



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

Providing professional support
and advocacy for English teachers

Secretary's Report

Presented to the 59th Annual General Meeting of
The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.

Saturday 14 March 2026

St Laurence's College, South Brisbane

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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 2025 school year. Its readership extends to members of ETAQ as well as the general public.

Our Strategic Pillars

1. Member Engagement and Services
2. Awareness and Advocacy
3. Professional Development
4. Communication and Publications
5. Promoting the Study of English
6. Governance

Management Committee

During 2025, the Committee met eight times. Meetings were held in February, March, May, June, August, September, October, and November 2025. The March 2026 meeting is the final for the elected committee and includes members of the outgoing committee. The table below records the elected positions, and the number of meetings attended:

Position	Name	Meetings attended
President	Carley Elliott – Ipswich Grammar School	8/8
Vice President	Dr Julie Arnold - QUT	8/8
Secretary	Dr June Balfour – QASMT	7/8
Treasurer	Candice Green – Nudgee College	7/8
Professional Learning Director	Fiona Laing – Forest Lake State High School	8/8
1. Member	Helena Abraham	5/6
2. Member	Ryan Anspach – St Lawrence’s College	8/8
3. Member	Garry Collins - retired	8/8
4. Member	Belinda Hampton – Atherton State High School	4/8
5. Member	Adam Myers – St Joseph’s College	3/8
6. Member	Debbie Owens – St Ursula’s College Yeppoon	7/8
7. Member	Trish Purcell	8/8
8. Member	Victoria Snell – Southern Cross Catholic College	2/6
9. Member	Cate Wilson – Wynnum State High School	7/8
Townsville Branch President	Heather Fraser – James Cook University	7/8

Patron

Dr Claire Hansen continued in her third year as patron of ETAQ. We thank Dr Hansen for offering support, advice and insights to the teaching of English in our Queensland educational settings during a particularly busy and rewarding year on both professional and personal fronts. Dr Claire Hansen is currently on maternity leave. The management committee of ETAQ wish Dr Hansen well during this wonderful time of her life.

Venue for Management Committee meetings

Meetings are held at IEU both on-line and face-to-face. The management committee of ETAQ thanks IEU for its ongoing and continued support.

Administration Officer

Trish Purcell continued in her role as the association's part-time Administration Officer. The management committee of ETAQ extends its ongoing appreciation for her tireless service to the ETAQ community.

Peter Botsman Memorial Award

Megan Huber received the 2025 Peter Botsman award for her ongoing commitment to English education in a beyond school setting. This was presented at the 2025 State Conference.

Life Membership

For nearly two decades, Kriss Menzies has been a driving force behind the Darling Downs branch of ETAQ. Her leadership has included roles as president, branch secretary, and committee member. She has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to professional development, organising events and meetings that have supported educators both locally and across Queensland. In recognition of her long and meritorious service, Kriss was awarded Life Membership of ETAQ at the State Conference after it was voted on at the AGM in March 2025.

Membership

The number of financial members of the Association for the last six years is as follows. The trend to corporate membership reflects the value for money to schools with regards to professional development. Into 2026, ETAQ will continue to try and increase membership and engagement.

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
2023	10	259	21	6	185	491
2024	10	236	26	4	171	447
2025	10	267	27	4	193	501

Professional Learning Activities

2025 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 '**Treasures, tropes and triumphs**' the central theme in 2025 emphasised the importance of celebrating our subject area, the magnificent work that is done by teachers and educators around the state and exploring the works that we value and embracing new works, ideas and ways of being.

Essential English Community of Practice

- Date: Saturday, 8 February 2025
- Type: Face-to-face + online
- Focus: Celebrating the opportunities offered by *Essential English*
- Format: ETAQ Keynote Jo Bickerstaff, North Lakes State College + workshops
- Venue: St Joseph's Nudgee College, Boondall
- Convenor: Candice Green
- Attendance: 83
- CPD Hours: 3 hours 45 minutes

Beware the Ide(a)s of - March Seminar

- Date: Saturday 15 March
- Type: Face to face + online
- Format: Keynote Jessica Gildersleeve + workshops
- Venue: Brigidine College, Indooroopilly
- Convenors: Cate Wilson and Garry Collins
- Attendance 129 (Affected by cyclone Alfred)
- CPD hours: 3hrs 15 mins

Literature online– Community of Practice

- Date: Saturday, 7 May
- Type: online
- Focus: Syllabus implementation
- Format: 3 workshop sessions
- Convenors: Carley Elliott and Deb Owens
- Attendance: 92
- CPD hours: 3

External Assessment Preparation

- Dates: Teacher and student videos from Saturday, 5 August July.
- Type: Online video + Zoom Q&A
- Focus: Writing the analytical essay and text analysis
- Format: videos examining the essay genre + text-specific lectures + Live student and teacher discussion. Text workshops offered by various academics and experts.
- Venue: Zoom and Vimeo
- Attendance: 426
- Convenors: Dr June Balfour and Fiona Laing
-

State Conference – Treasures, Tropes and Triumphs

- Date: Saturday, 27 July
- Type: Face to face + online
- Format: 2 keynotes Laurie Johnson and Jane Harper+ various workshops
- CPD hours: 7
- Venue: Lourdes Hill College
- Attendance: 347
- Convenors: Candice Green, Helena Abraham and Victoria Snell

Early Career Conference 2025: small triumphs BIG REASONS

- Date: 11 October
- Type: Face to face + online
- Format: 2 Keynotes Dr Kate McLay and Bonnie Becker & Virginia Ayliffe and 2 workshop sessions.
- CPD hours: 3 hours 40 mins
- Venue: St Laurence's College
- Attendance: 64
- Convenor: Ryan Anspach

Regional Events

Toowoomba Branch

The Darling Downs branch of ETAQ had a strong year in 2025 with two key professional development opportunities offered to regional English teachers and core ETAQ members driving less formal but regular networking opportunities for teachers and HODs across Education Queensland, Catholic Education and Independent schools.

The Arsonist – Mind on Fire

Date: 29 May
Type: Face-to-face
Presenters: Dr Julie Arnold
CPD: 1 hour
Attendance: 40

Luka Lesson

Date: 28 August
Type: Face-to-face
Presenters: Luka Lesson
CPD: 1 hour
Attendance: 44

In addition to these more formal PD events, our regular networking opportunities throughout the year offered ETAQ members (and potential members) the chance to share examples of best practice, consult with colleagues when they're facing challenges, and offer help to those who are new to English teaching or 'HODding'.

Initial planning is underway for 2026 as our executive team will look to consolidate our network and continue to support English teachers across the Darling Downs and South-West region.

Townsville Branch

The branch in Townsville maintains strength for regional voices in the activities and services of ETAQ. Townsville Branch once again produced high quality professional learning resources, supporting teachers in our regional areas. Branch interests are represented by President Heather Fraser at ETAQ meetings.

Twelfth Night

- Date: Saturday, 3 May
- Type: Online
- Presenters: Claire Hansen and Will Christine
- CPD - 2hrs
- Attendance: 52

ETAQ – Townsville Branch and FALs Celebrating our Local Authors

- Date: Thursday, 29 February
- Venue: Umbrella Studio, Townsville
- Jointly sponsored by Mary Who? Bookstore

Painless Poetry and Stimulating short stories

- Date: Saturday, 23 August
- Venue: online
- Presenter: Kathy Macdonald
- Attendance: 29
- CPD – 2 hours

2025 AATE/ALEA National Activity

AATE, the Australian Association for the Teaching of English, is the national body with which ETAQ and the other state and territory English teacher associations are affiliated. ETAQ is represented on the national council by our president, Carley Elliott. The council met four times in 2025, once face-to-face in Adelaide, where Dr Julie Arnold, Vice-President of ETAQ, was our representative. AATE's ongoing commitment to advancing the field of English. During 2025, AATE, in partnership with ETANSW, published another edition of *Wonderful Texts*, a compilation of some wonderful texts for English classrooms. The publication includes a range of fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, reference texts and multi-modal text which can be used across year levels, units of work and ability-levels. ETAQ and AATE are committed to providing community for English teachers, high-quality resources for teachers of English and professional development to stretch and inspire English teachers. Members can access the AATE website via the ETAQ website.

Assisted attendance

ETAQ continued to offer financial assistance through application to members to attend professional learning in 2025.

Assisted attendance for National conference:

ETAQ provided support for Dr Julie Arnold to attend the National Conference in place of Carley Elliott, President.

[Jim Buckley Memorial scholarship](#)

was awarded to Sophie Butler, Fraser Coast Anglican College.

Publications

Words'Worth 2025, under the subtitle *Treasures, Tropes and Triumphs*, offered readers an array of articles from fellow subject English teachers and academics, sitting comfortably within the 'three Ts'. Across the three editions, here is a taste of the year's reading salad: ruminations on the affinity between parenthood and Shakespeare's cannon of works as well as performance elements of the Bard's plays; ways of teaching poetry through grammatical concepts; and writing from real life in the Literature classroom. There was sage advice for teachers: considerations for early-phase teachers and self-care; on managing feedback to students; shared ideas on pedagogical practices including the art of co-teaching and learner agency plus a number of middle school engagement initiatives; text reviews; literary theory as part of teaching praxis; literacy and national testing; accelerated pace of change in schooling and the nexus with connectedness and contemporary societal values, attitudes and beliefs. In homage to our senior subject English students, specific preparation for and celebration of the creative skills of Year 12 students through the IA3 and Literary Awards winners were published.

As editor, I sincerely take my hat off to those who contributed to our state journal in 2025. All contributions made for refreshing and invigorating reading, and in turn, hopefully shared dialogue.

Branches

Branches in Toowoomba and Townsville maintain strength for regional voices in the activities and services of ETAQ. Thank you, Rob Moore, Kriss Menzies and Kathleen Hannant and Donna Jones, now retired (Toowoomba), Heather Fraser, Alison Lloyd, Kiri Kayrooz, and Carmen Franks-Weier (Townsville) for your tireless efforts.

Digital Technologies and resources

[Website](#)

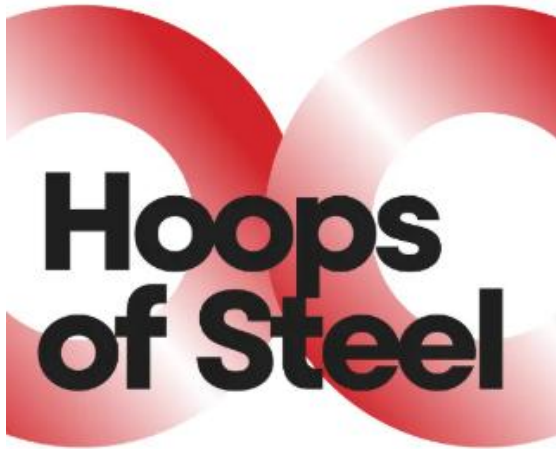
ETAQ is committed to the extension and improvement of online resources; from a website with multi-functionality to the streaming of professional development events to social media and in 2025 the launch of Hoops of Steel.

The website allows us to provide members with immediate access to a range of recordings of keynotes and workshops, other teaching resources and back copies of *Words'Worth* and *English in Australia* and now *Australian Journal of English Education*

Improvements in technology now allow us to bring events live to teachers wherever they are in Queensland. So every event now is available to all teachers of English.

A regular newsletter is emailed to over 3,500 teachers most weeks with information on emerging opportunities, reminders of coming events and other relevant information.

An ETAQ Podcast



PODCAST – Hoops of Steel

In 2025, ETAQ launched Season 1 of our podcast *Hoops of Steel*—a major association project designed to amplify professional conversations within our English teaching community. The season was released in February 2025, produced in collaboration with Corey Marie Green (Transducer Audio). Our Marketing and Social Media team, supported by Zoe Vaughn of *Hello Sunday*, has assisted by promoting *Hoops of Steel* through our various channels of communication. Across the year, we delivered an impressive line-up of episodes featuring teachers, academics, and leaders.

The podcast reached our target of 1,000 downloads well before the season concluded, and continues to

attract listeners across Queensland and beyond. Its success has positioned the podcast as a valuable professional learning channel and a growing part of ETAQ's public voice.

In 2026, Season 2 is underway, hosted by Melanie Ralph (Bare Bones Teaching) and Julie stepping into the role of Senior Supervising Producer. Transducer Audio is continuing as the production company, to maintain the professional quality, and QUT has emerged as a valuable partner, providing their studio and technical support as needed.

This project continues to strengthen ETAQ's profile, impact, and member engagement.

Engagement with social media

2025 was ETAQ's strongest year yet for social media and marketing, marked by both strategic growth and a strengthened online identity. This was chiefly driven by the appointment of our Social Media and Marketing Administration Officer, Zoë Vaughan. Her creativity and professionalism elevated the quality and consistency of our online communication. With Zoë's guidance, ETAQ produced visually engaging resources, sharply branded announcements, and clear promotion of professional learning events, helping expand our online reach to educators across Queensland and beyond.

Across all platforms, ETAQ ended the year with 5,450 followers, including 480 new followers, and generated more than 287,000 views. Engagement remained strong with 3,700 interactions and over 1,000 link clicks, demonstrating a highly responsive online community.

Facebook remained our leading platform, achieving 247,000+ views, 2,800 interactions, and 234 new followers, alongside 1,000 link clicks and a 36% click-to-interaction rate. Instagram delivered the most significant growth, recording 27,500 views, 132 new followers, and substantial increases in reach (+270%), interactions (+100%), and link clicks (+157%). LinkedIn continued to strengthen ETAQ's professional profile with 12,125 impressions and 114 new followers, reinforcing our presence among school leaders and educators.

Overall, 2025 was a year of exceptional online expansion and renewed momentum for ETAQ's marketing. Zoë's outstanding contribution has significantly amplified our online presence, sharpened our branding, and advanced our mission to support and empower English teachers

across Queensland. With this strong foundation in place, ETAQ is well positioned to continue extending its digital reach and impact in 2026.

Competitions

QIEU-ETAQ Literary Competition 2025

Once again, the QIEU-ETAQ Literary Competition was marked by excellent submissions across the state, and generous support from our many talented markers, our generous sponsors - Penguin Random House Australia, our hosts for the evening and our guest speaker, Brian Falkner. Thank you, Cate Wilson, for convening this event.

Entries for the categories are shown below:

Year 9 and 10 Short Story	266
Year 9 and 10 Poem	82
Year 7 and 8 Short Story	316
Year 7 and 8 Poem	138
Year 5 and 6 Short Story	247
Year 5 and 6 Poem	110
Year 11 and 12 Short Story	236
Year 11 and 12 Poem	80
Year 11 and 12 Non-Fiction Prose	22
Open Short Story	42

Esme Robinson Short Story Section

The winner of the Esme Robinson Short Story section was Manling Sun, for their story titled *The Hidden Fires of Australia*.

Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations

ETAQ is proud to be a member of the Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations. The organisation provides opportunities for various Queensland Teacher Associations to meet, share information, support and collaborate with each other, in the best interests of Queensland teachers and education.

Conclusion

This report is but a mere drop in the ocean of the numerous events, professional development and advocacy that ETAQ has undertaken in the past year. We thank our members for their continued support – through attending our conferences (face-to-face and online), supporting our initiatives and providing valuable feedback in order for us to improve our services. We look forward to continuing to provide the quality professional development and advice that you need in order to feel supported in your role as teachers of English. Have a great year!

Dr June Balfour
Secretary for The English Teachers Association of Queensland, Inc.
February, 2026