



EDITORIAL

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Wow. What a massive year it has been for ETAQ! English teachers certainly know how to celebrate, with over 430 people coming together for our state conference, as well as a birthday party with Nick Earls and a fancy pants dinner. How will we ever top that? Well, keep it quiet, but I have it on good authority that 2018 is already shaping up to be a jam-packed year full of practical PD, delicious food, and great company. So keep your membership up and check your inboxes, physical and virtual.

For our final 2017 issue of *Words'Worth*, we've got loads of great contributions. In particular, it was a pleasure putting the 50th Anniversary Special Feature together, and I am sure you will also enjoy the richness of the shared stories and colour photos. We also have an historical throwback, with a piece from the 1981 *ETAQ Journal*, penned by Graham Little, which examines back-to-the-basics. Yes, it's a little bit of history repeating!

We also have an interesting piece from Dylan Mead on engagement that was adapted from his blog. Heather Best tackles classical education in the 21st century, while Erwin Cabucos shares one of his short stories, along with some accompanying activities. Our Patron, Anita Jetnikoff, provides some thoughts on the importance of professional learning, which goes well with our sponsored AATE-ALEA conference attendees' reflections. There are also a couple of

interesting book reviews, which look well worth checking out. Finally, we have the pleasure of sharing the winning entries and judges' reports from the *Fifty and Fabulous 50 Word Writing Competition*. They are a delight to read.

This issue is also my last in the editor's role. Over the past five years, I have put together fifteen issues of *Words'Worth*, and each one has been a really rewarding experience engaging with the ideas and work of English teachers from all across Queensland. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable support of Trish Purcell and Deb Peden, who put many hours into proof-reading submissions, as it quickly became apparent that eagle eyes, I have not! The incoming editorial team is being finalised as we go to press, so I will leave it to the first issue of 2018 for those introductions to be made.

I hope everyone has a Term 4 that rockets past in a whirl of professionally – and personally – rewarding experiences, and I look forward to seeing many of you at future ETAQ events. This is a fantastic organisation and I am so grateful to be involved in a small way in contributing to our collective growth as a profession.

Yours in English teaching,

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