workshop will offer hands-on opportunities to engage with AI tools. As later career teachers navigate this space there is an opportunity for Early Career teachers to use their expertise. When employed in conjunction with developed teaching and learning skills, as guided by a Lead Teacher, the existing skills and knowledge of Early Career teachers can be drawn on to make AI a powerful tool. Teachers will build a repertoire of practice that allows them to focus their energy on meaningful tasks, using generative AI as a Personal Assistant, easing the burden of some time-consuming teacher tasks. Early Career

teachers will be offered resources and skill development to ensure that they have the confidence to employ generative AI to make teaching easier. Included in the workshop will be learning activity and worksheet development; AI use for feedback on formative assessment; and improving engagement with the use of AI art. As an interactive, hands-on workshop, teachers will walk away with new skills and understanding so that everyone can approach the use of AI with an optimistic, curious mindset.

Presenter

As an AITSL accredited Lead Teacher with over 18 years of experience, **Megan Dunstan** is passionate about teaching and learning. Her masters degree in educational leadership developed her passion for leadership in the unique environment of schools and she furthered this by attaining national accreditation in 2022. In 2024 Megan became an assessor with ISQ and presented at the HALT Summit in Sydney, driven by her desire to empower other teachers in the profession. In addition to teaching Senior English and History subjects, Megan runs the Sunshine Coast Schools Debating Competition, all of which speak to her interest in developing her students into complex critical thinkers.

Workshop 3D

Leveraging data and technology to enhance teaching and research

Abstract

As a first-year teacher and a history researcher with a Masters thesis, I have firsthand experience navigating the complexities of data acquisition, co-teaching, and the integration of technology into educational practices. This presentation will explore the intersection of these elements, focusing on how data-driven approaches and technological tools, including AI, can streamline workloads and enhance teaching practice. I will share insights from my co-teaching experiences, highlighting the benefits of collaborative strategies and the role of data in informing decisions in space and learning activities. Attendees will learn about specific tools and strategies that can reduce administrative burdens - such as using digital assessment rubrics to target learning goals formatively before summative assessment. The session will also address challenges, such as

navigating new technologies and balancing data use with pedagogical goals. Ultimately, this presentation aims to equip educators and researchers with practical solutions for leveraging data and technology, drawing from my unique blend of experiences as an emerging professional in both the educational and research sectors.

Presenter

With a Master of Philosophy and a Master of Education, **Mark Mather** is currently in his first year of teaching at Trinity College Beenleigh. He is also a sessional lecturer and tutor at QUT.

Session 4

Workshop 4A

Mastering your full teacher registration: Portfolio tips for English teachers

Abstract

This workshop offers subject-specific guidance to help you craft a comprehensive full teacher registration portfolio. The interactive session will break down the essential components of a successful portfolio, offering specialised tips for English teachers. You'll be provided templates for organising the portfolio and learn how to strategically demonstrate your achievement of the standards with the least amount of evidence. Ideas will be provided for ticking off those tricky APSTs (looking at your numeracy strategies) and FAQs will be answered. Whether you're just starting your portfolio or looking to refine it, this workshop provides the tools and insights you need to ensure your registration portfolio reflects your qualifications and passion for teaching English. Join me and leave with a clear plan to create a portfolio and become a fully registered, proficient teacher.

Presenter

Sasha Paulin is in her second year of teaching English at Somerville House from grades 7-11. She has successfully compiled and submitted her full teacher registration with the aid of some amazing HAT teachers from her school and wants to pass on this wisdom. Sasha runs a creative writing club at her school and is always experimenting with new ways to

engage and inspire her students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Workshop 4B

How can I and when should I use AI? Developing an understanding of best practice for using AI in and out of the classroom.

Abstract

Understanding how to use AI for best practice while also adhering to ethical standards is crucial you want to develop your practice and expertise in teaching English as well as safeguarding you, your students and your school community. Additionally, you may also want to be ahead of the game in the AI space, and teaching students how to use AI ethically is the next step in this digital innovation. In this workshop, we'll focus on: Practical applications of how to use AI in developing your pedagogical approaches and knowledge, tailored to you and your classroom. The ethical considerations you need to account for as an educator using AI. Strategies for teaching students about responsible AI use within the English curriculum. By the end of this workshop, attendees will have gained practical insights into using AI to develop their pedagogical approaches to teaching English and have a sound working knowledge of how to use AI ethically. You'll have the confidence and competence to safely integrate AI in the English curriculum, guiding your students, and, potentially, colleagues, to do the same.

Presenter

Victoria Snell, Head of English at St James College, and founder of Snelly's Innovation Lab at BBC is an enthusiastic educator and a passionate advocate for innovative, ethical educational practices. Dedicated to enhancing teaching and learning experiences in the English curriculum, she experiments with evidence-based strategies to purposefully and ethically integrate AI into the classroom. Victoria believes it is essential to share the ethical considerations, as well as the practical applications, of using AI in education. With expertise in delivering professional learning focused on digital pedagogy and innovation, she hopes to support preservice teachers with the knowledge and know-how of using AI effectively and safely.

Workshop 4C

English beyond The Range: My rural teaching adventure.

Abstract

This presentation will share some of the unique challenges and joys I have experienced during my rural teaching adventure in Far North Queensland. The early, formative years of my teaching career have been enriched during my time at a rural school. I would love to share my experiences of fostering meaningful relationships with students, cultivating a support network in regional communities of practice, and navigating the unfamiliar landscape of a new town. Teaching beyond The Range has provided me with countless opportunities for growth both personally and professionally and I would feel privileged to share how this adventure made me the teacher I am today.

Presenter

Laura Pratt is a dedicated English and Maths teacher at Ravenshoe State School P-12. She was born, raised and educated in the south-east corner, but took the leap into the Far North for her first teaching role in a unique and diverse school community. In her role as Year 12 Coordinator, she takes pride in walking alongside senior students and guiding them towards their post-school endeavours. Outside of work, Laura loves soaking up all that the Atherton Tablelands has to offer, scoping out waterfalls and swimming holes, markets and sampling cocktail menus.

Workshop 4D

Calling all aspiring leaders.

Abstract

Are you aspiring to take on a role of added responsibility? Whether you want to develop leadership skills within your faculty or are dreaming of becoming a HOD or leader in other areas of the school, this workshop is for you! Through an interactive session, attendees will explore best practices in mentoring, curriculum development, and fostering a collaborative school culture at both a faculty and whole school level. We will also address the challenges and opportunities of leadership in diverse educational settings. Come along

with your goals and questions and we will discuss some strategies on how to move up into your dream position.

Presenter

Kimberley Costello has been working in both the state and independent section for 9 years. She currently holds the position of Assistant Head of Faculty for English at A.B Paterson College.

Panel Members

Sarah Gunn is the Director of Studies and Pedagogy at St Peters Lutheran College, Springfield, an ACEL Queensland branch executive member, and a passionate English and Literature teacher. Sarah is a curious and reflective practitioner, who uses action research to drive teacher learning, and finds great fulfilment in collaborating with her peers to discover impactful pedagogical practices.

Anna McKay is an English and Drama teacher with four years of experience, currently teaching at Forest Lake State High School. She is passionate about fostering inclusivity and works with a wide range of culturally diverse students across grades 7-12. Anna also advocates for representation and runs the "True Colours" club, providing a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students and allies at FLSHS.

Ryan Anspach is in his third year of teaching Senior English and Literature teacher at St Laurence's College. He is passionate about the potentialities the literary imagination offers students and is therefore studying a Master of Education (Curriculum / Leadership) to further bridge literary and educational theory into practice. If he could have one wish in life, it would be to have more time to read!

June Balfour see June's bio on page 3.

Elyse Smallacombe – see Elyse's bio on page 4.

Registration

Register at www.etaq.org.au

Cost: members of ETAQ and pre-service teachers \$50, non-members \$75 for face-to-face participation. Online access: members \$35; non-members \$52

1. **Change of persons registered** Sometimes schools may need to substitute one teacher for another on their registrations. This is fine but please notify the change to the Administration Officer so that we can prepare the appropriate Certificate of Participation, name tag and Individual program.
2. Many schools prefer to receive an invoice for registrations and pay on that rather than pay at the time of registration. We are happy to offer this convenience, but it must be recognised that **registration commits you to payment.**
3. **Cancellation Policy** If you register and later have to cancel, the following will apply:
 - a. Cancel your registration by 18 October, you will receive a full refund of the face-to-face component of your registration fee and access to recorded sessions.
 - b. Cancel between 19 October and 22 October, you will receive a refund of 50% of the face-to-face component of your registration fee and access to recorded sessions.
 - c. From 23 October no refund is possible, but you will receive access to the recordings.

This program constitutes 3.75 hours of CPD