



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

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*Saturday 21 March 2020*

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## Purpose of the report

This report aims to cover the activities and interests of The English Teachers Association of Queensland Inc. (ETAQ) during 2019.

## Executive Committee

### Management Committee

The Management Committee met eight times during 2019. Meetings were held monthly except for January, April, August and December. The February meeting comprised members of the outgoing 2018-19 committee. The March meeting was a planning meeting to discuss strategic directions and organisational structures for the future.

Those elected at the AGM held in March 2019 were:

Position	Name	Meetings attended
President	Fiona Laing, Forest Lake SHS	8/8
Vice President	Dr Lindsay Williams	5/6
Secretary	Jeffrey Lewis, Brisbane Grammar School	7/8
Treasurer	Dr Kelli McGraw, QUT	6/8
Membership Secretary	Karen Farrow	4/8
1. Member	Jarred Adams, QUT	8/8
2. Member	Julie Arnold, Corinda SHS	8/8
3. Member	Melissa Blacklock, Corinda SHS	3/8
4. Member	Garry Collins, retired	8/8
5. Member	Erin Geddes, Wynnum SHS	6/8
6. Member	Sophie Johnson	5/8
7. Member	Dr Sherilyn Lennon, Griffith University	5/8
8. Member	Debbie Peden, various schools	5/8
9. Member	Trish Purcell	7/8
10. Member	Matthew Rigby, Go Grammar Consulting	4/8
11. Member	Naomi Russell, Brisbane Grammar School	3/8
12. Member	Anne Wood, Aquinas College	6/6

As new members elected at last year's AGM, Anne Wood and Lindsay Williams attended from May onwards. In addition, Sophie Johnson tendered her resignation from the committee at the November meeting of the Management Committee, effective immediately.

### Patron

There was no patron elected in 2019.

### Venue for Management Committee meetings

Most of the meetings of the Management Committee were again held in a board room at the offices of the IEUA-QNT (Independent Education Union Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch) in Turbot Street Spring Hill. This space is provided free of charge. The union's generous support has been in place for many years and is much appreciated by ETAQ.

### 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 three years were as follows:

Year	Life	Full (i.e. individual)	Student	Retiree	Corporate	Total	Estimated total # reached
2017	8	236	57	18	148	467	2835
2018	9	292	30	11	176	518	2992
2019	10	254	37	17	169	487	3495

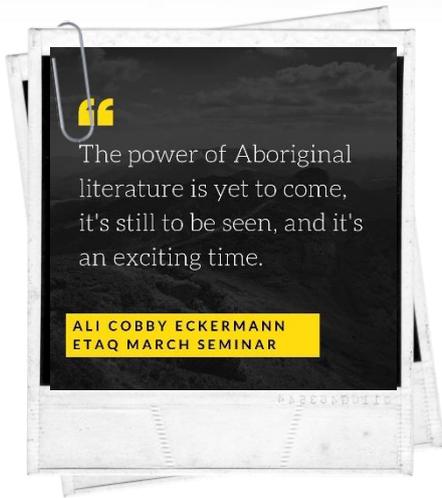
## Professional Learning Activities

Face-to-face professional learning activities were conducted in Brisbane, Townsville and Darling Downs regions during 2019 as detailed below.

The 2019 professional learning suite was entitled *Ready, Set, Action*. The suite incorporated the March Seminar (*Ready, Set, Read*), the May Masterclass (*Ready, Set, Mark*), and the State Conference Program (*Ready, Set, Go*).



This year also saw the rebranding of the Beginning Teachers' Day to the Early Career Conference to better reflect the vision of what the event offers for those who are in their early career of teaching subject English. Garry Collins also generously offered to run his Grammar Day again this year.



### March Seminar: Ready, Set, Read

*Corinda State High School, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019  
Half-Day Seminar (Keynote address plus a suite of supporting workshops)  
Convened by Julie Arnold*

Focusing on fostering a love for Literature and Poetry, the March Seminar was held at Corinda State High School. Offering 3 hours 35 minutes of CPD, the conference was attended by 192 delegates. A keynote was provided by Ali Cobby-Eckermann, and was supported by a variety of panels and workshops examining various aspects of literary fiction and poetry being offered in the new senior programs.

### May Masterclass: Ready, Set, Mark

*University of Queensland (St Lucia Campus), Saturday 18th May 2019  
Full Day Masterclass (2 Keynote addresses plus collaborative planning)  
Convened by Danielle Gordon and Garry Collins*

Focusing on Quality Assessment Practice, particularly endorsement, the May Masterclass was attended by 266 members. With keynotes from ETANSW President Karen Yager and Satu Cooper (QCAA Principal Project Officer: Endorsement), attendees were provided with 4 hours 45 minutes of CPD that incorporated information on the endorsement process and ways to support their students through the external examination process. Attendees were also given time to undertake collaborative planning with their teams with the support of expert teachers.



### State Conference: Ready, Set, Go



- Date: Saturday 17 August 2019
- Type: full-day conference
- CPD hours: 7 hours 25 minutes
- Theme: Ready, Set, Go
- Format: 2 x keynote addresses plus suite of supporting workshops
- Keynote speaker (morning): Professor Bronwyn Lee, University of Queensland

- Keynote speaker (afternoon): Dr Claire Hansen, James Cook University
- Attendance: 399
- Venue: Lourdes Hill College
- Convenors: Jeffrey Lewis and Matthew Rigby

#### Early Career Conference

- Date: Saturday 26 October 2019
- Type: seminar
- CPD hours: 5 hours 25 minutes
- Format: Series of short presentations
- Keynote: Madonna King
- Attendance: 45 attendees
- Venue: University of Southern Queensland, Springfield
- Convenor: Melissa Blacklock



#### Garry's Grammar Day

- Date: Saturday 9 November 2019
- Type: half-day (9-12:30) class activity
- CPD hours: 3 hours
- Format: presentations, exercises & discussions
- Presenter: Garry Collins
- Attendance: 31
- Venue: Iona College

## Regional Events

### Townsville Branch

Presented four activities during 2019.

#### Atherton SHS presented sharing experiences and practical advice relating to different contexts

- Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- CPD: 2 hours
- Presenters: Ellen McGuigan, Virginia Arbouin, Kym Zupp, Cathy Campbell, Carly Sopronick and Belinda Hampton.
- Venue: Pimlico SHS

- Attendance: 26

#### [James Cook University presented Digital Storytelling](#)

- Date: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- CPD: 3 hours
- Presenter: Associate Professor Ryan Cordell (Northeastern University, Boston)
- Venue: James Cook University
- Attendance: 17

#### [Structuring Analytical responses to explicitly demonstrate syllabus objective 4](#)

- Date: Saturday 27 July
- CPD: 2.5 hours
- Presenter: Grace Loyden
- Venue: Townsville Grammar school
- Attendance: 24

#### [Thou Wouldst Be Great – Bell Shakespeare Regional Project](#)

- Date: Saturday 19 October
- CPD: 2 hours
- Presenters: Rosie Maguire, Amy Proud and Charlie Thomson
- Venue: St Patrick's College, The Strand
- Attendance: 26

#### [Darling Downs Branch](#)

##### [An Afternoon with Lindsay Williams](#)

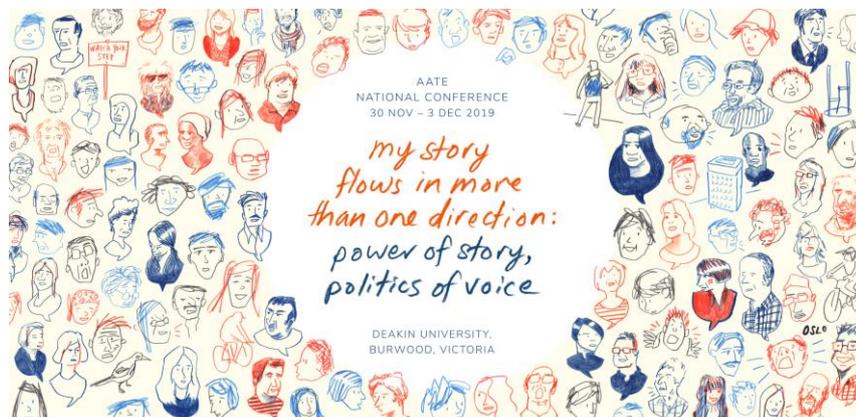
- Date: Wednesday 16 October
- CPD: 2 hours
- Presenters Lindsay Williams
- Venue: Centenary Heights State High School, Toowoomba
- Attendance: 90

##### [An Afternoon of Moderation](#)

- Date: Wednesday 30 October
- CPD: 2 hours
- Presenter: Rohan Davis
- Venue: Fairholme College

## 2019 Australian Association for the Teaching of English Conference

The 2019 AATE national conference was held in Melbourne over the period 30 November - 3 December. The theme was *My Story Flows in More Than One Direction: Power of Story, Politics of Voice*.



### Assisted attendance at conferences

Fiona Laing (president), Erin Geddes (editor of *Words'Worth*), Karena Laracy, Belinda Hampton and John Thomas were all assisted with early bird registration to attend the national conference. Kelli McGraw registered for one day only and also received payment of her registration.

The Jim Buckley Memorial Scholarship to assist members in regional and rural areas attend state conference was offered again this year but due to a lack of applications was not awarded. Traditionally, this scholarship covers registration and \$200 towards costs for travel and accommodation.

### 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. During 2019, Erika Boas performed the role of President. Fiona Laing was president-elect in 2019 and will take on presidency in 2020. Lindsay Williams served as ETAQ delegate to the AATE national council.



**Australian  
Association for the  
Teaching of  
English**

The 2019 AATE national conference was conducted in early December in Melbourne as an AATE only conference. The Sydney AATE conference incorporates the international association for English teachers, IFTE in its 2020 conference. In Brisbane, a joint AATE/ALEA conference is being planned for July 2021, with the venue confirmed as St Laurences's College, South Brisbane.

Council business was conducted via email, teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings. The first meeting was at English House on June 15-16, followed by the AGM which preceded the Melbourne AATE conference on 30 November.

Besides this routine business, some key AATE advocacy activities during the year were:

- Collaborating with The Red Room Company to publish ***Poems to Share II***. Excitingly, this resource won both the Gold and Silver awards at the Education Publishing Awards Australia in September. E4AC (digital resources for the Australian Curriculum 7-10) was released in 2019.
- Strong partnership with Reading Australia has seen many units made available for free to English teachers, with a recent project focusing on Indigenous books through Magdabala Books. AATE was represented at a World International Property Organisation event in Geneva by Phil Page, treasurer of AATE and manager of AATE's relationship with Reading Australia. We maintain a strong continuing relationship with Copyright Australia, AATE's strongest financial supporter.
- The ***Creating Microfiction*** publication was launched at the AATE Conference in December 2019.
- A series of digital resources have been made available for sale on the AATE website. The next text to be launched in Sydney at AATE/IFTE conference will be on dystopian fiction, followed by a text focusing on approaches to the novel.
- Larissa McLean-Davies continued to chair an editorial collective for *English in Australia* in 2019, and published a First Nation English special edition of the journal in November, 2019. Kelli McGraw will assume leadership of the editorial collective in 2020.
- Six editions of English Matters were published through the AATE website to provide more information on the functioning of the national body.
- AATE organized a national visiting scholar tour for 2020, featuring US Professor Jeffrey Wilhelm and including SAETA, ETAQ and TATE.
- AATE has finalised its management of ALEA as of July 31 and has taken on a project management role for TATE, continues managing SAETA and has newly taken on the SA library association.

Three reports on ETAQ activities were provided for publication in the AATE journal *English in Australia*.



### Book Sales

The bookstall which sells a selection of AATE and Phoenix publications was well patronised at all professional development events this year. The financial results appear in the Treasurer's Report.

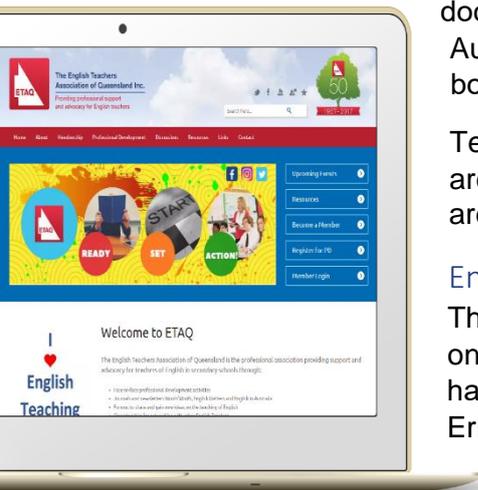
### Publications

Words'Worth was still edited by Erin Geddes in 2019 but she has handed the role to Debbie Owens for 2020. Three editions of Words'Worth were published during the year and mailed to members. These have also been placed in the members only area of the website for future reference. Of particular note were reviews of new textbooks for the senior curriculum and exemplar work from Year 11 students commencing the new curriculum. Members have also been supplied with 1 edition of *English in Australia*.

## Digital Technologies

### Online website resources

ETAQ has continued to grow our digital presence over 2019. Currently our website ([www.etaq.org.au](http://www.etaq.org.au)) offers a range of functionalities, including online registrations for PD events, online membership sign-up and payment, and a member's section in which resources shared by presenters are stored from PD events, including recordings and presentation documents. We also house previous issues of Words'Worth and English in Australia in this section, with links to back catalogues to the national body's (AATE) website.



Teachers in schools covered by corporate membership and non-members are also able to sign up to receive e-pistles and other news items which are regularly mailed out. This service now reaches over 2,500 members.

### Engagement with social media

The 2019 year has been an exciting one for our online platforms. Building on the successes of the Social Media Team (SMT) in the 2018 year, we have increased our team's ranks with Jasmine Knox, Naomi Russell and Erin Geddes who delved into the world of podcasting. As such, we have added SoundCloud to our digital media platforms. With refreshed graphics and logos across our platforms to tie in with the 2019 PD suite and provide a contemporary and

professional look for our digital platforms, we have seen significant increases in engagement across the board.

### Expanding our online engagement

The core aim of 2019 was to sustain the growth each of our platforms have experienced over the past two years, conservatively aiming for a 10% increase in members for each platform over the year. It is with great excitement that we achieved these goals by July 2019 and continued to increase over the remainder of the year. Significant milestones include:

- moving past 2500 likes on our Facebook page
- over 1000 members in our closed member group.
- Our Instagram account has seen a significant increase in numbers having reached close to 500 members, the largest engagement base across our state counterparts.
- We have maintained our Twitter presence during professional development events, with engagement in online platforms on the day reaching approximately 800-1000 individuals per post.



Statistics for membership engagement across our platforms is as follows:

Platform	2016	2017	2018	2019
Facebook Page (likes)	1220	1764	2225	2722
Facebook Closed Group	400	503	832	1202
Twitter	Unavailable	746	840	873
Instagram	N/A	143	379	491
SoundCloud	N/A	N/A	N/A	12

### Working with regional members

We have also looked to expand our social media operations to better incorporate the work and activities of our regional branches, having helped to promote the events and successes of our branches in North Queensland and the Darling Downs. We are looking to further increase this expansion in 2020.

### Improving our practice

As part of the 2019 period, an updated Media Policy has been approved by the Management Committee, broadening its focus to general media guidelines to help outline:

- ethical and appropriate use of our digital media platforms,
- guidelines for the collection, storage, and sharing of member resources,
- the adaptation and sharing of ETAQ and third-party media
- processes and guidelines for the operations of the ETAQ SMT
- processes and documentation regarding informed consent of the collection, storage, and usage of image (both still and moving) or creative works for the purposes of ETAQ business.

A copy of this policy is available on the ETAQ website.

### Looking to the future

It may be the end of a decade, but the SMT is embracing 2020 vision to grow our online engagement further. Projects for the new year include the launch of our LinkedIn platform to develop high quality professional networks and professional learning promotion. We are also looking to review our podcasting platform to refine the way we produce and publish quality content for Queensland English Teachers.

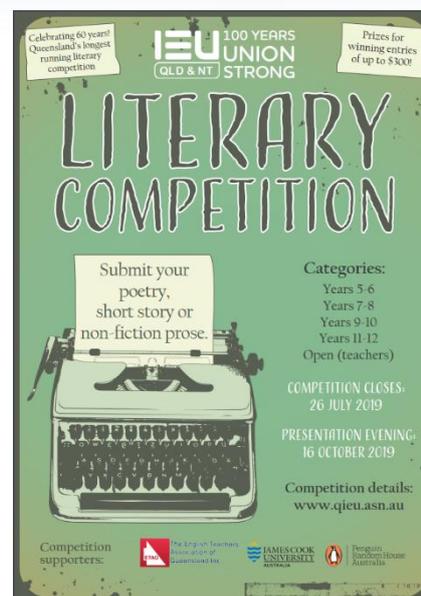


## Competitions

### QIEU Literary Competition 2019

The Literary Competition enjoyed its 60<sup>th</sup> year since commencing in March 1959 with 771 entries received this year. The winning entries were published in the November 2019 issue of the IEUA-QNT's journal, *The Independent Voice*, as well as featuring on ETAQ's official website, together with the judges' comments. The winners in each category and the judges' remarks will be published in editions of ETAQ's magazine, *Wordsworth*, in 2020.

The breakdown of entries was as follows:



	Category	Entrants
A Years 11-12	Non-Fiction Prose	21
	Short Story	126
	Poetry	18
B Years 9-10	Short Story	109
	Poetry	39
C Years 7-8	Short Story	114
	Poetry	47
D Years 5-6	Short Story	205
	Poetry	55
E Open Teachers	Short Story	37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>771</b>

The Queensland Multicultural Centre at Kangaroo Point was once again the venue for showcasing the literary talents of the awardees with the Presentation Evening being held there on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. In attendance were dignitaries from the IEUA-QNT (Andrew Elphinstone (President), Mr Terry Burke (Branch Secretary) and ETAQ (Fiona Lang, President). Our guest speaker this year was Sara El Sayed, an Egyptian-born freelance writer and Master of Fine Arts student based in Brisbane. Sara spoke of the influence of her grandmother in bringing her to an appreciation for writing and for fostering her creativity. Sara's key message was about the writer giving themselves permission to have fun, let the mind expand and to accept that the writing won't always make sense, but for it to be real and authentic.

The originality checking system (Turnitin), initiated in 2016, was again used for this year's prize winners and Highly Commended entries. Courtesy of the University of Southern Queensland and Stewart Riddle, and managed by Michaela Brittain of the IEUA-QNT, the program confirmed the originality of all writers' works. This authentication process is vital to upholding the integrity of the competition.

Prize monies and judges payments were again paid by electronic funds transfer this year. Sincere thanks to Trish Purcell, ETAQ's Treasurer, for coordinating this process. This competition is made possible with the ongoing support and sponsorship of IEAU-QNT. ETAQ thanks Michaela Brittain, Marion Gardner and Tess Brooks for their invaluable help and support, and Jessica Willis for photographing the evening's event. Thanks also to James Cook University for their sponsorship of the senior non-fiction category. Sincere thanks also to Penguin Random House for their contribution of book prizes for each place-getter.

Heartfelt acknowledgement goes to all students and teachers for their valued submissions. The 1<sup>st</sup> place-getters for 2019 are:

*Section A Non-fiction Prose Years 11-12: Chanuli Jayasena, Sommerville House*

*Section A Short Story Years 11-12: Katie Wainwright, All Saints Anglican School*

*Section A Poetry Years 11-12: Hannah Ostini, Somerville House*

*Section B Short Story Years 9-10: Steven Colyer, Kedron State High School*

*Section B Poem Years 9-10: Olivia Soncin, St Stephen's Catholic College*

*Section C Short Story Years 7-8: Grace Parry, Kenmore State High School*

*Section C Poem Years 7-8: Charlotte White, Coombabah State High School*

*Section D Short Story Years 5-6: Isabelle Tayler, St Dymphna's Primary School*

*Section D Poem Years 5-6: Amaeh Reed, Holy Cross School*

*Section E Short Story Teachers: Elizabeth McKewin, Kenmore State High School*

Acknowledgement must also go to the judges for these various divisions. These judges' time, commitment and expertise is greatly appreciated. They include Stewart Riddle, Damen O'Brien, Esme Robinson, Thomas Bristow, Ross Allen, Garry Collins, Trudie Murrell, Cindy Keong, Beryl Exley, and Debbie Peden. Judges retiring from the competition this year include Ross Allen and Debbie Peden.

A decision has been made to relinquish the sponsorship of James Cook University for future competitions. ETAQ will absorb the \$600 funding previously provided by the University. President, Fiona Laing, has sent a formal communication to JCU to this effect. ETAQ acknowledges the commitment and interest JCU have provided for the Year 11/12 Non-Fiction Prose division over the past eleven years.

2021 will see a new category introduced into the Literary Competition. Following discussions with the IEUA-QNT and ETAQ in November 2019, a category focused on writing that promotes Reconciliation will be introduced. There will be no age restriction but with two categories (a non-indigenous author and an indigenous author). The IEUA-QNT will sponsor this category.

Debbie Peden has been ETAQ's coordinator for this competition since 2010. Over that ten-year period Debbie has marvelled at the literary ability of the writers who submit their work. After a decade in the role of ETAQ competition coordinator, Debbie has decided it is time to step aside. Anne Wood will be ETAQ's coordinator for the competition in 2020.

## Branches

Professional learning activities reported on above. Events have been well attended.

## Peter Botsman Memorial Award

There were no recipients for the Peter Botsman Memorial Award this year. ETAQ is committed to promoting the nomination process broadly and inviting nominees in both school-based teaching and tertiary education.

Pam Brennan received a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the 2019 State Conference.

## Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations

ETAQ continued its membership of the Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations (JCQTA) in 2019. Early in the year, Danielle Gordon, a member of the PD Subcommittee, replaced Garry Collins as ETAQ's delegate to JCQTA. Danielle was subsequently elected president of JCQTA and we anticipate this will further strengthen our partnership. Meetings were routinely held at the offices of the Queensland College of Teachers at Toowong.

In 2020 JCQTA will be focusing on how they can best support their members. The online conferencing platform, Zoom, will be offered to member associations, there will be a continuation of the annual President's dinner and Ros Korkatzis Memorial Forum as well as offering further seminars on matters of interest to all Queensland associations.

Annual membership of JCQTA currently costs ETAQ \$99. The two activities for 2019 other than routine meetings were the President's Dinner in February and the annual forum and AGM on Wednesday 21 August.

Discussion at the President's Dinner meeting included Jacqui Wilton from QCAA giving an update on the progression of senior subjects as Queensland moves to external exams.

Danielle Gordon attended the annual forum in August. This included a presentation by Kym Turner on the new regional DET centres for Learning and Wellbeing and an update from QCT by Dianne Fishbourne.

The outgoing JCQTA president and treasurer have been rendering sterling service in their positions for quite some time and have now stood down.

## Conclusion

The continued rate of high attendance at our professional development events this year is a testament to the professionalism and engagement of English teachers in Queensland. ETAQ hopes to continue supporting our members through the provision of high-quality professional learning experiences.

Jeffrey Lewis

Secretary for The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

21 March 2020