# We need you (and you need us)



There are two reasons to fill in that yellow form that came to you in the mail or jump on line and renew.

* We need your support to keep sponsoring quality PD and to advocate for you.
* You need to be a member of ETAQ to keep receiving quality publications, timely communication and members’ rates.

2015 sees a new government and some large changes on the table for senior assessment and tertiary entry.

ETAQ will have a voice at the table with the QCAA Working Group and you will have the chance to have your say (see p2 for more details). The weight of our numbers means our voice will need to be listened to.

Because you are members, all manner of people contact ETAQ, offering services and other PD for English. Through E-pistles, English Matters and mail outs, you know what’s ‘on’ and can access all manner of exciting resources to help you in your professional life.

Members also contribute to ***Words’worth,*** edited by Stew Riddle, and ***English in Australia***, our national refereed journal, providing individual and corporate members with quality publications to read.

ETAQ certainly needs you to renew and we think you need us to keep being the great English teacher that you are.



 In this issue

Membership and you 1

Senior Assessment 2

From the President 2

AGM 3

Words’worth 3

NAPLAN marking 3

ENC Seminar 4

Writing Competition 4

Shakespeare Unbound 4

Membership renewal is due by March 31

#### 

### You can renew on-line or by mail

Those who teach in schools have had quite a few pieces of paper across your desk in the past week. I hope you found that yellow one from Trish about your membership. Just fill in the details and post back OR go on-line OR check the website for details.

You can always check in with Trish Purcell if you need any assistance. .at **trish.purcell@bigpond.com.**

# Time to think again about seniorassessment

#### Fiona Laing ETAQ President

Hope your holidays have recharged your batteries and given you wonderful ideas of new ways to engage your students. I have certainly enjoyed receiving some wonderful resources shared on ETAQ’s Facebook page. If you haven’t joined, I’d strongly recommend it.

Seminar 1 brings us insight into the teaching of reading whilst seminar 2 grapples with the challenges of working in the Middle School. All of our favourite PD events are on the calendar so be sure to enter them into your own calendar.

I very much look forward to sharing 2015 with you.

**As I write, it seems likely the government will change which means the landscape, in terms of senior assessment may change**.

At the end of 2014, then-Education minister, John-Paul Langbroek, published his draft response to Gabrielle Matters and Geoff Masters’ report on Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance.

The government also instituted a series of working groups to assist in moving forward with this agenda. ETAQ has been offered representation on the English working group which is scheduled to meet throughout semester one 2015. This is a welcome invitation which ETAQ has been happy to take up.

One of the main points of contention in the minister’s response was the inclusion of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Education and Innovation Committee report on ***Assessment Methods for Senior Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics*** *(Report No. 25).* This report was in response to strong lobbying on behalf of a number of parties to change assessment methods in senior for the Sciences and Mathematics, with this review calling for input from those working in these fields. The other contentious element of the EIC committee is that its membership could also be seen as less independent than that of the Matters/Masters review, given the government’s large majority and the membership of its committee being restricted to parliamentarians. Humanities teachers were, by the very nature of the EIC’s ambit for this report, not included in this review.

The minister proposed that the new methods of a mixture of school-based and external assessment should be trialled using the Science and Mathematics subjects in order to assess their efficacy, and that the final decision on the proportion of external and school-based assessment should be based on that trial.

Since the humanities were not included in the EIC review and the use of standards-based assessment has not been considered an issue of contention within the humanities, the decision to use the Sciences/Maths as the testing ground for such a major change seems questionable.

At Seminar 1, ETAQ members will have an opportunity to discuss the issues raised and assist with informing ETAQ’s response to the past minister’s response. It is difficult to know how the ground will shift in coming days. Time will tell but it is critical that ETAQ will remain in the discussion.

.

# ETAQ AGM

 Next PD

ENC After-school Forum

Our first event for 2015 is a forum at Ipswich Girls’ Grammar School. Speakers include Juliette Bentley and Robyn Bergmansons.

**When: 4-6pm**

**Afternoon tea: 3.30**

**26 February 2015**

**Where: Ipswich Girls’ Grammar School**

#### Saturday 14 March

#### AGM: Seminar 1: Getting Reading Right

We are very excited to have secured Prof. Jacqui Manuel to discuss this most critical topic.

**When: 14 March 2015**

**Where: Corinda State High School**

ETAQ’s AGM will be held on March 14 as part of Seminar 1. Nominations for the committee, as of now, are:

President: Fiona Laing  
Vice-president: Kellie McGraw  
Secretary: Bronwyn Darben  
Treasurer: Trish Purcell  
Membership Secretary: Diana Briscoe

Committee Members: Julie Arnold, Garry Collins, Laura Cooke, Rebecca Hewitt, Sophie Johnson, Helen Johnston, Michelle Ragen, Stew Riddle, Matthew Rigby, Deb Peden and Melanie Wild.

This leaves one further vacancy without the need for a contested election. Full individual members can, if they wish, nominate for any position. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact me on [flain1@eq.edu.au](mailto:flain1@eq.edu.au) to discuss.

### NAPLAN marking anyone?

### Each year, the QCAA recruits teachers to mark student writing from the NAPLAN tests. Applications for 2015 are now being sought from new and returning markers. Markers gain valuable professional experience and are paid for their marking. Training may also contribute to the continuing professional development requirements for teacher registration.  To apply, complete the online form at: <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/MAO/login.jsp>.

A memo and poster containing information about marker registration has been sent to schools. Flyers are included in the mail out.

If you are interested look out for the flyers for **QCS markers** which are also included in this mail out

### Articles for Words’worth

The first edition of Words’worth is being dedicated to the memory of Nea Stewart-Dore who sadly passed away last year. Nea’s considerable contribution to education will be celebrated in this issue with copy to be forwarded to Stew Riddle at [stew.riddle@usq.edu.au](mailto:stew.riddle@usq.edu.au). Copy is due by Friday March 13.

### ENC comes early this year

 Upcoming PD dates

Please keep the following in your diary:

Thursday 26 February English Communication After-school Forum

Saturday 14 March

AGM and Seminar 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Saturday 2 May – Beginning Teachers Day

Saturday 30 May – Seminar 2

The ENC Forum comes early this year at Ipswich Girls Grammar School on February 26. These seminars have met a strong need in the past and feature a focus on literacy this time. Juliette Bentley is presenting a session on *Using Digital Literacy to Bridge the Communication divide* while Robyn Bergmansons will present a session to introduce teachers to MoneySmart Teaching resources to highlight the importance of using real-life contexts to engage students in literacy with special reference to consumer and financial literacy.

### Writing Competition

The English Speaking Union is offering students the ESU-Roley Sussex Short Story Award with a $25 entry fee and potential prize of $1000 for school students. Closing date is Feb 28. There is also a section for adults. The details are found at [www.esu.org.au](http://www.esu.org.au).

### Shakespeare resources on ABC Splash



Bell Shakespeare has teamed with ABC to offer excerpts of 6 favourite Shakespearean plays. Shakespeare Unbound has actors interpreting the work in modern settings and discussing their approach with students.

**Postal address**: PO Box 3375   
STAFFORD DC QLD 4053

**Physical address**:   
46 Tainton Street, CLONTARF QLD 4019

#### Contact

### Please direct payments and enquiries to:

Trish Purcell   
ETAQ – Administration Officer & Treasurer

**Email**: [**trish.purcell@bigpond.com**](mailto:trish.purcell@bigpond.com)  
**Telephone**: (07) 3284 3718

### www.etaq.org.au