



Australian Association for the Teaching of English

Citation for AATE Life Membership: Rita van Haren 2016

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Rita van Haren is an active leader and contributor to the English teaching community in Australia. Rita has directed her intellect and talent to shape the directions of the Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE), to represent the organisation in national and international forums and to design, develop and implement outstanding professional learning activities and resources for the association. Rita is highly regarded by her peers and colleagues for her diligence, integrity and passion for English teaching.

Rita has led professional learning nationally and internationally on the teaching of reading in the middle years and advocates using balanced approaches to teaching reading, including critical literacy. Rita represented AATE on the *National Inquiry into the Teaching of Reading*. During this time she sought the views of state and territory English teaching associations to provide the Inquiry with a representative and balanced view of the teaching of reading.

Rita mentored colleagues through projects designed to support the development of their practice. She co-led the AATE and Australian Literacy Educators' Association's *MyRead* project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training. She helped to design and implement *MyRead* as an important practical resource for AATE that is freely available to teachers across the country. *MyRead* received the Australian Publishers Association Award for Excellence in Educational Publishing in recognition of the resource's quality, accessibility and relevance.

Rita has been a contributor to *English in Australia* as well as a number of other AATE publications. She co-wrote the chapter "Really teaching reading: Revising a *MyRead* Strategy in a secondary English classroom" for the AATE publication *Teenagers and Reading*. Rita was involved in producing AATE support materials using the Learning by Design Framework for the national *Becoming Asia Literate Project* funded by the Asia Education Foundation. Most recently, she has contributed a chapter "Learner Engagement" in the new AATE publication *The Artful English Teacher*.

Rita has actively participated in the AATE's research agenda and was involved in the development of the Standards for the Teaching of English Language and Literacy (STELLA) by contributing narratives to support this important AATE research work.

Rita was an active member of AATE Council as the delegate for the ACT Association for the Teaching of English (ACTATE) for nine years from 2000-2009. During this period Rita made an outstanding contribution to the management of AATE. She has held numerous executive positions with ACTATE including president, vice-president and treasurer. She is currently the ACTATE Executive Officer.

It is in recognition of these services to the Association and to the profession that AATE proudly awards life membership to Rita van Haren.