



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

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Providing professional support  
and advocacy for English teachers

## Secretary's Report

Presented to the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

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*Saturday 2 March 2024  
Iona College, 85 North Road, Lindum*

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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 2023 school year.

## Executive Committee

### Management Committee

The Management Committee held 7 formal meetings and 1 informal meeting during 2023. Meetings were held monthly with the exceptions of January, April and December. The February and March meetings included members of the outgoing 2022-23 committee. Before the State Conference in August, a shorter Management Meeting was held.

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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
President	Dr Lindsay Williams - QCAA	8/8
Vice President	Anne Wood - A.B. Paterson College	6/8
Secretary	Belinda Hampton - Atherton SHS	8/8
Treasurer	Maxwell Forbes – Brisbane Boys College	6/8
Professional Learning Director	Jeffrey Lewis - Brisbane Grammar School	6/8
1. Member	Julie Arnold - QUT	7/8
2. Member	Garry Collins - retired	8/8
3. Member	June Balfour - QASMT	7/8
4. Member	Fiona Laing - Forest Lake SHS	8/8
5. Member	Candice Green – St Joseph’s Nudgee College	7/8
6. Member	Debbie Owens - St Ursula’s College, Yeppoon	5/8
7. Member	Trish Purcell	8/8
8. Member	Adam Myers – Brisbane Boys College	7/8
9. Member	Kelly Whiteway – A B Paterson College	7/8
10. Member	Antoinette Mizen - John Paul College	7/8
11. Member	Cate Wilson - Wynnum SHS	7/8

## 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

## Patron

Dr Claire Hansen started her position as patron of ETAQ. Dr Hansen is a lecturer in English at the Australian National University and has a particular passion for the teaching of Shakespeare. ETAQ thanks Dr Hansen for her support, enthusiasm and insights during 2023.

## Venue for Management Committee meetings

Meetings continued to be at the offices of the IEUA-QNT (Independent Education Union Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch) in Turbot Street Spring Hill. Meetings are hosted online using Zoom.

ETAQ thanks the union for its ongoing and continued support.

## Administration Officer

Trish Purcell continued in her role as the association's part-time Administration Officer.

## Membership

The number of financial members of the Association for the last five years are as follows:

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	245	22	6	190	473

## Professional Learning Activities

The 2023 professional learning program was designed around the theme 'Seasons of Learning'. This enabled us to reflect upon the cycles that surround and affect us: from curriculum renewal, to gazing into the next 'season' and contemplating the impacts of AI on English education. Our hope was to be responsive to the needs of Queensland teachers, while also providing a guiding light through some challenges we'll collectively face. Importantly, we were able to carve out space for emotions and states that characterise what's best about our profession, such as March Seminar's focus on **joy**. In collaboration with the Townsville branch, whose online offerings continue to enhance and add value to the professional learning opportunities for teachers across Queensland, we are proud of the enriching program we offered in 2023.

Jeffrey Lewis – Professional Learning Director 2023.

ETAQ thanks Jeffrey for his outstanding contributions to ETAQ in the roles of both Secretary and Professional Learning Director.

### PD ONE – Essential English – Community of Practice

- Date: Saturday 18 February 2023
- Type: Face to face + online
- Focus: Supporting schools to understand the demands of the CIA
- Format: Keynote + presentations + workshop sessions
- Convenor: Candice Green
- CPD: 3 hrs 45 minutes

### PD TWO – March Seminar – SUMMER

- Date: Saturday 4 March 2023
- Type: Face to face + online
- Focus: Celebrating English teaching  
“We begin 2023’s ‘Seasons of Learning’ program with a belated summer shindig. This seminar seeks to put heart back at the centre of our professional conversations: to celebrate the bright and warm qualities that characterise summer, our March Seminar will focus on what we find joyous about teaching English.”
- Format: AGM + Keynote speaker + workshops
- Venue: Iona College, Lindum
- Convenors: Fiona Laing and Antoinette Mizen
- CPD: 3 hours 30 minutes

### PD THREE – MAY Masterclass - AUTUMN

- Date: Saturday 20 May
- Type: Face to face + online
- Focus: Australian Curriculum v9.0 Familiarisation  
“Autumn is the season associated with culmination and transition. As we approach familiarisation and planning for implementation of Version 9.0 of the Australian Curriculum, we will gather to seek wisdom and inspiration from our professional community.”
- Format: Keynote and workshops
- Venue: John Paul College
- Convenors: Jeffrey Lewis and Cate Wilson
- CPD: 5 hours 30 mins

### PD FOUR: External examination preparation – END OF A SEASON

- Dates: Teacher videos from Saturday 22 July; Student videos from Wednesday 26 July
- Student zoom meetings Wednesday 6 and Saturday 9 September
- Type: Online video + Zoom Q&A
- Focus: External exam preparation  
“We are excited to announce the program for the External Assessment Preparation Event. Our fourth annual event draws on our learning from 2020 to 2022 to deliver just what teachers and students need to help you feel motivated and confident. With the very generous assistance of academics across the university sector, our student and teacher events will provide expert support for General English, EAL/D and Literature.”
- Format: videos examining the essay genre + live student and teacher discussion. Text workshops offered by various academics and experts.
- Venue: zoom and vimeo
- Convenors: Julie Arnold and Belinda Hampton

### PD FIVE: State Conference – SPRING AWAKENINGS

- Date: Saturday 19 August 2023
- Type: Face to face + online

- Focus:
- “The theme of this year's conference is “Awakenings” where we will explore innovative approaches to making English a rich and rewarding experience in the classroom. The conference will focus on the concept of growth, both personal and professional, and how it can positively impact students and their learning outcomes.”
- Format: 2 keynotes + various workshops
- CPD: 7 hours
- Venue: Lourdes Hill College
- Convenors: Anne Wood and Kelly Whiteway

#### PD SIX: Early Career Conference 2023: SPRING

- Date: Saturday 21 October 2023
- Type: Face-to face
- Focus: Supporting new to English, beginning and pre-service teachers.  
“Now in its thirteenth year, the Early Career Teachers Conference provides high quality professional development specifically tailored to the needs of English teachers in their first five years of practice and those who may be experienced teachers but are new to teaching English. One of the secondary aims of the day 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 beginning teachers, and experienced English teachers.”
- Format: Keynote and 5 sessions of workshops
- CPD: 3.25 hours
- Venue: Wynnum SHS
- Convenor: Naomi Russell and Elyse Smallacombe

#### Grammar workshops

- 3 Saturday workshops were conducted via Zoom on 25 March, 27 May and 18 November
- Type: half-day (9 am – 1 pm) Zoom meeting including presentation supported by PowerPoint plus time for participants to work through exercises. As with the last couple of years, a warm-up worksheet was distributed in advance of the activity.
- Purpose: To assist attendees to develop their understandings of grammar in order to fully comprehend and to effectively teach the F-10 Australian Curriculum: English (AC:E). Also highly relevant to Years 11 & 12.
- CPD hours: 3.5 hours
- Format: presentations, exercises and discussions. The Zoom meeting was recorded and the link distributed to participants after the event. The PowerPoint file used was also provided to participants on request.
- Presenter: Garry Collins

## Regional Events

### Townsville Branch

The Townsville Branch continued in both tradition and reputation to produce high quality professional learning experiences, supporting teachers in our regional areas. Branch interests are represented by branch president Heather Fraser at ETAQ meetings.

### Cairns High Spectacular +AGM Townsville Branch

- Date: Saturday 18 March 2023

- Presenters: Catherine Hicks, Ken Nixon, Casey Robbins, Brenton Clutterbuck
- Format: zoom
- CPD: 2 hours

#### Unlocking IA1 – Tully State High School

- Date: Saturday 6 May 2023
- Presenter: Kathy Macdonald (Tully SHS)
- Format: zoom
- CPD: 2 hours

#### ETAQ Dinner with Professor Gretchen Minton

- Date: Saturday 13 May 2023
  - Presenters: Fulbright Scholar Professor Gretchen Minton
  - Format: Dinner and guest speaker
  - Location: Jam Corner
- This event was supported by ETAQ to celebrate the Townsville Branch operating for 42 years.

#### Practices with Impact – Atherton State High School

- Date: Saturday 22 July 2023
- Presenters: Ellen McGuigan, Cheyenn Trevor, Belinda Hampton
- Format: zoom
- CPD hours: 2

## 2023 AATE/ALEA Conference

This year the AATE/ALEA conference was hosted by Canberra, ACT.



Each year, a portion of ETAQ membership fees are paid to the AATE as capitation fees. These fees (along with other sources of income) ensure continued services to members in Queensland from the national organization, including:

- publication of and online access to English in Australia (shortly to be renamed Australian Journal of English Education).
- provision of paid support staff based in Adelaide.
- advocate on behalf of English and English teachers at a national level.
- liaise with English associations in various countries around the world.
- supporting the national conference, conducted with ALEA in Canberra in 2023.
- commission high-quality publications to support the teaching of English, such as the excellent *Listening from the Heart* by Cara Schipp. This was launched at the 2023 national conference.

A delegate from ETAQ (usually including the President) attends regular national council meetings to oversee and provide input into this work.

A new publishing initiative in 2023 was the launch of the series, 'Perspectives on Teaching English'. States will volunteer to produce a short volume aimed at classroom practitioners. The publication will feature guest authors sharing practical strategies for teaching English concepts and ideas about which they are passionate. The first of these, launched at the 2023 national conference was produced by authors from the ACT and explored the use of student-authored short stories as mentor texts. The second volume is being authored by ETAQ members and will focus on using the Language Strand of the Australian Curriculum: English v9.0 to improve student writing. The current plan is to launch this at the 2024 ETAQ State Conference.

**Assisted attendance:** ETAQ continued to offer financial assistance through application to members to attend professional learning in 2023.

**Assisted attendance for National conference:**

Lindsay Williams (President), Garry Collins, Elyse Smallacombe

**Jim Buckley Memorial scholarship** – for attendance at ETAQ State Conference: Heather Fraser, Andrew Snee and Felicity Stoetzel

In return for this support, recipients submitted articles and reports to the *Words'Worth* publication.

## AATE - National Activity

ETAQ continues to be represented on the national council by our president, Dr Lindsay Williams. The council met 4 times during 2023, including one face-to-face meeting in Canberra.

## Publications

For the fourth year, Deb Owens, in her role as editor, has encouraged a diverse and informative array of contributions for English teachers' professional reading. To reflect the ETAQ 2023 epigraph, **SEASONS OF LEARNING**, each edition of *Words'Worth* in 2023 focused on variants of the theme. *Words'Worth* welcomed our new Patron, Dr Claire Hansen. Across the three journals for the year, contributions offered readers a wide range of proven classroom practices; thoughtful analyses of text resources including poetry, novels, multi-modal texts, analytical and creative writing; ways of grappling with grammar; conference and annual subject English reports; informed and thought-provoking discussions on the senior syllabuses and English praxis; and student winners of the various categories in the annual Literary Competition. Contributions in 2023 reflected practitioners' passion for subject English and its implementation through engaging ways in the classroom — an acknowledgement of the importance of sharing as increased workload and demands on time management of teachers is a reality.

## Branches

Branches in Townsville and Darling Downs continue. Townsville maintains healthy membership and strong engagement, providing high quality and high impact professional support to members. The Darling Downs branch has been identified as potentially benefiting from more central support. Thank you to branch presidents Heather Fraser (Townsville) and Rohan Davis (Toowoomba) for maintaining the strength of regional voices in the activities and services of ETAQ.



## Peter Botsman Memorial Award

Patrice Honnef (HOD – English at Cairns State High) received the 2023 Peter Botsman award for her ongoing commitment to English education in a ‘in-school’ setting. This was presented at the 2023 State Conference.

## Digital Technologies and resources

ETAQ remains committed to the improvement of online resources, with attention to the website. Resources from professional learning in 2022-3 are located in the “Members only resources” tab, as well as online copies of the journals *Australian Literary Studies*, *English in Australia*, and *Words’Worth*

2023 meetings addressed the format, type and possible services, with future planning in place.

### Engagement with social media

Under the coordination of Kelly Whiteway, ETAQ’s engagement with social media platforms to support and promote ETAQ and its services demonstrated growth in 2023. ETAQ is actively seeking ways to engage with our diverse and pro-active partners across the state.

### Expanding our online engagement

Statistics for membership engagement across our platforms is 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

## Competitions

### QIEU - ETAQ Literary Competition 2023

2023 again celebrated with a face-to-face Awards Evening for the QIEU – ETAQ Literary Competition. The presentation evening took place on Wednesday 23 August with the invited guest speaker Josh Donellan. Entries were engaging and imaginative, demonstrating the strong interest of students and continuing support for the competition. Entries for the categories are shown below:

Category	Entries 2023	Entries 2022	Judge
Open - Short Story	47	29	Dr Stewart Riddle
Non-fiction prose 11 & 12	7	35	Jeffrey Lewis
Poetry 11 & 12	38	41	Zenobia Frost
Short story 11 & 12	127	123	Dr Cheryl Taylor
Poetry 9 & 10	58	44	Rebecca Cheers
Short story 9 & 10	201	180	Garry Collins
Poetry 7 & 8	178	219	Kelly Whiteway and Antoinette Mizen
Short story 7 & 8	72	48	Ynes Sanz
Poetry 5 & 6	20	31	Dr Sherilyn Lennon

<b>Short story 5 &amp; 6</b>	226	194	Prof Beryl Exley and Georgia Tommerup
<b>Grand Total</b>	974	<b>944</b>	

Judges came from a range of backgrounds, including academia (and ex-academics), retired and practising teachers and writers. This year's judges panel consisted of 4 academics, 3 professional writers, and 4 ETAQ committee members. Entry numbers remain very healthy with a wide range of students and families attending the Awards Evening.

### Esme Robinson Short Story Section

In 2022, it was decided to honour Esme Robinson who has a long history with the administration of the competition, as past president of ETAQ. She has been a judge for the competition from 2001-2021, retiring recently due to ill health. The Short Story 11 & 12 category has been named in her honour. We have been pleased that Esme has been able to attend the Awards Evening again in 2023 to present the prizes in person. ETAQ has arranged the naming of 2 categories of the competition in honour of past judges - the Paul Sherman Memorial Prize (Poetry 7 & 8) and the Esme Robinson Prize (Short Story 11 & 12).

The competition has been managed by Fiona Laing again in 2023 and will be managed, from 2024, by Cate Wilson.

### Conclusion

ETAQ is possible due to the generosity of its members and friends, and a willingness to make connections across our state. Queensland covers 1,730, 648 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population where more than half live outside the greater metropolitan area of Brisbane. Our diversity of experiences shared through organizations like ETAQ are our strength in ensuring all young people have access to the educational opportunities they are entitled to, and teachers have the informed, guided support they deserve.

Belinda Hampton

Secretary for The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

February 2024