

Saturday 19 August 2017 State Conference

Transcript of President's speech

Jim Buckley Memorial Scholarship

It is very apt today to recognise Jim Buckley through the scholarship which has been established in his name. Part of Jim's legacy has been to sponsor teachers from around the state, as well as a pre-service teacher, to attend the state conference. For a man who spent a great deal of his



teaching time in far-flung parts of our state, this has been a very appropriate way to remember him. Jim began his teaching career in Townsville in the 1950s and joined ETAQ at its inception in 1967. We certainly remember his work as treasurer and later administration officer. We remember his attention to detail and his careful management of our resources for members. But mostly people remember the caring and gentle soul of each event who welcomed most by name and committed to making events work for members all around the state. Nature's gentleman. Congratulations to John Thomas, this year's recipient of the Jim Buckley Memorial Scholarship for 2017.

Lifetime Membership Presentation to Garry Collins



In this, our 50th birthday year, it is a great privilege to commend to you our newest ETAQ life member, Garry Collins. I cannot think of a more suitable candidate than Garry to receive ETAQ's highest honour. Garry's life has centred on his commitment

to English teaching and to subject English. He began teaching at Gladstone SHS in 1969, and worked at Ferny Grove for 27 years and as HOD of English for over 30 years before academia became his focus.

Garry first joined ETAQ in the early 1970s, later the management committee, before assuming the presidency of ETAQ in 2005. We are fortunate that he has brought to the committee his eye for detail and military precision.

He has supported the professional development of English teachers at all stages of their career by offering a workshop at virtually **every** ETAQ seminar or conference, local, state or national, his recent Grammar Days and frequent contributions to *Words'Worth*. Most importantly Garry has been a 'gatherer' of people around common interests and causes, mentoring so many as well as tapping them on the shoulder to join the committee, creating networks. His personal interest in individuals' stories is sincere and infectious. He has also initiated numerous social gatherings to support, share and build a sense of the English community.

During challenging times around the Australian Curriculum, NAPLAN, draft Senior Syllabuses and external assessment, Garry has remained the steady voice of progress.

Garry has a very particular passion for the mechanics of our language and has been an enthusiastic advocate for how a thorough knowledge of functional grammar can empower students - both through his workshops and his contributions to ASFLA national conferences.

Garry co-convened the 2013 AATE/ALEA national conference in Brisbane. He kept the ship sailing confidently to create a successful conference with a sizeable profit. We can also thank Garry for the health and vigour or our relationship with our sister organisation, ALEA.

Garry has also played a major role in supporting ETAQ's literary competition as organiser, judge and strong supporter since the early 2000s.

Finally, Garry has played a very significant role in the national and international sphere as ETAQ delegate for AATE and then AATE president for four years. His contributions have helped to lead the state and national associations through changing times for all educators. In an era in which there has been an unprecedented level of emotional interest by the community in student 'outcomes', Garry has helped to protect the integrity of what is most important in our work: how we can best support students' confidence with literacy, and to nurture their love of literature and learning. Garry is a very worthy recipient of life membership because of his commitment to ETAQ, to English and to English teaching.

I ask you to join with me in congratulating ETAQ's newest life member – Garry Collins.

Garry Collins Lifetime Membership Reply:

I know time is of the essence So my comments must be terse, I therefore thought it prudent To set them out in verse.

I'm sure that there are some of you Averse to doggerel rhyming, But I think you also will agree It really helps with timing.

I'm channelling Esmé Robinson Who as president in her time Would oft kick off PD events With her own home-written rhyme.

ETAQ 's made me a life member And I really do feel humble, I hope that in this little speech I will not trip nor stumble. Thanks Fiona and thanks ETAQ,
For those words so very kind.
This award is one, when first I joined,
I little thought to find.

Life membership in this 50th year
Is a really pleasing touch.
You can be sure, for this award,
I thank ETAQ very much.

To sign up to committees I've long suffered from the urge, And on succeeding Karen Moni I found I'd time to splurge,

When ETAQ was formed I still had hair And was not yet a teacher, But this body, of my professional life, Has proved a vital feature.

About ETAQ I have often thought President Kennedy 's words so fit, Asking not just what it could do for me, But what I could do for it.

I'm pleased to have had the chance
To do some service minor.
I would not have passed up the gig
For all the tea in China.

In supporting English teachers
I've been rewarded for my part
By having committee colleagues
Who are generous, kind and smart..

I'll sum up now with this remark:
You've made me very proud.
All can be sure that while I've breath.
I'll sing ETAQ 's praises loud.

Recognition of Presidents

Garry has been president of ETAQ from 2005–2014. I now invite, to join Garry on stage, three former presidents of ETAQ. Today we have the privilege of having with us:

John Carr president from 1979–1982 who shepherded ETAQ through a transition period and helped to focus the organisation on curriculum change and its implications for teachers.

Esme Robinson whose presidency from 1982–1992 accompanied a doubling of membership and a raft of professional development coordinated in concert with a range of new teacher organisations and who was well known for her ability to dash off witty and relevant sonnets at many events.

And Jane Greenwood, from 1995–2001, who brought to her role, dynamism, up to the minute curriculum knowledge and the ability to always see the big picture.

Join me in congratulating and celebrating those who have led ETAQ over parts of the last 50 years, our past presidents.

We also remember the former presidents who are not here today or no longer with us including: Harry Allsop who started the whole thing off with his meeting in 1967 to plan ETAQ's inauguration; Merv Grayson; Gilbert Case, who was responsible for setting up ETAQ's relationship with AATE; Dr Pat Diamond; Brigid Felsman (nee Gaffney); Dr Lenore Ferguson, also the careful writer of our history, due to be published a year from now; and Associate Professor Karen Moni, who presided over the national conference in 2005 at the Gold Coast and moved on to become the AATE president.

It is worth noting, at this point, that one of our branches, the North Queensland branch, has had a very long-serving president in Heather Fraser. Heather has committed an enormous amount to her branch since she began in 1983 with a small break and continues in this role today.



Garry Collins



John Carr



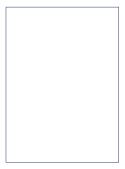
Esmé Robinson



Jane Greenwood



Harry Allsop*



Merv Grayson*



Gilbert Case



Dr Pat Drummond



Brigid Felsman (nee Gaffney)



Dr Lenore Ferguson



Associate Professor Karen Moni



Heather Fraser

Recognition of Life Members

Each of these presidents here on our stage is also counted amongst our list of those held in the greatest of esteem, ETAQ's life members. I ask the following life members to join me on the stage:

Pam Brennan, ETAQ's secretary for an extraordinary period of time, one who has brought grace and equanimity to all proceedings.

And Glyn Davies, patron of ETAQ in the 1980's who is credited with providing wise and careful guidance of ETAQ as well as entertaining the many at numerous events – the consummate after-dinner speaker.

Please congratulate ETAQ's life members. Let us also recognise the life members who are not here to share with us today: Jim Buckley, Des Carroll, Gilbert Case, Bev Farley, Br Daniel Mooney, Margaret Ramsay, Jeanette Ryan, Paul Sherman, and Nea Stewart-Dore. I ask Glyn to remain with us as we lastly recognise ETAQ's patrons over the past 50 years.



Pam Brennan



Glyn Davies



Jim Buckley*



Des Carroll*



Gilbert Case



Bev Farley



Br Daniel Mooney*



Margaret Ramsay



Jeannette Ryan*



Paul Sherman*



Dr Nea Stewart-Dore*



John Carr



Esme Robinson



Jane Greenwood



Garry Collins



Dr Lenore Ferguson

Recognition of Patrons ____

Our other patrons, who cannot be with us today or are no longer with us, include: Professor Ken Hamilton, C R Roberts, Dr Peter Botsman, Dr Nea Stewart-Dore, Professor Peter Freebody and Professor Catherine Beavis. Lastly, I invite our current patron Dr Anita Jetnikoff to join us on stage. Please congratulate Glyn and Anita and all of our past patrons.



Glyn Davies



Prof Ken Hamilton



C R Roberts*



Dr Peter Botsman*



Dr Nea Stewart-Dore



Prof Peter Freebody



Dr Wendy Morgan



Prof Catherine Beavis



Dr Anita Jetnikoff



I Heart English Campaign

The idea for the 'I heart English teaching' campaign was born over 18 months ago — wouldn't it be wonderful to celebrate all the positives of our profession, and the people who really love English teaching? So we set ourselves a challenge: in the year leading up to our 50th birthday celebrations, we would profile 50 outstanding English teachers.

We hoped for a few things:

- A chance to celebrate teachers of all ages and stages who are doing a wonderful job in their schools and communities
- In doing so, remind other English teachers
 of the highlights of the job, which can
 sometimes get lost in the stress of the day to
 day.
- And more broadly, raise the status of our profession by creating some positive publicity around English teaching.

The process of completing these profiles has been highly rewarding. I would personally like to recognise the generosity of those teachers who participated, and thank them for their honesty and openness. Their responses have been beautiful, insightful and heart-warming, and have inspired thousands across the state.

Please join with me in offering a round of applause for these wonderful professionals.

The response has been overwhelming. Our social engagement has tripled in the last year, and we've seen some profiles reach thousands of people, most notably, Julianne Harris' profile which reached 9,151 people, and Julie Arnold's post, which reached 5,897 people. Prior to the 'I heart English' teaching campaign, we could only dream of so many people interacting with our social media. But the greatest joy has been seeing the lovely, affirming comments left on these posts by colleagues, old friends, and past students. These have highlighted just how strong the reach of English teachers really is.

As we draw the campaign to a close today with our last teacher profiles, I would ask you to remember that these teachers are only examples of the important, and life-changing work we do in our schools every day. Indeed, everyone here today is an outstanding English teacher in their own way.

And now we turn our attention to the future. 2019 is going to be a new frontier for English teachers in Queensland. We can see on the horizon a shift to high definition syllabuses, external testing, and the prospect of a brand new subject: Literature. These are exciting times, and offer us the opportunity to closely scrutinise the way we operate as individual teachers, and as a professional organisation.

We understand that these changes involve some unique challenges for English teachers, which prompts us to reassess what we offer our members in terms of support. In 2018, we are looking at making broad and sweeping changes to our professional development offerings. We have spent the past year working with our branch managers, academics, and experts in the field, to create a new and innovative PD program which will go further in supporting our members in transitioning to the new regime, and considering the implications it has for English teaching right down to Year 7.

It is our intention to provide a suite of new face-to-face PD offerings which are more interactive, while making better use of academics and experts to support teachers in their planning and implementation. We are negotiating with syllabus experts and the QCAA to help teachers access the best information to enhance their skills, and investigating ways to take this information to the far flung reaches of our state. And we hope, in the process, to create stronger networks within our teaching communities, enhancing collegiality, with the aim that no teacher feels alone throughout this process.

We are excited; 2018 is going to be a great year for ETAQ. Keep an eye on our publications for details of these great new programs. We hope you will join us for our first face-to-face offering of the year – a book club event in March 2018 to explore the prescribed text list.



Peter Botsman Award 2017: Kathleen Macdonald

Peter Botsman started as a primary teacher and ended up as director of the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, Chairman of the Board and resident expert on education both here and overseas. As Patron of ETAQ from 1981–1987, he made available resources at Kelvin Grove for workshops and encouraged his staff to actively participate. Peter was a supreme academic leader yet a benevolent, compassionate and generous soul. When he died at the age of only 64, it was important that his contribution continue to be remembered through these awards.

ETAQ President Fiona Lang and Kathleen Macdonald

In a state as vast as ours, it is apt that, on the occasion of our 50th birthday, we present the Peter Botsman Memorial Award to Kathleen Macdonald who has played such a significant role in supporting curriculum and pedagogy in her region, as head of department for 21 years at Tully State High School.

Kathleen has, indeed, played a leading role in her region, with her Master of Education in rural education and through her strong contribution to the recent syllabus and curriculum development processes. Her sharing nature and generous spirit are evident in the way she thinks nothing of spending a day driving a four-hour round trip, to guide new HODs through the Queensland system as well as generously sharing her resources around the state.

Kathleen's curriculum leadership skills are impressive. She shares her infectious passion for classic literature, inspiring her teachers and students to 'catch' the love of English. Her achievements, as HOD, include the championing of a range of innovative pedagogical approaches. Under her direction, Tully High hits well above its weight in terms of English, NAPLAN results and reading improvement.

Kathleen's influence is wide. Her work in her region is very highly regarded as she contributes to the organisation of professional development of English teachers in Cairns. She literally goes the extra 300 km or more to absorb, and later apply, a wide range of research. A pedagogical coach, she leads staff capacity-building sessions

in literacy, leads district cluster networks and mentors countless teachers who have gone on to take up leadership roles.

With an incisive, analytical mind, balanced by compassion, humour and humility, Kathleen is a talented educator and a most worthy recipient of the Peter Botsman Award. I invite you to share with me in congratulating Kathleen Macdonald.

Kathleen Macdonald's Botsman Reply:

Hearing those words, it's hard to believe that I was a shy country kid in a city school, who was underestimated by many of my teachers. The two teachers who engaged me, did so through their passion for their subjects — English and Economics. It was no surprise when I knew I didn't want to be a nurse or accountant, that I found myself studying English and Economics at JCU. My life is my work and my work is my life. Being an English teacher is who I am. I feel great joy and inspiration whenever I think of my staff or students. To me, education is empowerment, and the success in my career has been inspiring and empowering others to experience the joy and wonder of learning.

Maybe it was something to do with turning 50 in recent years, but this feeling of certainty in my field wells from a deep knowledge of and connections with people, place and subject matter. Unlike Ozymandias, our works, the result of our labour, are often hidden from us. Connectedness comes from shared memory. One of the beautiful and satisfying aspects of working in a rural area, is that you get to follow

the lives of your students, who are your 'works'. Let me share a few of mine...

Angelique left school at the end of Year 10 to become a fashion designer. She was passionate about two things – poetry and fashion. When her first son was born, she named him after her fav poet from my Year 10 class – Lord Byron. Angelique built her dressmaking business in Tully, and this year won a nationwide competition to have her gown selected for Australia's Miss World to wear at Miss Universe in Washington. Australia's Miss World was another former student, Maddie Cowe. Maddie spoke to the girls of Tully High on International Women's Day about her dual career – pageantry and law – sparked directly by her study of To Kill A Mockingbird.

Close to my heart is a student with Asperger's who cites me as his inspiration to become an English teacher and bravely (and sensibly) explains his condition to his students when he starts with a class. The students who don't go off to university are the ones who fix your car, repair you home, landscape your garden, and look after your children. The ripples of influence that you have as a teacher - you mostly never know. When we are mindful and aware of different circumstances of students, and attuned to needs of different/difficult/under- the-radar kids, we have so much power. As John Steinbeck noted, "The story goes on and leaves the writer behind, for no story is ever done." So it is with our students.

So why do I teach English in the rural deep north – there is absolutely nothing I would rather do. I often joke that even if I won the Lotto, I'd still turn up to work the next day. Although, having spent the past seven weeks driving the UK, I may have found something that rivals my passion for teaching. Deep, intergenerational connections with students, parents and community are exhilarating. There is something I love every day. Being with my classes whether all boys Comm. class of bull riders and footballers or FLI class of SWD, Indigenous community students, Cookies, shy bush kids, high flying academic, my students lift my spirits when I am sick or down. 'in the end... the love you get equals the love you give' ... but the end can be a long time coming.

Some students, parents and teachers ask why we have to learn about Shakespeare or Poetry? My response is... 'to become human, to grow your brain'. Norman Doige, in The Brain's Way of Healing, describes the phenomena of 'learned non-use' of the brain. I'm sure we can all recall people in that boat. Our quest is to impose sufficient challenge to allow a degree of stress which moves students from their comfort zone to a learning zone, before they panic. Regardless of starting point, study in English allows people to move, grow, empathise and explore far beyond their beginnings.

On this special occasion, I'd like to acknowledge and deeply thank my husband, Wayne Morris, who has supported me in every way in my career, whether I was working away in Brisbane, Cairns, or using our family time to do work and mentor others. I also need to acknowledge and thank the other main man in my life, my dear friend, Matthew Rigby for his valued support over three decades.

I was privileged to be a 2002 Syllabus symposium presenter in Townsville to see Pam Gilbert receive her Botsman. I am honoured and humbled to be a Peter Botsman recipient, having known, worked with, and been inspired by many of the previous recipients. I thank you for the privilege.

Recognition of Peter Botsman Award Winners

Last night, we spent time appreciating the skill and commitment of 19 of our Botsman Award winners. The themes which came through were that these people demonstrated:

- Excellence in English teaching and curriculum development
- Commitment to sharing their skills with English teachers
- Advocacy for teachers on committees, boards, review committees or through ETAQ
- Commitment to research for the betterment of the profession



Please join me on the stage as we recognise the Botsman Award winners who are present today: John Acutt, Pam Brennan, Jennyfer Bullen, Rachael Christopherson, Annette Curnow, Heather Fraser, Kathleen Hannant, Katie Lipka, Anita Jetnikoff, Grace Loyden, Margaret Miller, Michelle Ragen, Esme Robinson, Mary Swayne, John Thomas, and Lindsay Williams.

Those who cannot be with us today or are no longer with us include: Professor Nola Alloway, Dr Lenore Ferguson, Pam Gilbert, Lea Harrison, Lisa Jeffcoat, Judith Kearney, Ted Kent, Simon Kindt, Leone McKeehan, Associate Professor Karen Moni, Ed Morris, Dr Patsy Norton, Sam Power, Helen Rivers, and Paul Sherman. Please join me in congratulating our Peter Botsman Award winners.



John Acutt



Pam Brennan



Jennyfer Bullen



Rachael Christopherson



Annette Curnow



Heather Fraser



Kathleen Hannant



Dr Anita Jetnikoff









Grace Loyden



Kathleen Macdonald





Margaret Miller



Dr Patsy Norton



Michelle Ragen



Esmé Robinson



Mary Swayne



John Thomas



Lindsay Williams





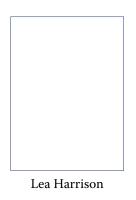
Kay Elsden



Dr Lenore Ferguson



Dr Pam Gilbert*





Leesa Jeffcoat



Dr Judith Kearney



Ted Kent



Leone McKeehan



Associate Professor Karen Moni



Ed Morris



Sam Power*



Helen Rivers



Paul Sherman*



The conference auditorium filling up



A few of ETAQ's Presidents

Transcript of President's Speech at Dinner

Life members, past presidents and patrons of ETAQ, ETAQ stalwarts, past and present.

There have been many words over this weekend about people contributing very generously to ETAQ and English teachers. We have highlighted last night and this afternoon the many excellent practitioners who have been recognised since 1998 through the Peter Botsman Memorial Awards. Tonight, however, is about recognising those people who have been gone beyond just being 'good' English teachers, to those who have guided ETAQ as patrons, those who have stepped up to the podium of leadership as presidents, and those who have contributed so much that ETAQ has awarded them the highest honour of life membership.

Our patrons have approached their roles in various ways. For some, the support has been practical - Peter Botsman's contribution of venues for PD, for some intellectual guidance – I certainly appreciated Catherine Beavis's wise counsel – and for others the physical support of being there pressing the flesh at ETAQ events - Nea Stewart-Dore is renowned for being at virtually all events, despite living in Rockhampton, as well as providing invaluable guidance to the president. One of our patrons, Anita Jetnikoff, has graduated from Peter Botsman award winner to Patron. We have just one former ETAQ patron with us here tonight, Glyn Davies, and his contribution as raconteur is legendary. I trust that we will not have a repeat of his after-dinner address in 1989 when, I'm told, the conference keynote was laughing so much he literally fell off his chair.

Here is the full list of our patrons:

Professor Ken Hamilton, C R Roberts, Dr Peter Botsman, Dr Glyn Davies, Dr Nea Stewart-Dore, Professor Peter Freebody, Professor Catherine Beavis and our current patron Dr Anita Jetnikoff.

And now to those who have taken up the reigns of the presidency. The story began with Harry Allsop, the man who arranged that very first meeting, 50 years ago. There are another two people here tonight who were also at that meeting – John Carr and Ray McGuire. They

can attest to the unbridled enthusiasm that led to the formation of ETAQ with Harry as the inaugural president who had a five year term.

Merv Grayson took over from Harry, followed soon after by Gilbert Case, from 1972-1975. Gilbert was instrumental, with others, in ETAQ becoming affiliated with AATE. He was also one of the leaders who saw and acted on financial opportunities offered through the Schools Commission funding for teacher associations in 1973 placing ETAQ in a positive financial position from its early days.

Next came Dr Pat Diamond, Brigid Felsman for three years and then John Carr from 1979-1982. John's legacy was to have taken ETAQ through a transition period, focusing on curriculum change and its implications for teachers. Offerings to teachers had a stronger basis in theoretical perspectives to ensure a deeper understanding about teaching and learning processes.

Esme Robinson's stewardship of ETAQ from 1982-1992 saw membership double to over 700. She brought her people oriented nature and her excellent organisational skills to the task of organising a wealth of professional development events. Her time is also characterised by PD events where ETAQ connected with a range of other teacher organisations.

Lenore Ferguson served on the management committee from 1983 before becoming president from 1992-1995. She brought her extensive experience working for curriculum branch, and as an academic, to her leadership role and followed this and editor of Words'worth and acting as ETAQ elder. She is currently working through the important process of writing ETAQ's history. Be on the lookout for this next year.

Jane Greenwood from 1995 to 2001 brought commitment and energy to her role. She was very inclusive, dynamic, warm and effervescent. She was up the minute in curriculum knowledge and always saw the big picture.

Karen Moni took ETAQ through some challenges when a perfect storm meant an

otherwise effective conference in 2000 resulted in a financial loss for ETAQ. Careful stewardship through this period meant Karen led the team through to the next national conference at the Gold Coast and a strong profit in 2005. As she then ascended to the presidency of AATE, she then handed the reins to Garry Collins who brought an incredible eye for detail and absolute passion for everything English. Garry spent his time fighting many good fights for the sake of English, grammar and the best interests of members. He has, indeed, been a tough act to follow.

Finally, we recognise our life members – the highest honour bestowed by the membership of ETAQ, based on excellent service to ETAQ. Tonight we have already recognised a number of presidents who have also been awarded life membership: Gilbert Case, John Carr, Esme Robinson, Lenore Ferguson, Jane Greenwood and our very green life member Garry Collins. Also we have our former patron, Glyn Davies. Our other life members who deserve our recognition tonight are Pam Brennan, Bev Farley and Margaret Ramsay.

Pam Brennan provided remarkably long and stellar service in the demanding role of Secretary. She established expectations that enhanced the flow of meetings and of information across Committee members, all done with poise and grace that was much appreciated.

Margaret Ramsay was Membership Secretary, another demanding role, for an even longer stint. Membership numbers increased dramatically during her time. She became Mrs ETAQ for many country members for whom she was a conduit to the association. She also managed both the Children's Book Competition and the sale of books for decades as well as being a keeper of the history.

Bev Farley was awarded an Order of Australia for her services to education and the community. ETAQ was one of the many organisations she supported acting as treasurer for six years. How she was able to fit in work with all the organisations she supported, defies belief. In ETAQ, she and Jeanette Ryan typed the stencils for Words'Worth, ran all the copies off, stapled them and then posted it all out – they did the lot.

There are many more life members who are no longer with us including:

Des Carroll, who was instrumental in ensuring ETAQ became incorporated; Brother Daniel Mooney, who is credited with using his network to draw in many from the Catholic system; Jeanette Ryan, secretary for five years; Paul Sherman, our most valued poet and performer; Nea Stewart-Dore, our afore-mentioned patron; and Jim Buckley.

Jim has left us quite recently and is greatly missed by many still. Jim was that most extraordinary creature, a man with great skill and passion for subject English along with meticulous organisational skills and accounting practices. Along with that, though, he brought his most gentlemanly nature as he remembered the names of all, connected members in the country so very carefully and treated all with great care and compassion. I invite all of our past presidents, our past patron and our life members to join me here now to allow us to thank you for your great service to ETAQ over the past fifty years.

Thanks to all of those who have joined us over the weekend to celebrate our birthday. We have had a committee who has spent the last 12 months taking stewardship of preparation for this weekend – thank you Michelle, Garry, Esme, Mary, Pam, Lenore, Deb, Matt, Stew, Mel and Trish – your work has been very much appreciated. Thanks to the management committee who have pulled together to support so many aspects of the weekend.

Thanks to all of those who have attended tonight – especially those who have travelled some distance to attend. What is a 50th party without guests? Thanks to Garry who has managed our night so skilfully and put in many hours of preparation. Lastly, thanks to Trish for her careful work, day and night for so very long now, to ensure our conference has been such a success.



Keynote speaker, Marcus Zusak in action



Book-signing by Marcus Zusak during lunch break



Not just PD but also great food and company



Enjoying the engaging professional learning



Some of the 'I Heart English Teaching' gang



Browsing great resources in the ETAQ Book Shop



