

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR THE 2024
CALENDAR YEAR



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

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Who we are and what we do

In July 1959 an experimental initiative marked the formation of the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English. The purpose of the Association was to ‘stimulate interest in the teaching of English and background studies’ and three meetings were planned. By October 1960 the Association had become established enough to hold its first AGM and it had 160 members.

Since 1960 VATE has gone on to support its members as they have coped with the various changes to the teaching and learning of English over the last sixty years.

Ambition:

VATE is a not-for-profit subject association committed to a vision of subject English that is equitable, inclusive, robust, creative, responsive, and critical. Through collaboration and community, VATE serves its members and their students from all sectors and regions across the state of Victoria.

Purpose:

VATE exists to support its members at all stages of their English teaching career in the continuous process of renewal necessary to engage with the dynamic nature of both the profession and subject English. Through professional networks, advocacy, research, journals, professional learning, and resources, VATE leads and nurtures a community of teachers of secondary English committed to their students and the advancement of the profession.

Commitments:

VATE is committed to Makarrata and Truth-telling. VATE acknowledges that we work, teach and learn on unceded land. Our work will recognise and celebrate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia as the first teachers and storytellers. For a fair and just society, we will promote and advocate for truth-telling in the English curriculum and collaborate with First Nations people and organisations to co-create programs and resources.

VATE will advocate for the English teaching profession and our students in a range of educational contexts and the wider community. We will develop and provide policies and programs that underpin our advocacy work.

VATE will strengthen and nurture learning communities, professional networks, collaborative inquiry communities, and other professional learning contexts which allow teachers to reflect collaboratively, creatively, and critically on current practices and future directions for English teaching.

VATE will continue to develop effective professional learning programs for teachers to ensure continued development in the learning and teaching of English at all secondary levels. We will strengthen our commitment to equity of access for all members by delivering professional learning through a range of modes.

VATE will initiate, support, identify, and disseminate research to our members through our journal, Idiom, and other publications and resources.

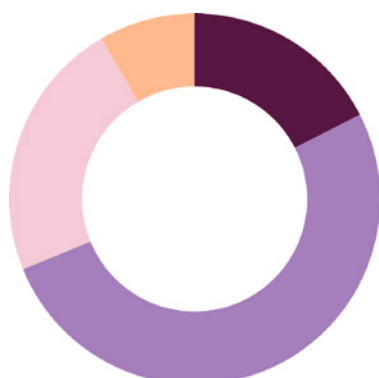
VATE will strengthen and expand our suite of publications. We will commit to developing new resources that are freely available to our members.

To benefit its members, VATE will develop strategic partnerships at state and national levels with other teaching and subject associations, bureaucracies, statutory bodies and organisations.

To respond to the challenges of climate change, VATE will develop environmentally sustainable practices to minimise our carbon footprint at all VATE events, through our publications, and in all aspects of our work.

Membership data

School members by sector



● Catholic	92
● Government	270
● Independent	120
● Not applicable	44
Total	526

School members by region



● North-Eastern Victoria	123
● North-Western Victoria	105
● South-Eastern Victoria	118
● South-Western Victoria	135
● Not applicable	45
Total	526

Membership 2020 – 2024

Individual membership

	Pre-service (free)	Pre-service	1-year	2-year	CRT-Alumni-Part-time	Life Members	Total
2024	165	11	57	80	35	21	369
2023	110	14	43	93	27	19	306
2022	105	20	59	99	31	19	333
2021	198	23	71	84	48	18	442
2020	140	20	71	84	48	19	382

Organisational membership

	0-350	351-900	901-1200	1200+	Non-school	Complimentary	Total
2024	100	175	107	105	6	33	526
2023	80	182	96	102	5	24	489
2022	98	180	102	97	6	24	507
2021	83	196	101	92	7	24	503
2020	77	182	95	89	3	21	467

Previous AGM Minutes

Agenda type	AGM for the 2023 calendar year
Date	Tuesday 28 May 2024
Time	5pm
Venue	Online via Zoom
Present	Alex Bacalja (ABA), Jan Bailey (JBA), Kate Blandford (KBL), Kate Gillespie (ex-officio, KGI), Jo O'Mara (JOM) Troy Edwards (TED), Terry Hayes (THA), Paul Martin (PMA), Helen Billett (HBI), Greg Houghton (GHO) Chris Davies (CDA), Emma Jenkins (EJE), Josephine Smith (JSM), Katerina Duckstein (KDU), Kieran May (KMA), Jessica Chen (JCH)
Apologies and proxies	Terry Hayes (proxy): Leon Furze, Amanda McGraw, Helen Howells, Val Kent, Brenton Doecke, Mary Mason, Prue Gill, Catherine Beavis, Meredith Maher Ross Huggard (proxy): Emma Dower; Carmel Huggard



Agenda

Item	By	Notes
1. Welcome and Attendance: Present and Apologies	JOM	
2. Acknowledgement of Country: VATE acknowledges and respects the Ancestors, Elders and families of the traditional owners of the land on which this meeting takes place.	JOM	AGM takes place during National Reconciliation Week. KGI, EJE, JSM, KDU attended oration on Monday, May 27.
3. Minutes of previous AGM	JOM	Motion: Minutes of the AGM for the 2022 calendar year be approved. Moved: JOM Seconded: THA Motion passed by show of hands.
4. Presentation of reports 4.1 President's Report (JOM) 4.2 Financial Report and Tabling of Audited Accounts (RHU) 4.3 Executive Officer Report (KGI) 4.4 Committee Reports: 4.4.1 Curriculum Committee Report (THA) 4.4.2 Professional Learning and Research Committee Report (HBI) 4.4.3 Publications and Communications Committee Report 4.5 AATE Report (ABA)	JOM	4.1 President's Report 4.2 Financial Report and Tabling of Audited Accounts Moved: RHU Seconded: KBL Motion passed by show of hands. RHU thanks JCH for her work as the Finance Officer. Auditor commented that we are one of the few NFPs that made a profit in recent calendar years. ABA asks if cash deposit has steadily increased or comes from sudden large profits. This comes from profits, but also interest from term deposits – no deliberate action taken to accumulate. 4.3 Executive Officer Report KGI thanks that VATE Office staff for their work in 2023. 4.4 Committee Reports: – 4.4.1 Curriculum Committee Report No questions asked re: Curriculum Committee Report – 4.4.2 Professional Learning and Research Committee Report HBI two mini-groups that focused on trend-tracking and taking conference learnings back to your school. Thanks EJE for supporting the Committee's work. – 4.4.3 Publications and Communications Committee Report No questions asked of the Pubs and Comms Committee Report.

4. Presentation of reports (cont.)	JOM	<p>4.5 AATE Report</p> <p>Moved: JOM</p> <p>Seconded: RHU</p> <p>Motion is passed by show of hands.</p> <p>ABA asks if AATE are concerned by continued deficits – unsure of AATE’s feeling, but not sustainable. Similar trends over 8–10 years.</p> <p>ABA asks about the Journal. Is AATE Council concerned? AATE Council will meet this week about the Journal – not a new issue – has reduced publication from 3 editions to 2 annually.</p> <p>KGI: Members that paid for 2023 Journals have been refunded. AATE made one submission in terms of advocacy in 2023, which worked off of VATE’s AI submission to the government.</p> <p>JOM thanks ABA for time as AATE Delegate from the VATE Council.</p>
5. Meeting closed	JOM	<p>JOM declares that the AGM for the 2023 calendar year is closed.</p>

Minutes compiled by **Kate Gillespie**, Executive Officer/Secretary, 28 May 2024

Minutes verified by **Joanne O’Mara**, VATE President, 28 May 2024

President's Report

2024 has been another engaged, productive and successful year as the VATE staff and membership work together to achieve common purposes.

VATE Office

The leadership of VATE Executive Officer, Kate Gillespie, is crucial to VATE's success. Kate is ever-measured, reasonable, inspiring and intellectual. She is also a strong advocate for teachers of subject English and the subject itself. I deeply appreciate her contributions to Executive and Council, her engagement with membership, management of the VATE office and leadership of new innovations.

We are very lucky to have such engaged and committed staff at VATE all of whom focus on the service of the membership. Thank you to Jessica Chen, Finance Officer, who has managed the finances with diligence; Katerina Duckstein, Events and Member Services Officer, who is creative and positive in her member connections; Emma Jenkins, Education Officer, who has continued her inspired work in supporting membership; Kieran May, Administration Officer, who has continued to innovate and increase the quality of our administration systems; and Josephine Smith, Publications and Communications Officer, who innovates in the range of offerings and never compromises on quality. Thanks also to Chris Davies who has now finished his contract as Project Officer (2024) for his work on the VATE priority projects.

VATE Council

The VATE 2024/25 Council comprises of Alex Bacalja, Jan Bailey, Kate Blandford, Emma Dower, Troy Edwards, Leon Furze, Kate Gillespie (ex-officio Secretary), Terry Hayes, Ross Huggard (Treasurer), Amanda McGraw (Vice President and Research Officer), Jo O'Mara (President).

I would like to thank all Council members for their commitment, engagement and the stimulating discussions we have had over the past year and particularly thank VATE Executive (Amanda McGraw, Vice President; Ross Huggard, Treasurer; and Kate Gillespie [ex-officio Secretary]), for their support and leadership of VATE.

We all extend our thanks to outgoing Council members Alex Bacalja, Jan Bailey, Troy Edwards and Leon Furze for their work and welcome incoming Council members.

VATE Council priorities

The Council priorities for 2023–24 included: Teaching Out of Field – English; Pre-service teachers; Regional and rural members; Research.

Council committed to employing a Project Officer for two years to address these priority areas: Teaching Out of Field – English; Pre-service teachers; Regional and rural members. Chris Davies was appointed to this position in February 2024 and has now completed his contract.

VATE initiatives

Advocacy

VATE Council and Office have been active with advocacy on behalf of the membership. The reports, responses and submissions below have been prepared and distributed over the past year.

On a personal note, I would particularly like to thank all members who have been engaged in these issues. Some of the results that we have managed to achieve in collaboration with other organisations and through discussion are only possible because of membership engagement. This engagement is often through correspondence with the Office or completing member surveys. It is only through the membership engaging in this way that Office and Council can act on their behalf.

- [Letter](#) from the VCAA to VATE re: 2024 English Language exam (January 2025)
- VATE Council Treaty [pledge](#) (January 2025)
- [Letter](#) from VATE to the VCAA re: 2024 English Language exam (January 2025)
- Supporting Out-of-Field Subject English Teachers [VATE Report](#) (November 2024)
- VCE English and EAL Crafting/Creating Texts VATE Survey [Report](#) (September 2024)
- [Final report](#) from the Inquiry into the use of Generative AI in the Australian Education System that VATE members contributed to (August 2024)
- VCAA [response](#) to VATE correspondence (May 2024)
- VATE [submission](#) to the VCAA regarding VCE Literature (April 2024)

You Can Teach That: Teaching First Nations Perspectives

VATE's *You Can Teach That: Teaching First Nations Perspectives* series is designed to support English teachers to build their own Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural responsiveness in order to provide their students with accurate, informed and culturally appropriate context, knowledge, skills, language and pedagogies. By the end of 2025, *You Can Teach That: Teaching First Nations Perspectives* series will consist of a suite of on-demand videos with First Nations academics, commentators, and writers, as well as complementary teaching resources that explore how to use the insights from each in the English classroom. The purpose of these resources is to support, inform and engage English educators in the development of their understanding and teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives in the English classroom. These resources have been written by Emma Jenkins and reviewed by Darby Jones. The artwork for this program has been generously provided by Aretha Brown and has been reproduced with her permission. The music in this program is 'The Red Sand Sea' by Robbie Miller and is used under license by APRA-AMCOS. *The You Can Teach That: Teaching First Nations Perspectives* program is funded the Victorian Department of Education's Strategic Partnerships Program.

Awards and Scholarships

Teacher Inclusion Scholarship

To ensure that the VATE State Conference is accessible to as many English teachers as possible, two scholarships are available to help remove the financial barriers for eligible applicants. This year's Teacher Inclusion Scholarships were generously sponsored by VATE and Fremantle Press. The recipients of this year's scholarships were Mariam Hussein, Al-Taqwa College, and Gabrielle Eckhardt, Camperdown College.

Marion Meiers Scholarship

VATE offers two scholarships for VATE members to attend the National AATE/ALEA Conference held in July every year. These scholarships are intended for teachers who are prepared to make a strong commitment to supporting the activities of VATE into the future.

2024 Recipient: Megan Mooney Taylor (Diamond Valley College)

Pre-service Teacher Awards

VATE presents a number of Pre-service Teacher awards for outstanding achievement by those undertaking an English Method.

Australian Catholic University: Josephine Ryan Award

2024 Taylah Russell

Deakin University, Gillian Barnsley Award

2024 Lauren Kessler

Monash University, Margaret Gill Award

2024 Morgan Pulver

The University of Melbourne, Ian Hansen Award

2024 Gabriella Krywault

Victoria University, Michael Hamerston Award

2024 Maree Gerke

Jo O'Mara

President



Treasurer's Report

As VATE Treasurer over the last 8 years, I am always very conscious of the due diligence required in such a role, given that VATE exists to support, uphold and champion the English teaching profession in Victoria. Overall, 2024 was a financially solid and successful year for VATE, another pleasing result in such economically volatile times. My oversight of VATE's finances would not be possible without the outstanding, precise and meticulous work of Jessica Chen, Finance Officer. Through her careful and prudent guidance, VATE, unlike many other not-for-profit organisations, would not have been so financially solid. Jessica has been ably supported by our external accountant, Russell Smith, alongside our external auditor, Ryk Eksteen of Collins & Co. Our accounts have been professionally scrutinised and found to be totally accurate and reliable and the 2024 year deemed very 'successful' for VATE by our auditor.

Key areas of activity

VATE publications

As previously noted in my report last year, our own VATE Bookshop has been scaled back to only market VATE publications, and thus, as expected, only made a modest profit in 2024. At the same time, the commissioning and production of our well-regarded suite of teaching guides for VCE English, Literature and English Language continued. In 2024, there was a very significant increase in our sales, from \$42,532 in 2023 to \$53,443 in 2024. Indeed, there has been a notable upward trend over recent years, given that in 2022 this figure was a considerably lower figure of \$33,679 (almost \$20,000 less than in 2024). It would seem that VATE publications are a feature of most secondary English resource collections.

Exam production and sales

Consistent with recent years, the VATE in-house development and production of VCE English, EAL, Literature and English Language trial exams, both in digital and print form, proved to be very popular and successful. After a resounding increase in revenue from this source in 2023 of \$128,705, the 2024 figure of \$129,983, even surpassed the previous result. These exams are used across the state. Indeed, with new VCAA exam structures and specifications in 2024, despite any trepidation this may have caused teachers, the calibre and reliability of VATE exams once again was shown to be outstanding. It may be noted that other commercially-produced exams proved to not always be as reliable. Our assured and diligent Publications and Communications Officer Josephine Smith yet again adeptly and skilfully coordinated all the related exam working-parties and ensured that the production deadlines were met with ease.

Event income

Even though in many schools, it is very challenging for teachers to be able to be released to engage in professional learning activities, the uptake by teachers of VATE events continued to be substantial. Our income stream generated through such programs rose significantly on the comparable 2023 figure, from \$589,544 to \$650,298 and was our most significant source of income. As the English teaching profession continues to be renewed, the provision of such professional learning programs has never been more important, and it is apparent that the mix of sessions and conferences is suitably varied and responsive. As in previous years, the oversight and guidance of our Education Officer, Emma Jenkins has been invaluable. She is reliably aided in logistics by Katerina Duckstein, our Events and Member Services Officer.

VATE State Conference

Our annual State Conference, held again at Deakin University, was yet another popular and successful event, appreciated by English teachers statewide. Participant numbers were marginally fewer than in 2023, again a reflection of the difficulties in teacher release, often coupled with a lack of accessible casual relief teachers in schools and greater budgetary stringency. However, our digital access to some sessions was widely accessed and well-received. Once again, the Conference program offered a diverse smorgasbord, with presentations supporting aspects of new VCE Study Design implementation being especially popular, with VATE, as always, at the cutting edge of curricular change. The income generated was \$208,409, as compared with \$236,032, but this really reflects the wider economic climate.

Overall financial results

As already noted, 2024 was a year of economic uncertainties, rising costs and pressures. As a direct consequence, our expenditure as an organisation rose from \$1,156,942 (2023) to \$1,314,535, partially due to an additional part-time employee. However, it should be noted our revenue stream also rose in 2024. Our cash flow continues to be healthy. Our liabilities have actually decreased. It is especially pleasing to note that we continued to have an overall surplus, unlike many comparable organisations, of \$261,828, marginally lower than in 2023 (\$309,019) but more than in 2021. Most importantly, our total net assets, as an organisation, have continued their healthy upward trajectory, rising from \$2,052,928 in 2022, to \$2,360,887 in 2023 and \$2,605,019 in 2024, aided by high bank interest rates. It may be concluded accordingly that the financial position of VATE continues to be very healthy and our future secure, notwithstanding external economic volatility and the budgetary strictures of schools.

Future considerations

Despite the increasing budgetary stringency operating in most schools, with many experiencing cuts to English learning area funds, the numbers both of individual and organisational members rose in 2024 compared with the previous year. There was a noticeable increase in the number of organisational members to 526 (489 in 2023). This attests both to the viability and centrality of VATE to the Victorian English teaching profession; a fact reflected in the very large number of responses (280) to the major and highly influential survey of VCE English teachers conducted by VATE which directly resulted in Study Design adjustments by the VCAA.

VATE Council is only too well-aware of the pressures being experienced by so many English teachers in Victorian secondary schools, not only financially, but also due to under-resourcing, a lack of trained English teachers and the increasing expectations of school administrators. This is especially keenly felt in most regional areas. Teachers also want greater access to pertinent research which can enhance their teaching repertoire. It will continue to explore and facilitate means by which to proactively support the needs of English teachers, and financial support will ensure that this occurs. Happily, funding is available to support such initiatives.

Final acknowledgements

Finally, I wish to again acknowledge and sincerely thank Jessica Chen, Finance Officer, for her willing, assured and helpful financial work and acumen, which underpins my voluntary work as Treasurer. I also wish to acknowledge and warmly thank Kate Gillespie, the wonderful and energetic Executive Officer who oversees the engine room of VATE, assuredly aided by Josephine Smith. They operate as a wonderful and creative and focused team. Alongside them, the creative energy of Emma Jenkins, and reliability of Katerina Duckstein and Kieran May, all ensure that the VATE Office is effective, productive and visionary. We owe the VATE Office team our gratitude as we all seek to manage the fluid educational environment. Allow me to finally also sincerely thank our President, Joanne O'Mara, and Vice President, Amanda McGraw, for their skilful co-leadership, along with my Council colleagues, for their support and trust of me in this role.

Ross Huggard
Treasurer

Executive Officer's Report

The VATE Office has recently been looking through the Idiom archives with a view to digitising all editions. It's interesting to see that many of the issues that Idiom tackled in the past continue in the present for subject English.

I want to begin this report by sharing some of Douglas McClenaghan's editorial from 2007.

VATE's advocacy role is ... a long-term project. Creating and sustaining the professional identities of English teachers, VATE members and the English teaching profession is an essential, ongoing role. We reject the current attempts by those who seek to refashion the profession by imposing conformity upon us, subjecting us to micro-management, dividing us from each other and dismissing our wealth of professional knowledge and expertise, or using us to score opportunistic political advantage. Against this reductive, technocratic view of teaching we seek to construct English teachers as active participants in a professional community of practice. Advocacy is a way of re-affirming ourselves and our principles, maintaining our autonomy, of supporting ourselves, our colleagues, the profession and our students. Advocacy is not only done for us or on our behalf by the public faces of VATE, but by each of us, collegially, in our staffrooms, our classrooms and within our professional association. The critical and creative conversations we engage in as English teachers help to sustain our professional identities.

...

Advocacy is a consistently reiterated subtext of much of our work as VATE members.

...

I would like to conclude by challenging readers to think about the ways in which you can participate in advocacy for the profession. What are your ways of being an English teacher, your roles in the English teaching community, and how do these influence your roles and ways of being in other contexts and communities? What else can you do?

Spool forwards over a decade and a half and his words resonate and sustain me as we work to support the English teaching community. I will continue to ask – What else can you do?

To the 8000+ members of the VATE Village, many thanks for supporting your students and school communities in and out of the English classroom. Thank you also for supporting VATE and your English teaching colleagues across the state – whether it was through contributing to a discussion on a Network, presenting for the range of VATE PL, writing a resource, purchasing one of our products, or just emailing us in the office. We are a strong and vibrant community.

VATE Office

I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the VATE Office team. My endless appreciation and thanks to my colleagues for supporting members with intellect, consideration and care: Josephine Smith, Publications and Communications Officer; Emma Jenkins, Education Officer; Jessica Chen, Finance Officer; Kat Duckstein, Events and Member Services Officer; Kieran May, Administration Officer. Thank you also to Chris Davies for his work in 2024.

Thank you to all those who support the work of the Office and the association: Russell Smith, VATE's external accountant; Kushla Ross, VATE's designer; Tatanja Ross, VATE's videographer/photographer; Darby Jones, VATE's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sensitivity editor; Hoc Lie, VATE's IT support; and Sean, the VATE cleaner.

VATE Council and Working Parties

The VATE Council and Working Party members volunteer their time and expertise to discuss, advocate for the membership, and develop the work of the association. I am grateful to all members of the 2024 Council and Working Parties for their commitment and contributions to VATE's purpose.

VATE achievements in 2024

A Story in Miniature: Writing prize

A Story in Miniature writing competition received over 343 entries in 2024. The winning entries are listed below.

Year 7 and 8 category

There were 134 entries in this category

Winner: Alice Bull (Star of the Sea College) – 'The Dangerous Drive'

Runner-up: Elsa Ngo (Eltham High School) – 'Pet Shop'

Year 9 and 10 category

There were 118 entries in this category

Winner: Orlando Pettinella (Parade College) – 'Cadenza'

Runner-up: Lara Graham (Village High School) – 'Peach Rings'

Year 11 and 12 category

There were 55 entries in this category

Winner: Valerie Golebiewska (Vermont Secondary College) – 'Ke-nee-bahl'

Runner-up: Poppy Holden (Pahran High School) – 'Wipeout'

Teacher category

There were 36 entries in this category

Winner: Melanie Gaylard (Eltham High School) – 'Church Camp'

Runner-up: Kate Rees (Plenty Valley Christian College) – 'The Road to King's Canyon'

Middle Ground

The area in a painting or photograph that is between the foreground and the background.

VATE developed and produced a free member resource in 2024 for teachers in the middle years. The purpose of VATE's Middle Ground publication is to provide middle years teachers (Years 7–10) with access to activities and lesson sequences that can assist with the teaching of English concepts, skills, knowledge, and ideas. Each edition of *Middle Ground* is mapped to the Victorian and Australian curricula and is supported by extensive support materials including professional reading, media articles, audio visual material, as well as tables, handouts and worksheets. The series title, *Middle Ground*, is designed to represent a focus on teaching the ideas, skills, concepts, and knowledge of English for fun and in connection with the lives and experiences of middle years students. Inspiration has been taken from the composition of landscape painting.

The following resources were published in 2024:

- Exploring 'survival' using *Alone Australia*: Emma Jenkins
- Teaching consent through literature: Bridie Connell
- Developing visual literacy and analysis using picture books: Avril Good
- Using sitcoms in the English classroom: Lachlan Whitley
- Gallery Walk: Using art to support reading, writing and talking: Chris Davies

State Conference: English at the intersection: Reclaiming our stories

If a profession does not find a medium to conference with its practitioners, that profession will quickly atrophy. The VATE Conference helps keep English teaching a profession rather than a job title, and our attendance not only assures us professional development, but also ensures we remain professional. (Peter Pidduck, Idiom 2002)

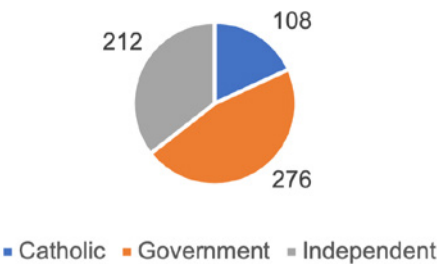
Registrations by day:

Thursday: 369 (in-person) and 65 (hybrid) – 434 total

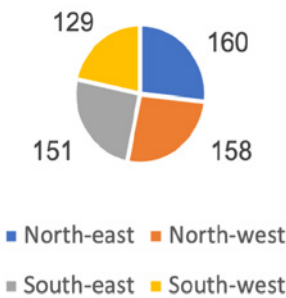
Friday: 354 (in-person) and 69 (hybrid) – 423 total

Overall registrations: in-person: 544; hybrid: 95 ; total: 639

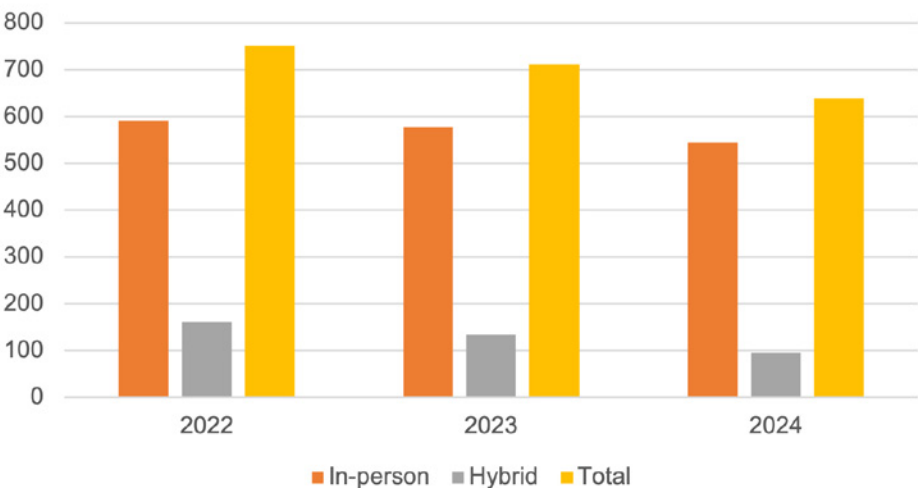
Registrations per Sector



Registrations per Region



State Conference registrations by year



Program

Keynotes: Melitta Hogarth with Larissa McLean Davies; Billi FitzSimons

Guest speakers: Carlo Perrotta; Bebe Oliver

Writers Talk Writing: Sian Prior; Preeti Maharaj; Ernest Price

Panels: Affirming the 'personal' in a time of 'constant overwhelm'; 'Evidence-based practice': Complexities, challenges, conflict and change; Lunch Orders: Newsroom to classroom

Sponsors

Complete Works Theatre Company

Exhibitors

Complete Works Theatre Company; Copyright Agency; Federation University; iGroup Australasia; Islamic Museum of Australia; Matilda Education; Melbourne Holocaust Museum; QuoteCards; State Library Victoria; Writelike Org; The Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership

Traders

Insight Publications; Sisterworks; The Chestnut Tree Bookshop

Giving back: Supporting our wider community

In 2024 VATE donated a percentage of the profits from the State Conference registration fee to the following two organisations: First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria; WAMA – National Centre for Environmental Art.

VATE voices: Advocacy

Representing and advocating for VATE members is central to VATE's role. In 2024, VATE members participated in three important surveys: Supporting Out-of-Field Subject English Teachers; VCE English and EAL Creating/Crafting Texts Survey; Research.

VCE English and EAL Creating/Crafting Texts Survey

In response to discussions on the VATE VCE English Network vis-à-vis concerns about workload and the new Areas of Study, Crafting/Creating texts, VATE Council undertook a survey of our membership in June/July. In under three weeks, 280 members (with 56,000 words) participated in this survey.

The responses were thoughtful, nuanced and detailed. We also received emails addressing workload issues with the VCE English and EAL Crafting and Creating texts that were not covered by our survey questions. The responses were almost unanimously positive about the inclusion of Crafting and Creating texts as new Areas of Study. The feedback received mostly focused on workload issues stemming from the increase to the number of assessed pieces (the marking load), the enactment of the Study Design in schools, and the impact of this on the VCE English staff.

The work of the Education Unions in Victoria and the VATE report were instrumental in the VCAA making requested changes to the Study Design for 2025. The power of the collective in action.

Supporting Out-of-Field Subject English Teachers

VATE surveyed our members in the first term of 2024 with the aim of collecting members' experiences of the existence and perception of the out-of-field teaching phenomenon in their school context. Chris Davies and Jo O'Mara developed a VATE report which included recommendations for our work.

Research

In 2024, VATE Council created a new voluntary role filled by a sitting member of Council. The role, titled VATE Research Officer, is currently occupied by Amanda McGraw. The intent is to support members by producing resources and discussion papers related to contemporary and enduring research in the field and to foster critical dialogue about research processes and the notion of research-based practice. In mid-October, we invited all members to complete a short survey and to join a Working Party. The Working Party, facilitated by Amanda, examined the findings of the survey and worked collaboratively to initiate ideas for action. Actions to be implemented in 2025 include: Research Snapshots; Discussion Papers; Longview essay; Dialogue seminars.

Kate Gillespie

Executive Officer

AATE Delegate's Report

Current AATE Council

Karen Yager (President), Rachael Radvanyi (President Elect), Sue Gazis (Treasurer), Erika Boas (Commissioning Editor), Claire Jones (Research Officer), Kelli McGraw (AJEE/EiA Editor), Sharyn Stafford, Claire Burton, Prue Gill, Jo O'Mara, Daniel Howard, Anne Wood, Sarah McDonald

Election of Officer Bearers, commencing 1 January 2025

Commissioning Editor: Jo O'Mara

Treasurer: Susan Gazis

Conferences

2024 Adelaide

Garth Boomer address: Professor Larissa McLean Davies

Life Membership: Eva Gold, Ian Reid and Alison Robertson

2025 Hobart

Garth Boomer address: Karen Yager

Publications

Film Studies and Movement launched at the Conference. *Perspectives on Teaching English Issue Two* launched in August

Wonderful Texts Volume III launched in November.

Proposed Publication for 2025: *Teaching Poetry*. Guest editor: Anne Wood.

English in Australia/Australian Journal of English Education

Journal ranking

The journal ranking is SJR 2024 is Q2. It has an H-index of 17.

Journal rankings via Scimago

(<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=5800210911&tip=sid&clean=0>)

Journal access

- *English in Australia* is available in full text via the AATE and ETA websites for association members.
- It is also available in full text via the following academic databases:
 - Informit (A+ Education, APAFT, and others)
 - EBSCOhost (Education Source)
 - Gale (Health and Medicine)
 - ProQuest.

Treasurer's Report (AGM October 2024)

This is the summary provided by the Treasurer (Sue Gazis) at the AGM in October 2024.

In 2023/24 AATE recorded an overall operating deficit of \$58,514, (\$77,875 deficit in 2022/23). AATE projected a deficit of \$9,833. There was a difference on the budgeted figure by -\$48,681. The reasons for the increase in the deficit was the need for the new IMIS system (membership database), the new IT hardware and the decrease in revenue from Reading Australia and affiliation fees. Also increased expenses were incurred because of employment entitlements. These areas will be summarised and expanded upon later in [this report](#).

In 2024/25 we are incorporating a new professional learning program and focusing on membership growth and engagement.

Jo O'Mara

AATE Delegate

2024 Contributors

2024 Council

Alex Bacalja (The University of Melbourne), Jan Bailey (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), Kate Blandford (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Emma Dower (Lalor Secondary College), Troy Edwards (Girton Grammar School), Leon Furze, Kate Gillespie (VATE, ex-officio), Terry Hayes, Ross Huggard, Amanda McGraw (Federation University), Joanne O'Mara (Deakin University)

2024 Working Parties

State Conference

Shalini Akhil (Brunswick Secondary College), Kate Gillespie (VATE), Hugh Gundlach (The University of Melbourne), Terry Hayes, Natalie Henry (Montmorency Secondary College), Greg Houghton, Emma Jenkins (VATE), Rebekah Keenan Mount (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), Sarah Kreltszheim (Cornish College), Liana Mannens (Mentone Girls' Grammar), Marissa Pinkas (Virtual School Victoria), Simon Ross (Parkdale Secondary College), Margaret Saltau, Josephine Smith (VATE),

Research

Freya Allen (Norwood Secondary College), Alex Bacalja (The University of Melbourne), Mary-Jane Clarke (St Michael's Grammar School), Katharine Corrin (Kyabram P-12 Secondary College), Grace Elkins (Village High School), Brinagh Hassett (Catholic College Sale), Susan Hopkins (Monash University), Sarah Kreltszheim (Cornish College), Julia List (Suzanne Cory High School), Ramesh Mahalingam (Nossal High School), Michelle McRae (St Joseph's College Geelong), Jo O'Mara (Deakin University), Will Rotor (Virtual School Victoria), Maria Tortoni (Cranbourne Secondary College), Brianah Walsh (Loreto College), Daniel Weichman (Lavalla Catholic College)

Exams

Allie Baker (Beechworth Secondary College), Alex Connor (Elevation Secondary College), Madeleine Coulombe (Eltham College), Faye Crossman, Kirk Dunn (Mount Scopus Memorial College), Karen Graham, Trevor Harrison (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Ross Huggard, Jennifer Jones (Balwyn High School), Heather Maunder, Jan May, Margaret Saltau, Josephine Smith (VATE), Germana Tendelli (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), David van Es (Bendigo Senior Secondary College)

Publications suite

2025 Inside Stories

Editor: Faye Crossman

Writers: Emma Catchpole, Blair Mahoney (Melbourne High School), Ernest Price (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Mark Stracey (St Kevin's College), Warren Whitney (Belmont High School)

2025 Literature Perspectives

Editor: Marion White

Writers: Joanna Bonetti (Vermont Secondary College), Anna Carrig (Northcote High School), Emily Frawley (Maribyrnong Secondary College), Karen Lynch (Virtual School Victoria), Nicole Marie (Point Cook Senior Secondary College), Anna Purcell (Mac.Robertson Girls' High School)

2024 Idiom

Volume 60, Number 1: The sustainability of the English teaching professional in uncertain times

Managing Editor: Josephine Smith (VATE)

Contributing Editors: Scott Bulfin (Monash University), Fleur Diamond (Monash University), David Hicks (University of Tasmania), Amanda McGraw (Federation University), Joanne O'Mara (Deakin University), Graham Parr (Monash University)

Contributors: Katharine Corrin (Kyabram P-12 College), Virginia Danahay (Mentone Girls' Grammar), Natalie Devine (St Thomas Aquinas College), Ela Fornalska (Eltham High School), Anne Gamble (Mentone Girls' Secondary College), Hugh Gundlach (The University of Melbourne), Glenda Hanslow (Koonung Secondary College), Courtney Langton (Gladstone Park Secondary College), Ann Rennie (Genazzano FCJ College), Freya Scully, Lisa Templeton (Lavalla College), Rachael Thompson (Damascus College), Carla Ziino (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar)

Volume 60, Number 2: Tales from Beyond Suburbia

Managing Editor: Josephine Smith (VATE)

Contributing Editor: Chris Davies (VATE)

Contributors: Katharine Corrin (Kyabram P-12 College), Deaglan Harney (Seymour College), Brinagh Hassett (Catholic College Sale), Terry Hayes, Helen Henry (The Hamilton and Alexandra College), Susan Hopkins (Marist-Sion College), Amanda McGraw (Federation University), Lesley Milne (Virtual School Victoria), Hannah Monagle (Bendigo Senior Secondary College), Megan Mooney Taylor (Diamond Valley College), Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Abbey Panosh (St Patrick's College), Claire Reid (Virtual School Victoria), Margaret Saltau, Vana Watkins (Geelong Grammar School), Jen Wenlock (Mansfield Secondary College), Helen Yeats (Sacred Heart College Geelong)

2024 VATE Sample VCE Exams

VATE Sample EAL Exam

Exam Editors: Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Avril Good (St Albans Secondary College)

VATE Sample English Exam

Exam Editors: Faye Crossman, Karen Graham

Working Party: Allie Baker (Beechworth Secondary College), Alex Connor (Elevation Secondary College), Kirk Dunn (Doncaster Secondary College), Ross Huggard, Jan May, Josephine Smith (VATE), Germana Tendelli (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar)

Contributors: Helen Billett, Anna Carrig (Northcote High School), Marcellene D'Menzie (Princes Hill Secondary College), Virginia Danahay (Mentone Girls' Grammar), Philippa Elder (Strathcona Girls Grammar), Liana Mannens (Mentone Girls Grammar School), Timothy Mannix (Xavier College), Laura McCarthy (Warrandyte High School), Lannhi Nguyen (Brentwood Secondary College), Sally Nicholson (Catherine McCauley College), Rachel Stephens, Suzanne Toniolo (Methodist Ladies' College), Andrew Wight (Whitefriars College)

Section C Writer: Clare Caldwell (Mazenod College)

Section C Supplementary Material Writer: Karen Graham

VATE Sample English Language Exam

Editor: Louise Willoughby (Monash University)

Working Party: Selina Dennis (Coburg High School), Mark Little (St Michael's Grammar School), Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Josephine Smith (VATE)

VATE Sample Literature Exam

Working Party: Heather Maunder and Margaret Saltau

Contributors: Madeleine Coulombe (Eltham College), Trevor Harrison (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Jen Jones (Balwyn High School), Josephine Smith (VATE), David Van Es (Bendigo Senior Secondary College)

Events

Activating Reading Capabilities in English

Mary Mason, Amanda McGraw (Federation University)

ACMI x VATE Ideas Lab: Middle Years Conference (in-person)

Anna Carrig (Northcote High School), Kate Cash (Kardinia International College), Katharine Corrin (Kyabram P-12 College), Anne Dalmau (Roxborough Secondary College), Grace Elkins, Natassia Francischelli (Yarra Valley Grammar), Hayley Harrison, Jenny Isaac (National Gallery of Victoria), Lauren Kyte (Salesian College Sunbury), Nicole Lawrence (Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School), Louise Leong (Mount Alexander College), Karys McEwen, Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Claire Nailon (Nazareth College), William Rotor (Virtual School Victoria), Garry Westmore (ACMI)

Meet the Assessors – EAL

Michael Daniel (Camberwell Grammar School), Jenna Gomes (East Doncaster Secondary College), Glynis Rose, Maureen Theobald

Meet the Assessors – English

Helen Billett, Karen Graham, Ross Huggard, Branka Shallies

Meet the Assessors – English Language

Selina Dennis (Coburg High School), Marlya MacNeill (Mazenod College)

Meet the Assessors – Literature

Elizabeth Campbell, Trevor Harrison (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Elspeth Maddocks (Lauriston Girls' School), Margaret Saltau

Online Student Revision Lecture – EAL

Nicole de Garis (Footscray High School), Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Michael E. Daniel (Camberwell Grammar School)

Online Student Revision Lecture – English

Olivia Berry (Yarra Valley Grammar), Helen Billett, Phil Canon (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Jovana Drakulic (Haileybury College), Kirk Dunn (Doncaster Secondary College), Natalie Faulkner (Nossal High School), Emily Fitzpatrick (Star of the Sea), Ross Huggard, Michelle Maglitta (Fintona Girls' School), Graham Preston (Northcote High School), Louise Roberts (Firbank Grammar School), Iva Roncevic (Kilvington Grammar School), Vana Watkins (Geelong Grammar School)

Online Student Revision Lecture – English Language

Louise Noonan (Methodist Ladies' College), Dani Cantor (Balwyn High School), Georgia Bate (Mac.Robertson Girls' High School)

Online Student Revision Lecture – Literature

Charles Ayre (Strathmore Secondary College), Georgina Bull (Richmond High School), Joanna Carroll (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Pawel Cholewa (Southern Cross Grammar), Natalie Faulkner (Nossal High School), Trevor Harrison (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Carmel Huggard, Liana Mannens (Mentone Girls' Grammar), Timothy Mannix (Xavier College), Sophia Marsden-Smith (Geelong Grammar School), Malcolm Martin (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), Heather Maunder, Graham Preston (Northcote High School), Victoria Tedeschi (Heathmont College), Philip Thiel (Mac.Robertson Girls' High School), Corredina Todaro (Westbourne Grammar School), Jennie Willoughby

Regional Roadshow: Meeting and Managing Moderation

Ross Huggard

Structuring Your Year

Kate Blandford (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Madeleine Coulombe (Eltham College), Ernest Price (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Rebecca Swain (Carey Baptist Grammar School)

VATE Leadership Conference

Troy Edwards (Girton Grammar School), Emily Frawley (Maribyrnong Secondary College), Leon Furze, Hugh Gundlach (The University of Melbourne), Rebekah Keenan Mount (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), Amanda McGraw (Federation University), Katie Richardson (ACER), Caitey Wilton (Greater Shepparton Secondary College)

VATE State Conference

Maddison Attard (Korowa Anglican Girls' School), Allie Baker (Beechworth Secondary College), Annelise Balsamo (VCAA), Helen Billett, Melissa Blacklock (Southern Cross Grammar School), Julia Bonifacio (Caulfield Grammar School), Kirstin Bourne, Frances Braithwaite, Philip Canon (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Amanda Carroll (Melbourne High School), Kate Cash (Kardinia International College), Sarah Cassidy (Carey Baptist Grammar School), Emma Catchpole, Ashleigh Cavalin (Haileybury College), Vincent Chiang (Melbourne Grammar School), Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Alice Cook (Ballarat Grammar School), Katharine Corrin (Kyabram P-12 College), Madeleine Coulombe (Eltham College), Michael Cummins (Craigieburn Secondary College), Nick Cummins, Anne Dalmay (Roxborough Secondary College), Fleur Diamond (Monash University), Mel Dixon, Justine Douglas (Xavier College), Emma Dower (Lalor Secondary College), Andrew Duval, Grant Evans (Dandenong High School), Nicola Evans (Copyright Agency's Reading Australia), Natalie Faulkner (Nossal High School), Billi FitzSimons, Joanne Foley (Northcote High School), Bridget Forster (Mentone Girls' Grammar), Rhoda Fu (Carey Baptist Grammar School), Leon Furze, Jenna Gomes (East Doncaster Secondary College), Avril Good (St Albans Secondary College), Fiona Hall (Leibler Yavneh College), Hayley Harrison, Bri Hassett (Catholic College Sale), Terry Hayes, Nicole Heber (Yarram Secondary College), Kellie Heintz (VCAA), Timothy Hines (Oakleigh Grammar), Melitta Hogarth (The University of Melbourne), Ross Huggard, Samuel Indge (Nazareth College), Emily Jackson (Xavier College), Rebecca Jackson (Maffra Secondary College), Bec Kavanagh, Rebekah Keenan Mount (Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School), Stuart King (Eltham College), Jem Kolber (Virtual School Victoria), Ursula Kulling (Dandenong High School), Ben Langdon (Yarram Secondary College), Alex Leemann (Dandenong High School), Susan M. Hopkins, Larissa Maclean Davies (The University of Melbourne), Preeti Maharaj, Cassandra Mahony (Auburn High School), Kathleen Main (St Albans Secondary College), Tim Mannix (Xavier College), Doug McCurry, Amanda McGraw (Federation University), David McLean, Lesley Milne (Virtual School Victoria), Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Amy Murphy (Footscray High School), Kylie Mutsaers (Sacré Coeur), Esther Myles (St Michael's Grammar School), Claire Nailon (Nazareth College), Joanne O'Mara (Deakin University), Mark O'Sullivan (Nazareth College), Bebe Oliver, Willis Osburn (Kambrya College), Maria Papasotiriou (Wellington Secondary College), Carlo Perrotta, Emily Piddington (Gleneagles Secondary College), Alana Piotti (Carey Baptist Grammar), Jared Prentis (Kolbe Catholic College), Ernest Price (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Sian Prior, Matthew Pullar (Heathdale Christian College), Leigh Radbourne (Bacchus Marsh Grammar), Claire Reid (Virtual School Victoria), Katie Richardson (ACER), Stephanie Rowston (St Michael's Grammar School), Jenny Ryan (Copyright Agency's Reading Australia), Briony Schroor (Nossal High School), Gillian Scott (Carey Baptist Grammar School), Jessica Smith, Marian Spires (St Joseph's College), Sarah Stone (Hume Central Secondary College), Cindy Sullivan (Hume Central Secondary College), Jennifer Sze (The University of Melbourne), Ellyza Tanner (Craigieburn Secondary College), Corredina Todaro (Westbourne Grammar School), Suzanne Toniolo (Methodist Ladies' College), Jemma Tresise, Bianca Tukukino (Gleneagles Secondary College), Melanie Van Langenberg, Thuthi Vartazarian (Westbourne Grammar School), Elliot Wall (Northcote High School), Rhiannon Ward (Luther College), Vana Watkins (Geelong Grammar School), Ashlyn Weston (Maffra Secondary College), Kat Whitechurch (Luther College), Tori Whitten (Xavier College), Leanne Wilson, Nyree Wilson (Dandenong High School)

VCE English and EAL Day

Dan Arnott (University High School), Annelise Balsamo (VCAA), Helen Billett, Louise Bourke (John Monash Science School), Phil Canon (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Kate Cash (Kardinia International College), Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Joseph Crofts (Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School), Anne Dalmau (Roxborough Secondary College), Virginia Danahay (Mentone Girls' Grammar School), Michael Daniel (Camberwell Grammar School), Kirk Dunn (Doncaster Secondary College), Anna Fee, Natassia Francischelli (Yarra Valley Grammar), Emily Frawley (Maribyrnong Secondary College), Hayley Harrison, Kellie Heintz, Natalie Henry (Montmorency Secondary College), Mardi Holland (Bendigo Senior Secondary College), Tegan Kearney (Casey Grammar School), Julia Lippold (Lauriston Girls' School), Michelle Maglitto (Fintona Girls' School), Blair Mahoney (Melbourne High School), Debbie Mantzanidis (Wantirna College), Punita Mistry (Siena College), Nadia Mizner (University High School), Claire Nailon (Nazareth College), Louise Piva (Casey Grammar School), Kylie Price (Eltham College), Iva Roncevic (Kilvington Grammar School), Natasha Sales (St Francis Xavier College), Alexandra Shepherd (VCAA), Zac Shinkfield (Woodleigh School), Meral Simsek (St. Margaret's Berwick Grammar), Vana Watkins (Geelong Grammar School), Fred Whitlock (Eltham College), Julie Whittington (St Helena Secondary College)

VCE English Language and Literature Day

Annelise Balsamo (VCAA), Georgia Bate (Mac.Robertson Girls' High School), Dani Cantor (Balwyn High School), Madeleine Coulombe (Eltham College), Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Graham Preston (Northcote High School), Briony Schroor (Nossal High School)

VCE Mini-method - EAL

Amy Christensen (Scotch College), Avril Good (St Albans Secondary College), Thuthi Vartazarian (Westbourne Grammar School), Lachlan Whitley

VCE Mini-method - English

Kate Blandford (Hoppers Crossing Secondary College), Louise Bourke (John Monash Science School), Kirk Dunn (Doncaster Secondary College), Michelle Maglitto (Fintona Girls' School)

VCE Mini-method - English Language

Luke Francis (Melbourne Girls Grammar), Natalie Gleeson (Kambrya College), Rowena Morris (Kyabram P-12 College), Rebecca Swain (Carey Baptist Grammar School)

VCE Mini-method - Literature

Joanne Foley (Northcote High School), Lee McQueen (Eltham High School), Chris Muir (Lauriston Girls' School), Caitlin Penrose (Montmorency Secondary College)



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