



# Australian Association for the Teaching of English

## Citation for AATE Life Membership: Guy Bayly-Jones 2013

*Presented at the AATE/ALEA National Conference in Brisbane, July 2013*

A stalwart in the English teaching landscape of South Australia and indeed Australia, Guy Bayly-Jones has made significant contributions to the profession over many years. He first joined SAETA Council over a quarter of a century ago in 1987, subsequently taking on different roles including Treasurer, Editor of Spring Poetry Festival, Website creator and administrator, co-ordinator of many state conferences, including co-convenor of the 2008 Adelaide AATE/ALEA National conference, and President from 2003 to 2008. In this role he also became SAETA's delegate to the AATE National Council, cutting his teeth in the national scene and communicating back to SAETA the wider perspectives and unique issues affecting the different states and territories. This was a time of great flux, with politicians pushing for accountability through professional standards and the introduction of a national curriculum and Guy's intelligent, reasonable and unflappable approach to the shifting English teaching scene was especially valuable when he became AATE President Elect in 2009, President in 2010 and 2011, and Past President in 2012.

A notable feature of Guy's valuable contribution to the association was that it continued well after what was then his day job with the South Australian Education Department had ceased to have a direct connection with classroom English teaching. Although Guy began his working life as a classroom English teacher and progressed through stages as a Department Head and Curriculum Advisor, in the latter stages of his career he worked in what might be termed the mainstream educational bureaucracy in the office of the department's Chief Executive. His senior roles in AATE were performed while he was working in this capacity not directly related to the classroom English teaching that is the association's *raison d'être*. Perhaps it was that experience of departmental bureaucracy, however, that enabled Guy to work so effectively with various federal governments' initiatives.

Guy took part in initial discussions with Peter Freebody, prior to the production of the Shaping Paper for the Australian Curriculum, English and later coordinated and wrote the AATE responses to both the K-10 Australian Curriculum, English and the first drafts of the courses for senior secondary English. This was a challenging task given the diversity of perspectives and assumptions about exactly what should be regarded as of most value in English teaching held by the various English Teacher Associations. He developed a strong working relationship for AATE with ACARA, which has continued through the development of the English K-10 and senior school courses. Similarly valuable working relationships have been established with other national professional associations through Guy's representation of AATE on the National Education Forum.

As President, in June 2011 he initiated a meeting with Federal Education Minister Peter Garrett in Canberra, with two successful outcomes being Federal Government sponsorship of the 2011 AATE Conference in Melbourne, and over \$300,000 in funding for the English for the Australian Curriculum (E4AC) project via Education Services Australia. The E4AC project was conceived and led by Guy, who formed a consortium consisting of AATE, ALEA and PETAA and resulted in a series of primary and secondary units being developed and made available online in May this year to support the teaching of the Australian Curriculum: English.

Clearly, Guy has been instrumental in making contact with, instigating and overseeing AATE's move into partnership arrangements with other associations, governmental bodies and educational agencies. The resultant partnerships include the AITSL illustrations of Practice and Field Learning Area Statements work, the ASIC MoneySmart work, the AEF project and the SACOL (English for the Australian Curriculum project). His initiative in these areas has set up a whole new direction for AATE in the development and production of educational materials at the national level for national consumption. This has placed AATE firmly in the national educational policy area as a direct contributor to resources that support those policies, and was extremely long-sighted of him.

It is in recognition of this contribution and of his services to the Association and to the profession that AATE proudly awards this life membership.