



EDITORIAL

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At this busy time of year, I feel I don't have much to say. The time I'd spend on my usual sources of information and inspiration – books, magazines and friends – has been dramatically limited as I'm currently focusing on the new senior curriculum, running a department and – of course – looking after *Words'Worth*.

But I hate busy. To me, busy is a euphemism – a badge of false honour – for not managing my time and priorities well. We tell people we're "so busy" as if it's some form of martyrdom. Therefore, in the spirit of slowing down, I recommend that you read this edition of *Words'Worth* in a bath with a cup of tea (or something stronger).

We are about a term into our new senior curriculum but to me it feels like this new curriculum is not the hardest part of the process. To me, the hardest part is aligning, mapping and ensuring our future seniors are also prepared for our Brave New World.

Do you remember that marathon metaphor I used last year about pacing ourselves in 2019? Well, I may have begun by sprinting and now am hobbling along, shin-splinted and Achilles-heeled, in desperate need of a massage. Or a martini.

There are so many things covered in *Words'Worth* this edition.

Firstly, as our first edition of the year, we have our annual check-ins from some of our office-holding management committee members. One encouraging point to note is our solid membership and online following. If you are on social media but not following ETAQ on Facebook, Instagram, Soundcloud or Twitter, I recommend clicking Follow.

A non-*Words'Worth* sidebar: Speaking of Soundcloud, ETAQ's new podcast 'Heart of English', starring the lovely Jasmine Minogue, Naomi Russell and yours truly. We aim to release about two episodes per term on a variety of topics, such as preparing for the year, parent-teacher interviews, the new senior curriculum and book reviews from text list books. Despite suffering from that common affliction *IsThat-Really-My-Voice-itis*, I urge you to have a listen or interact with the podcast on Facebook, where we ask questions of our members.

Back to *Words'Worth*. This edition reviews

some of the textbooks published for the new curriculum. ETAQ teachers from all around the state explore textbook topics such as alignment, activities and utility. Whether you and your school have chosen a textbook already, you're still shopping around or you're just curious about the other options out there, the textbook review is a useful tool.

Also explored this edition is the popularity of STEM and what it could mean for English. Daniel Ridout explores an increasingly "disenchanted youth body that sees English as something you must do, but really don't need to value". In contrast to this, Garry Collins article on John Manifold's 'The Tomb of Lieutenant John Learmonth AIF', offers beautiful thoughts on teaching poetry in-depth, balanced with practical teaching ideas. I look forward to reading the subsequent instalments of this article.

There are some thoughtful pieces on writing this edition. Robyn Henderson from the University of Southern Queensland has written a touching and informative speech for the Sam Power's Oration, discussing Sam's legacy and future recommendations for literacy teaching. Belinda Hampton, Cathy Campbell and Carly Sopronick also discuss their school's journey to writing improvement. If you were lucky enough to see their presentation at the State Conference last year, you'll understand why I wanted them to share their work.

Bernadette Hawker and Sherilyn Lennon discuss their journey to improve writing at Goondiwindi State High School through a very different type of STEAM: Smart Teachers Enthusiastically Achieving More. Their school changes helped lead to Goondiwindi State High School winning the 2018 Education Queensland Showcase Award for Excellence in Education.

It can be hard to find time to read publications such as *Words'Worth* when we are so "busy", but I urge you to make time to pause, read and reflect as we head into Term Two.