



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

Providing professional support
and advocacy for English teachers

Secretary's Report

Presented to the 55th Annual General Meeting of
The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

*Saturday 12 March 2022
Iona College, 85 North Road, Lindum*

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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 2021.

Executive Committee

Management Committee

The Management Committee met eight times during 2021. Meetings were held monthly except for January, August and December. The February and March meetings comprised members of the outgoing 2020-21 committee.

Those elected at the AGM held in March 2021 were:

Position	Name	Meetings attended
President	Dr Lindsay Williams	8/8
Vice President	Anne Wood, A.B. Paterson College	8/8
Secretary	Jeffrey Lewis, Brisbane Grammar School	6/8
Treasurer	Dr Kelli McGraw, QUT	8/8
Professional Learning Director	Julie Arnold, QUT	7/8
1. Member	Cameron Atkinson	1/8
2. Member	Garry Collins, retired	7/8
3. Member	Maxwell Forbes, John Paul College	4/8
4. Member	Belinda Hampton, Atherton SHS	6/8
5. Member	Fiona Laing, Forest Lake SHS	8/8
6. Member	Grace Loyden, Brisbane Boys College	4/8
7. Member	Narelle McBride, Warwick SHS	5/8
8. Member	Debbie Owens, St Ursula's College, Yeppoon	6/8
9. Member	Trish Purcell	8/8
10. Member	Naomi Russell, Brisbane Grammar School	4/8
11. Member	Kelly Whiteway, A.B Paterson College	5/8

Patron

Dr Sherilyn Lennon continued to serve as patron of ETAQ in 2021.

Venue for Management Committee meetings

Meetings were held at the offices of the IEUA-QNT (Independent Education Union Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch) in Turbot Street Spring Hill when COVID restrictions enabled this, as well as hosted online using Zoom. ETAQ is very thankful to JCQTA, who provide a Zoom subscription that teacher associations have been able to access and use to maintain operations in the age of social distancing. We are also appreciative of the union’s generous support, which has been in place for many years.

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
2019	10	254	37	17	169	487
2020	10	263	34	9	184	500
2021	10	262	50	2	173	497

Professional Learning Activities

The 2021 professional learning suite was entitled ‘Challenge and Change’. It was a theme fitting the times, and amongst the many challenges, ETAQ is proud of the range of events that were offered across the calendar year, especially as QLD hosted this year’s AATE/ALEA conference as well. With online access to the Townsville branch’s incredible program, ETAQ members had access to an extraordinary number of high-quality professional learning experiences.

March Seminar: Challenge and Change

- Date: Saturday 13 March 2021
- Type: Full-day Seminar
- CPD hours: 7 hours
- Format: 2 keynotes + 3 workshop sessions
- Keynote 1: Dr Jennifer Alford, QUT
- Keynote 2: Tristan Bancks
- Venue: Iona College, Zoom and Vimeo
- Convenors: Anne Wood and Debbie Owens

May Masterclass: Analysing Text in Junior and Senior English

- Date: Saturday 15 May 2021
- Type: Masterclass
- CPD hours: 3 hours 15 mins
- Theme: Challenge and Change: Analysing Text in Junior and Senior English
- Format: 2 keynotes + collaborative planning
- Keynote 1: Lisa Bottomley, QCAA
- Keynote 2: Dr. Lindsay Williams, QCAA and ETAQ
- Venue: University of Queensland, Zoom and Vimeo
- Convenors: Danielle Gordon and Garry Collins

Challenge and Change for External Assessment (Student Event)

- Date: Multiple Dates
- Type: Online video + Zoom Q&A
- Theme: Diving Deep into External Assessment
- Format: 1 video examining the essay genre + 1 text-specific lecture
- Text workshops offered by various academics.
- Venue: Zoom and Vimeo
- Convenors: Julie Arnold and Fiona Laing

Challenge and Change for External Assessment (Teacher Event)

- Date: Saturday 7 August 2021
- Type: online video + Zoom Q&A
- Theme: Diving Deep into External Assessment
- Format: Workshops on teacher preparation for the exam + Zoom collaboration.
- Venue: Zoom and Vimeo
- Convenors: Julie Arnold and Fiona Laing

Early Career Conference – Finding Your Feet

- Date: Saturday 23 October 2021
- Type: Face to face; recordings of keynote and some selected sessions
- CPD hours: 4 hours 45 minutes
- Format: Keynote – Carly Sopronick: face to face workshops
- Venue: Wynnum SHS

- Convenors: Ellen McGuigan and Belinda Hampton

Essential English Community of Practice

- Date: Saturday 6 November 2021
- Type: half-day (9-12:30) class activity
- CPD hours: 3 hours 15 mins
- Format: Short presentations (4) and 2 workshops
- Convenor: Chrystal Carseldine
- Venue: Deception Bay SHS

Grammar Workshops

4 Saturday workshops were conducted as follows. Locations were determined by members volunteering to host the activity at their schools.

Date - 2021	Location	# Registered	# Participated
27 March	Hervey Bay SHS	24	20
29 May	Elanora SHS (Gold Coast)	24	18
28 August	Beaudesert SHS	21	21
20 November	John Paul College (Brisbane)	14	11

- Type: half-day (9 am – 1 pm) class activity. An innovation this year was to issue a warm-up worksheet 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 1-10 Australian Curriculum: English (AC:E). Also highly relevant to Years 11 & 12.
- CPD hours: 3.5 hours
- Format: presentations, exercises & discussions
- Presenter: Garry Collins

Regional Events

Townsville Branch

The Townsville branch had a fabulous year with four activities each constituting 2 hours of CPD.

AGM + Literature Spectacular

- Date: Saturday 13 February
- Presenter: Graham Joseph
- Venue: Ryan Catholic College via Zoom

Shakespeare JCU Spectacular

- Date: Saturday 22 May
- Presenter: Dr Claire Hansen
- Venue: Zoom

“Voices in the Past, Voice in the Present”

- Date: Saturday 24 July
- Presenters: Susan McCosker and Nicole Broadley
- Venue: Annandale Christian School via Zoom

Embedding Indigenous Perspectives in Australian Short Story Unit

- Date: Saturday 16 October
- Presenters: Rebecca Stretton, Ethan Collins and Heather Fraser
- Venue: Zoom

2021 AATE/ALEA Conference



The 2021 AATE/ALEA conference was hosted by Queensland from July 7-9 2021, but held online as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was ‘Challenge and Change: Contemporary Literacy and English Teaching’. The conference was co-convened by ETAQ and the local ALEA council. With a strong line-up of First Nations presenters, The Garth Boomer address this year was given by Kamilaroi woman, Dr Melitta Hogarth. Specifically for secondary teachers, other popular speakers included academic and writer Associate Professor Anita Heiss, writer Dr Benjamin Law and poet Ellen van Neerven. Due to the online nature of the conference, the full registration cost for three days was a very reasonable \$250, which resulted in a pleasing 461 registrations. A special thanks is extended to those who served on the steering committee, our colleagues at ALEA, including co-convenor Dr Linda Willis, and ETAQ members, Fiona Laing (original co-convenor), Dr Lindsay Williams (co-convenor), Garry Collins (treasurer), Dr Kelli McGraw (program committee co-chair) and Heather Fraser (social committee co-chair). Thanks also to the many other ETAQ members who assisted in various ways during the planning stages and throughout the conference, and to QUT for providing space for our conference hub. ETAQ members Ellen McGuigan and Kara Robinson received Copyright Agency Cultural Fund scholarships to attend the conference.

Assisted attendance at conferences

Debbie Owens (editor of *Words'Worth*), Fiona Laing and Heather Fraser were assisted with early bird registration to attend the national conference.

AATE - National Activity

In the past twelve months, besides the usual editions of *English in Australia*, AATE has published *Novel Ideas: Teaching fiction in the middle years* edited by Erika Boas and Rosie Kerin which was shortlisted as the best Secondary Teaching Resource in the 2021 Educational Publishing Awards Australia. This and other popular AATE texts were supported by webinars demonstrating how they can be used to support English teaching. For the second time in as many years, the national conference was held online. As Queensland was hosting, a longer report is provided elsewhere. AATE, however, was the professional conference organiser for the conference, with Wendy Rush and Jared van Abkoude showing great initiative and resilience in managing the complexities associated with the conference. Feedback has been given to the national council on how the national office staff can be supported in managing future conferences. The 2022 AATE ALEA national conference is being held in Darwin. As members will know, a review of and public consultation on the *Australian Curriculum: English* was conducted during 2021. AATE was consulted during this process, advocating on behalf of members throughout the country. AATE's financial position has improved again in the past twelve months and is on track to meet the goals approved by the national council.



**Australian
Association for the
Teaching of
English**

Publications

For the second year Deb Owens, as editor of ETAQ's journal *Words'Worth*, has encouraged a diverse and informative array of contributions for English teachers' professional reading. Contributions to the first edition for 2021 reflected and supported ETAQ's focus of *Challenge and Change: Actions and Ideas*. In each edition for the year the status of creative writing in its multiple forms stood out as a significant point of focus for teachers across the year levels. Not to neglect the analytical, in the second edition *Challenge and Change: Ruminations and Reasonings*, some contributors reflected on their experiences of the first iteration of the new senior English suite of syllabuses whilst others shared their experiences of presenting advice to teachers and students in preparation for the External Exam texts. In the third edition *Challenge and Change: a Wealth of Words* contributors engaged readers with a wealth of words and knowledge shared across and through the shout-out voices of subject English teachers.

Branches

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

Peter Botsman Memorial Award

Adam Davy (Kelvin Grove State College) received the Peter Botsman award. This was presented at the 2021 March Seminar.

Digital Technologies

Online website resources

In 2021, ETAQ continued to shift our focus toward developing, growing, and supporting our online resources. The pandemic has accelerated our efforts to make professional learning more widely accessible.

As always, our website (www.etaq.org.au) offers a range of functionalities, including online registration for professional learning events, online membership sign-up and payment, and a member's section in which resources from various professional learning sessions are available to our members. We also house previous editions of both *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 reaches over 2500 subscribers.



Engagement with social media

Our engagement within our social media platforms has significantly increased, with many people joining and participating in online discussions. ETAQ recognises the invaluable support network that the Facebook Group, in particular, helps to foster. Moderation of our online platforms is a particular focus to ensure we maintain a respectful and professional tone for all communication.

Expanding our online engagement

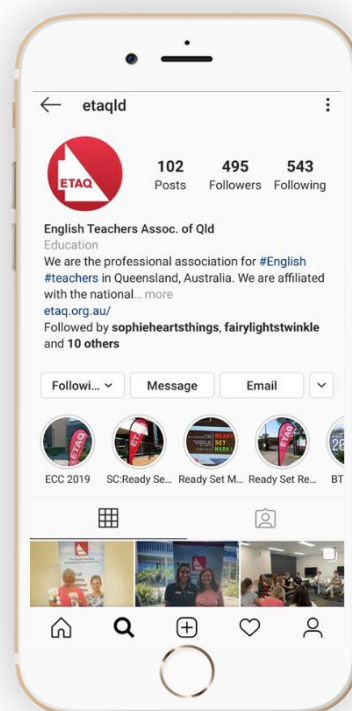
Statistics for membership engagement across our platforms are as follows:

Platform	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Facebook Page (likes)	1764	2225	2722	3081	3280
Facebook Closed Group	503	832	1202	2202	2925
Twitter	746	840	873	902	906
Instagram	143	379	491	549	627
LinkedIn	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	67

Improving our practice

We have continued to review and reflect on our management of the online social media practices and have continued to follow the processes of the ETAQ Media Policy. This policy outlines how we approach:

- 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.

Competitions

IEUA-QNT Literary Competition 2021



The number of entries submitted to the 2021 IEUA-QNT Literary competition continues to exceed our expectations. Queensland students this year reflected on the challenges of the world in which they live in their writing. Dystopian and science fiction genres were extremely popular. Not surprisingly, themes connected to global warming and the impact of the pandemic underpinned a majority of senior short stories. In the younger year levels, students wrote about a diverse range of topics and utilised the conventions of a wider variety of genres, including fantasy, mythology, fairy tales, and reflective texts. The poetry category for all year levels continues to attract high-quality poems, which demonstrate quality craftsmanship and the ability to elicit an emotional response. In the Non-fiction section, essays skilfully drew on conventions of journalistic writing and addressed thought-provoking topics. The challenging times in which we live have inspired many young Queensland writers to produce exceptional pieces of literature.

Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations

JCQTA is prioritising advocacy for our members in 2021 and 2022 as we continue to work with the evolving situations influenced by COVID.

The current JCQTA executive consists of Danielle Gordon (ETAQ), Sheryl Saunders (MLTAQ), Phillipa Greig (BTAQ), Jackie Mergard (STAQ), Angela White (Adolescent Success) and Anne Wood (ETAQ), so ETAQ is well represented in this state association. 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.

In line with Goal 1, 2021 has been a successful year in providing JCQTA with opportunities to advocate on behalf of all of our member associations. This year we have had the opportunity to provide feedback, be a critical friend and be involved in decisions regarding:

- Quarterly meetings with Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment
- Schools Stakeholder Forum
- Initial Teacher Education Consultation and Submission
- Automatic Mutual Recognition Scheme
- Highly Accomplished Lead Teacher Summit
- Australian Teacher Workforce Data Survey
- My Teaching Advice Platform
- AITSL VET in schools

In line with Goal 2, and supporting professional learning and collaboration, JCQTA has, and will continue to offer support through:

- Professional development, eg. Governance training and information
- Promotion of all members at the Teach QLD Career fairs held in Brisbane
- Availability of secure storage space in Coorparoo
- Annual Presidents' dinner (this year, in May)

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 past two years have been transformative for ETAQ. The theme of our professional learning program was 'Challenge and Change', an apt focus for our times, and particularly prescient in the circumstances. We have faced tremendous challenges, but the changes that have resulted have strengthened our ability to realise our core mission, particularly for teachers beyond the south-east corner of our vast state.

It seems clear now that our professional learning must continue to cater to a digital audience. The Management Committee is pleased that we've been able to return to in-person events at various points in 2021 and feel that this is still an essential way of connecting and learning together. But for those who would have typically been excluded because of costs, or distance,

the sense of community has been vitally important. Simply put – we cannot take a backward step from here and must reflect on how we continue to improve our online offerings. Our experience in convening the 2021 AATE/ALEA Conference validates these conclusions.

The digital transformation has also enabled us to broaden the range of voices who comprise our Management Committee. With expert guidance from volunteers across our state, we are shaping up to be a more mature, diverse, and responsive organisation.

Our association is in a strong position, and we are excited to face new challenges we may encounter knowing that we have the backing of a passionate, engaged membership.

Jeffrey Lewis

Secretary for The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

12 March 2022