



**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 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

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*Saturday 4 March 2023  
Iona College, 85 North Road, Lindum*

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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 2022 school year.

## Management Committee

The Management Committee met eight times during 2022. Meetings were held monthly with the exceptions of January, August, and December. The February and March meetings included members of the outgoing 2021-22 committee.

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

Position	Name	Meetings attended
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 - John Paul College	5/8
Professional Learning Director	Jeffrey Lewis - Brisbane Grammar School	6/8
1. Member	Julie Arnold - QUT	8/8
2. Member	Garry Collins - retired	6/8
3. Member	Matthew Rigby	6/8
4. Member	Fiona Laing - Forest Lake SHS	8/8
5. Member	Grace Loyden - Brisbane Boys College	5/8
6. Member	Debbie Owens - St Ursula's College, Yeppoon	7/8
7. Member	Trish Purcell	8/8
8. Member	Naomi Russell - Brisbane Grammar School	3/8
9. Member	Kelly Whiteway - A.B Paterson College	5/8
10. Member	Antoinette Mizen - John Paul College	5/8
11. Member	Cate Wilson - Wynnum SHS	6/8
12. Member	Margaret Bailey - Iona College	4/8

## Patron

Dr Sherilyn Lennon concluded her patronage of ETAQ in 2022. ETAQ thanks Dr Lennon for offering support, advice and insights to the teaching of English in our Queensland educational settings over the past 3 years.

## 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 simultaneously 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 four 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

## Professional Learning Activities

2022 represented a rich and very full professional learning suite, targeting support to help develop, engage, and extend teacher professionalism when working with the school subject English. Titled '**Writing our Future**', the central theme emphasised the importance of teacher agency and efficacy, and promoted the principles of equity and quality for all our students across our state's diverse classrooms and contexts.

### Writing: Our future – March Masterclass

- Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Type: Face to face + online
- Focus: *Students – and their teachers – are writers, composers and designers. We use language to make sense of the world, to enact relationships, and to organise information in texts. This year, ETAQ's masterclass will explore diverse ideas related to teaching writing in English.*
- Format: ETAQ AGM + workshops
- Venue: Iona College, Lindum
- Convenors: Julie Arnold and Danielle Gordon
- CPD hours: 6

### Writing our future – May Seminar (prescribed text list)

- Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Type: Face to face + online

- Focus: *With the release of the refreshed prescribed texts lists for 2023-2025, our May Seminar will explore, with the guidance of experts, opportunities afforded by a selection of the refreshed texts. Our aim is to provide you with inspiration to make decisions about invigorating your own program. A workshop strand has also been designed to meet the needs of Junior secondary teachers, to assist them in making text selection decisions.*
- Format: Keynote + workshop sessions
- Venue: University of Queensland, St Lucia
- Convenors: Anne Wood
- CPD hours: 3

#### Writing *your* future – for the external assessment

- Dates: Teacher videos from Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July; Student videos from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July; Student zoom meetings Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Type: Online video + Zoom Q&A
- Focus: *We are excited to announce the program for the External Assessment Preparation Event. Our third annual event draws on our learning from 2020 and 2021 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: 1 video examining the essay genre + 1 text-specific lecture + Live student and teacher discussion. Text workshops offered by various academics and experts.
- Venue: Zoom and Vimeo
- Convenors: Julie Arnold

#### State Conference – Writing *our* future

- Date: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022
- Type: Face to face + online
- Focus: *English teachers are increasingly conscious of the mounting pressures brought about by “curricular mandates, testing cultures, lack of access to material resources, and a lack of teaching strategies and expertise...” (Chisholm, Alford, Halliday & Cox 2019, p.8). This conference aims to provoke teachers’ imaginations about the future for teachers, and the future for society, that we wish to strive towards.*
- Format: 2 keynotes + various workshops
- CPD hours: 7
- Venue: Lourdes Hill College Campus
- Convenors: Jeffrey Lewis and Grace Loyden

#### Early Career Conference 2022: Writing *your* future

- Date: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022
- Type: Seminar
- Focus: *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.*
- Format: Keynote and 5 sessions of workshops
- CPD hours: 5.5 hours
- Venue: Wynnum SHS
- Convenor: Naomi Russell

## Writing our future in Essential English 2022

- Date: Saturday 5 November 2022
- Type: Community of Practice
- Focus: *Teaching Essential English has many challenges; however, when we experience success with engaging these students it is a rewarding experience. Whether you are new to teaching or highly experienced, this event will provide you with practical strategies to assist with your planning, assessing and curriculum delivery of Essential English. It's an opportunity for us to learn from others and to also provide support for one another!*
- Format: Short presentations (5) and 2 workshops
- CPD hours: 3 hours 45 mins
- Venue: St Joseph's Nudgee College, Boondall
- Convenor: Candice Green

## Regional Events

### Townsville Branch

The Townsville Branch continued 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.

### Short stories and poetry +AGM Townsville Branch

- Date: Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Presenter: Emma Monfries (Kelvin Grove College)
- Format: zoom
- CPD hours: 2

### Macbeth Spectacular

- Date: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May
- Presenters: Dr Claire Hansen and Kathy MacDonald (Tully SHS)
- Format: zoom
- CPD hours: 2

### Indigenous perspectives in the junior curriculum (year 7)

- Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Presenters: Kylie Chance and Townsville SHS
- Format: Zoom
- CPD hours: 2

### Understanding Shakespeare – A masterclass

- Date: Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Presenters: Rob Pensalfini – Artistic director of the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble
- Format: zoom
- CPD hours: 2

## 2022 AATE/ALEA Conference

This year the AATE/ALEA conference was hosted by Darwin, Northern Territory.



Assisted attendance: ETAQ continued to offer financial assistance through application to members to attend professional learning in 2022. Assisted attendance for National conference: was given to Lindsay Williams (President), Belinda Hampton, Troy Edwards, Andrew Snee, Kelli McGraw and Kelly Whiteway as an online registration. In return for this support, recipients submitted articles and reports to the Words'Worth publication.

Jim Buckley Memorial scholarship – for attendance at ETAQ State Conference:  
Kathleen Macdonald.

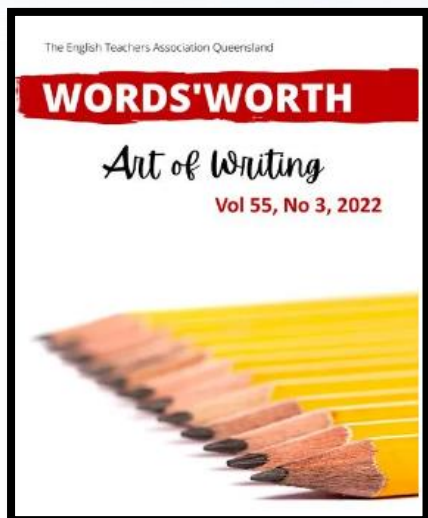
## AATE - National Activity

ETAQ continues to be represented on the national council by our president, Dr Lindsay Williams. The council met four times during 2022, once face-to-face in Darwin. The council discussed a range of matters of interest across the country, including the work being finalised on a new publication to support teachers in using First Nations texts in the classroom. There have also been on-going conversations about a possible network of English teachers for Northern Australia, stretching from Queensland to Western Australia.

Pleasingly, the financial position of AATE has improved further under the excellent stewardship of Phil Page, the retiring treasurer. Our very own Dr Kelli McGraw also completes her term as the editor of *English in Australia* – we thank Kelli sincerely for her work. Finally, the term of AATE's president, Alison Robertson, has also finished and we welcome friend of ETAQ, Karen Yager from New South Wales, as our new national president.

## Publications

For the third year Deb Owens, in her role as editor, has encouraged a diverse and



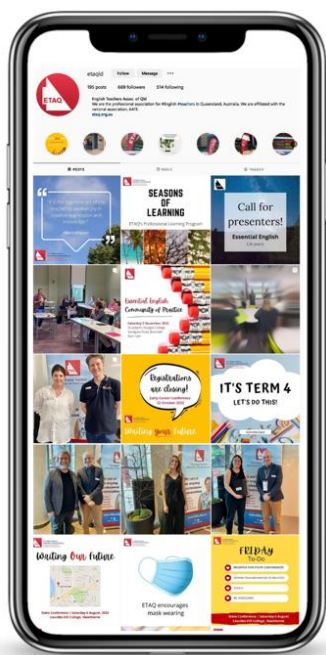
informative array of contributions for English teachers' professional reading. To reflect the ETAQ 2022 epigraph, **Writing our future**, each edition of Words'Worth in 2022 focused on variants of the theme. The editorial in Vol 55, No 1 titled 'Writing: resonant impetus' challenged readers to consider and reflect on strategies used to teach creative writing. Analytical writing was examined with a critique of formulaic scaffolding as opposed to decoding layers of understanding and modelling of different lenses through which a text can be studied. Contributors to the edition provided articles about fostering writing and sharing experiences of authorship. Vol 55 No 2 'Culture of the written word' provided readings on the creative through practical activities to inspire resistant readers as well as

analyses of written literary forms and performance in persuasive skills.

Literary Competition winners were included in this edition and the one that followed. As part of the ETAQ remit, Words'Worth supported and celebrated those coming into or recently entered the profession; Vol 55, No 3 'Art of writing' provided an opportunity for pre-service teachers voices.

## Branches

Branches in Townsville and Darling Downs continue to have healthy membership and strong engagement. 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

Dr Kelli McGraw received the 2022 Peter Botsman award for her ongoing commitment to English education in a beyond school setting. This was presented at the 2022 State Conference.

## Digital Technologies and resources

ETAQ remains committed to the improvement of online resources, with attention to the website. Access to professional learning from 2022 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*.

2022 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 2022.

## 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

## Competitions

### ETAQ - QIEU Literary Competition 2022

2022 saw a return to a face-to-face Awards Evening for the QIEU Literary Competition. Entries were robust, demonstrating the interest of students and strong support for the competition. Entries for the categories are shown below:

Row Labels	Count of Section
Open - Short Story	29
Year 11 and Year 12 - Non-Fiction Prose	35
Year 11 and Year 12 - Poem	41
Year 11 and Year 12 - Short Story	123
Year 5 and Year 6 - Poem	31
Year 5 and Year 6 - Short Story	194
Year 7 and Year 8 - Poem	48
Year 7 and Year 8 - Short Story	219
Year 9 and Year 10 - Poem	44
Year 9 and Year 10 - Short Story	180
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>944</b>

Judges came from a range of backgrounds, including academia (and ex-academics), retired and practising teachers from the committee and a writer. A change actioned for 2023 is to increase the number of writers involved in judging.

The Awards Evening was very well attended, with winners coming from as far away as the Northern Territory (along with her South Australian aunt). Families embraced coming back to a face-to-face event. The guest speaker, slam poet/comedian Anisa Nandaula, gave sage advice to the aspiring writers and provided an inspiring example of her performance craft.

### Esme Robinson Short Story Section

A very special aspect of the Awards Evening was the recognition of the contribution to the administration and judging of the competition by Esme Robinson. Esme has judged for a

total of 19 years as well as guiding the competition through many stages. To recognize her 'hanging up her hat', the year 11 and 12 Short Story section will, from 2023, be named in her honour.

## Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations

Anne Wood continues to represent ETAQ on the JCQTA. The 2020-2022 strategic plan outlines the goals of JCQTA as:

**Goal 1: Establish and maintain connections to advocate for improved recognition of teacher associations.**

**Goal 2: Contribute to enhanced professional support of member associations.**

JCQTA continues to be agile in ways of communication and collaboration as they take up the opportunities digital conferencing offers, and ETAQ is committed as a willing partner.

## Conclusion

The diversity, quality and number of activities, resources, and networks on offer in 2022 speaks directly to the importance of ETAQ to our profession identity and informed practices. ETAQ is committed to a vision of representing teacher voices in the contexts that matter, and providing support and learning for all teachers of English across the state. 2022 represented a strengthened sense of collective empowerment and confidence in school subject English – in pedagogy, assessment, and curriculum – that will be a foundation for the work of 2023 and beyond.

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.

March, 2023