



The English Teachers
Association of Queensland Inc.
Providing professional support
and advocacy for English teachers

Newsletter No. 3/20
April 2020

English Matters

Professional Learning 2020: ETAQ's Coronavirus Response

Due to increasingly tight physical distancing rules, all ETAQ professional learning (PL) will go online until at least June.

Our first online PL event will be **Diving Deep into Feedback for Online Learning**, an event that

should be very relevant in the current circumstances. Our focus will be demonstrating some ideas for how you might continue to use assessment for learning practices in this brave new world.

At this stage, the Early Careers Conference

scheduled for May has been postponed until fourth term.

We will forward more information in the coming weeks. In the meantime, **to make the most of our online events, renew your membership now for 2020.**

Stop Press

Due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned tour by **Professor Jeffrey Wilhelm has been cancelled**. At this time, it is unlikely that we will be able to reschedule the event in the near future.

Sincere thanks to Ipswich Girls' Grammar school and Nudgee College who offered to host and the AATE for all their hard work planning this event - and dealing with the wash-up of cancellation.

Renewing Membership Today

Even during the Coronavirus, ETAQ will be offering a wide range of services to our members: online professional learning, virtual catch ups, *Words'Worth* and *English in Australia* ... None of this happens without a hard-working team of volunteers. BUT, none of this is free and **we depend on your continuing membership** to ensure we can offer services to our members.

So, join us in sharing the benefits of membership by going online or contacting Trish (trish.purcell@bigpond.com). Membership is the key to remaining connected to the community of English teachers and the best range of professional development around, especially in these challenging times. Thanks to those members who have already renewed.

You can renew your ETAQ membership on-line or by mail.



Lindsay Williams
ETAQ President

The current situation with the pandemic is a tough one for the whole community, but teachers have a special responsibility during this time to continue educating children of all ages - and the online environment creates many challenges. In fact, we are conducting a huge experiment: no-one knows what the correct approach is to mass online teaching and learning. One certainty in this environment is the support we can offer each other as an English community. So, look after yourselves during this time and stay connected to one another.

AATE/IFTE Conference

This conference is still going ahead - but now the plan is full, online delivery of the event. Dates remain the same: July 6 to 9 2020. According to the conference website, 'registration prices are currently being adjusted to this mode of delivery'.

There are many excellent speakers planned and NSW has expertise in the delivery of online events, having recently conducted a workshop for approximately 500 students.

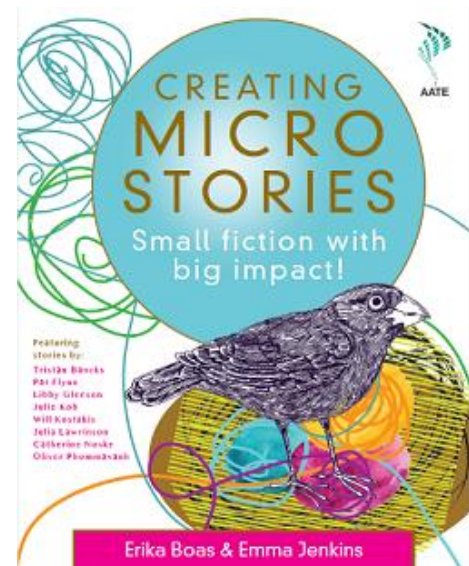
Online delivery of many events is something we are all getting used to, but the AATE/IFTE conference will be worth attending. Visit aateifte2020.org.au for updates.

In other conference news, this year's ALEA national conference has been cancelled outright.

New text for teaching story-great lockdown reading!

AATE has published a valuable new text about the teaching of short stories, *Creating Micro Stories: Small Fiction with Big Impact!*

written by AATE past-president Erika Boas and Emma Jenkins. This text focuses on those sorts of stories that most of our students need to write, stories under 1000 words. The book features a wide range of award-winning student stories as well as stories from celebrated writers such as Will Kostakis, Tristan Bancks, Libby Gleeson. **\$39.95**



Also available *Creative Horizons 1* (\$50), *Creative Horizons 2* (\$60) are available from the ETAQ Admin Officer – contact details on page 4. Plus P&H \$5

Congratulations to Heather Fraser



Our Townsville branch President, Heather Fraser, has been a stalwart of the English community for many years. Her services to English in Queensland have been acknowledged by a Peter Botsman Memorial Award in 2002 and Life Membership of ETAQ in 2018.

Her latest accolade is an ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (NEiTA),

recognizing her as one of Australia's top educators. According to an email from her principal at Pimlico State High School, she was nominated by students and families from the school community.

Unfortunately, the face-to-face presentation in Melbourne has been cancelled during the current physical distancing requirements and travel restrictions. However, we want to join the congratulations and praise being heaped on Heather - she is a highly deserving recipient and a valued member of our ETAQ family. Well done, Heather!

What's in this mailing

- English Matters
- *Words'Worth*
- Program for Diving Deep into Feedback for Online Learning 16 May

To be announced

The following events are currently being rescheduled:

- State Conference
- Early Careers Conference
- Grammar Day
- Writing Analytical Essays (Gold Coast)

Declaration of Elections and AGM

The AGM was unable to go ahead in the usual way this year. However, voting on changes to the constitution were conducted via email - all members registered for the March seminar (and therefore eligible to attend the March AGM) were sent ballot papers. Voting on the changes was unanimous (see the ETAQ website for details). The number of members who voted exceeded what is required by the constitution for a quorum: double the management committee numbers + 1.

As only one nomination was received for each executive position, election of these positions was declared after the voting on constitutional changes was completed. Your new executive is:

President: Lindsay Williams (QCAA)

Vice-President: Anne Wood (Aquinas College)

Treasurer: Kelli McGraw (QUT)

Secretary: Jeffrey Lewis (Brisbane Grammar School)

Professional Learning Director: Julie Arnold (Corinda State High School/QUT)

Committee: Jarred Adams, Melissa Blacklock, Garry Collins, Fiona Laing, Debbie Owens, Trish Purcell, Matt Rigby and Naomi Russell

A face-to-face general meeting will be held once current restrictions on movement and gatherings are lifted.

Vale Bruce Dawe

On April 1, it was reported that poet and academic Bruce Dawe had passed away at the age of 90. Dawe's poetry will be very familiar to English teachers and he has a special place for those of us in Queensland where he lived and taught for many years. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

Words'Worth

Have you:

- Created a poem?
- Written a short story?
- Found an interesting new resource? Why not write a review.

Do you have:

- An awesome lesson or unit plan that you would like to share with your colleagues
- Thoughts or tips on on-line learning
- Reflections/ thoughts on any aspect of your current professional practice.

Then

- Why not send your contribution to Debbie Owens at debbieo@stursulas.qld.edu.au for publication in *Words'Worth* by 2nd June for number 2, or 28 August for number 3.

CONTACT

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