



The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Queensland Inc.

Affiliated with the Australian and International Federations of Modern Language Teachers' Associations (AFMLTA & FIPLV)

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President's Report for the Darling Downs Branch of the MLTAQ for the year 2014 Presented at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th March, 2015

Meetings were held monthly (third Wednesday) at the University of Southern Queensland, at the Refec in the Library Building, from 4.00pm.

At the AGM on 28th February 2014, members were elected to the Executive.

Majella Costello –President
Liz Hodgson –Treasurer
Secretary- Hayley Butler
Committee members; Ann Dashwood & Cecily Bisshop.

On 30 April, planning began for the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival (TLCF) and various jobs were allocated for follow- up. Eg. Drinks van, language group contacts- Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, French, German - for stage and activities tent, publicity at schools.

On 21 May, at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), a languages afternoon in the five languages taught on the Downs was held, with teachers and native speakers attending and speaking the target languages: Japanese, Chinese, French, German and Indonesian and Korean. Teachers had a chance to use their language of the classroom and beyond in an informal context. 18 people were in attendance.

On 18 June, further preparation and planning for the TLCF was done.

On 18 July, TLCF planning was underway for a Volunteers List and Student Activity Tent participants who were running activities.

The 9th TLC Festival occurred on Sunday, 10 August at Queens Park, Toowoomba. It was a glorious sunny day in Toowoomba. Around 10,000 plus people attended the Festival. The crowd was about the same as last year. Many people expressed positive responses to the programmed activities in the Activity tent and Schools Stage.

The Schools Stage had students from several schools presenting performances in French- Glennie School; Chinese-Centenary Heights SHS; Indonesian- Darling Heights SS, Glenvale SS and Newtown SS; African Drumming and Bollywood Dancing-Harristown SHS. About 100 students, 6 teachers, 5 parent helpers and 6 schools participated in performances on the Schools stage.

In the Student Activity Tent, teachers and students from Fairholme College, Faith Lutheran College, Harristown SHS, Toowoomba Grammar, School of Total Education, Darling Heights SS English as a Second Language Group, the Esperanto group, the Spanish language group, Alliance Francaise Toowoomba, and the Kanga group had numerous activities to entertain young people. Pureland Learning had a display of Peace posters by Primary school students.

The new activity this year was to paint/draw on a bunting square. Children drew a face/hand and wrote a comment in the second language e.g. WATASHI, WA Majella, DESU. KONNICHIIWA. These bunting squares will become decoration for next year's festival. There were about 29 adults (6 hour shifts) and 38 students (2 hour shifts) volunteering to help with activities in the Activity Tent. Total volunteer hours are about 250.

The Drinks Van made good sales of soft drinks and water at \$2 each. About 724 items were sold. Income from sale of drinks, offset by expenses for the site fee, workshop material costs and drinks, gave a net profit of \$583. There was a significant drop in profits from last year, possibly due to the location of the Drinks Van which was to the eastern side of the Park where there was less spectator traffic. The Ride for Jesus Bike riders Group from Warwick helped out with the Drinks Van. Altogether 10 adults volunteered about 40 hours on the day.

On the day total volunteer hours is about 290, plus the Schools Stage performances. On 20 August, there was a debrief meeting about the TLCF.

On 16 September, planning for the Languages and Careers Forum to be held on Friday 31 October at USQ Allison Dickson Theatre from 7-9pm was underway.

On 29 October, there was a final meeting to discuss food and drinks, sign on, computer support in the rooms, name tags for speakers, booking rooms and security on the night.

On Friday, 31 October, the Languages and Careers Forum was held at the Allison Dickson Theatre, USQ from 7-9pm. There were several interesting speakers with extensive use of a second language in their work place who spoke to the audience of about 120 people. Parents, teachers, university and secondary school students were in the audience. Timing of the event may have led to a reduction in the anticipated audience numbers. The members of the public who were in attendance expressed appreciation that they had the opportunity to hear the speakers and learn from their experiences. We express our special thanks to the teachers who helped on the night to make it a successful event.

The final meeting for the year was held on 19 November. Payments were made to speakers for costs incurred in attending the Forum and bills paid for items purchased for the forum.

Annual financial accounts were sent in January to Brisbane Executive for auditing.

2014 Queensland Program for Japanese Language Education; Travel Grants for Japanese language Teachers-recipient;

Robyn Topp- St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Majella Costello
Chairman, Darling Downs regional Group
February 20, 2014