



# 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 German Branch of the MLTAQ for the year 2014

Presented at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th March, 2015

As in previous years, I am again proud to report on the achievements of the German Teachers' Branch of the MLTAQ Inc.

Our official membership seems to be stable and we benefited once again from the MLTAQ capitation fees for each German teacher.

We thank the MLTAQ also for providing the financial support again for our audit, absorbing the costs.

The National theme for German interests as nominated by the Goethe Institut Australien in 2014 was 'Feste feiern' – celebrations/celebrating German.

Many activities and opportunities sponsored by Goethe Institut Sydney were offered to teachers and students of German. I was fortunate to be able to collect resources and develop a workshop while undertaking a study trip to Germany at the beginning of 2014 and was able to present this in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

The student festival of Kinderkarneval was successfully held in 2013 and has already been celebrated this year as well (our 20<sup>th</sup> year of celebration), attended by 3 primary schools (approximately 110 students). We express our thanks to the German Club and retired members of the KDK for their support and attendance. As well, we were supported by members of the Stammtisch from the German Club, as the Kinderkarneval was held in conjunction with adult celebration of Stammtisch Fasching-Fancy Dress evening.

This year we are able to offer two scholarships and applications are due by March 28.

The German Film Festival in 2013 was, as always, well attended – recognition and thanks as usual was given by the sponsors to the teachers of Queensland for their support. This year's dates have already been published, commencing on May 21. Details of films are still pending.

Our first in-service this year has been held in Brisbane as part of the ISQ Multilingual Conference on Friday/Saturday 21/22 February. Goethe provided a guest speaker from Finland for teachers of German on each day.

In July, Val Newell and I attended the National Meeting of German teachers (known as NATG – Network of Australian Teachers of German) in Adelaide, showcasing the position of German teaching in Queensland and activities organized by the Branch and I also presented a workshop at the Goethe National Conference (Landeskunde) organized by the South Australian German Teachers' Association.

Attending these conferences and seminars further strengthen the relationships already founded in previous years with national colleagues and the Goethe Institut staff.

Our annual Tipp-Kick Meisterschaft was again organised last year due to its popularity. This event is now a permanent fixture in our calendar. We express special thanks to Paul Marks, and Val Newell for their sporty efforts and a great team of support staff for set up and the running of the day.

This event was made possible with some funding and materials provided by Goethe Institut. We also imposed an increased team registration fee to offset costs. This event was also re-constructed to be more financially viable. We have also attracted outside funding for this event and have formed a partnership with an international 'One World – One Festival' Foundation.

Our 'German Day Out' venture has now been identified as our Oktoberfest for Teens Day held in Oktober. It is a National initiative of the Goethe Institut and I am proud that Queensland is able to successfully participate.

The National Goethe Institut event of the "Zootage" has a focus group year 6, 7 and 8. So popular was the event that the initial day was lengthened to two and this year it will be spread across three days. Branch members and members of the Multiplikatoren team has accepting more responsibility for the running of these days this year, as Goethe Sydney no longer has a Language Advisor to facilitate these events.

Our avenues of communication, through the use of the LOTE Note, MLTAQ Quarterly and email lists, maintained by Elizabeth Blair, have continued to be effective. Our website can also be promoted through the AusDaf website maintained through the National NATG (Network of Teachers of German).

We continue to hold meetings (as required) at the German Club, to whom I am very grateful for their support in providing a venue for many, if not all, of our events.

A number of our members also participate in a new initiative founded by the Honorary Consul for Germany, Dr Michael Schütz, called the Deutsche Sprachtisch. It is a roundtable forum which brings together many people from a variety of fields such as education, business, university, mothers' groups and more. There now exists a blog for the promotion of this German group and will become live in a week or so.

Celebrations for last year concluded as always with Oktoberfest. Last year's 'Oktoberfest for Teens' event was again an amazing accomplishment with many students in attendance (over 1900). The entertainment program developed was varied as usual with a number of international and local entertainers. We are extremely indebted to the Directors of Brisbane Oktoberfest for making the facilities available, in particular, Reimer and Louise Moeller. O4T is now set for 15 October 2015.

Last year also saw the culmination of a two year project, the Leichhardt project. In conjunction with the Berlin Government, a team of enthusiasts participated in this project as part of the Leichhardt Rundetisch. Many activities were organized to acknowledge the anniversary of the explorer

Leichhardt's accomplishments. The latest Boeing aircraft from Qantas was named the Leichhardt, and the explorer's great, great grand nephew was flown out to Australia to christen the plane and participate in many of the celebrations.

He has attended the Oktoberfest for Teens event, where a Question and Answer Forum was held with senior student representatives from a number of high schools.

Thank you again to a terrific executive – Treasurer Elke Jackel, Secretary Linda Miles, Webmaster Beverley Samuel, Email Correspondent Elizabeth Blair, Tertiary Liaison Officer Geoff Wilkes and MLTAQ Inc Liaison Officer Caroline Newsham.

Our Branch is certainly in a unique position in having representatives from all levels and sectors of education. Our AGM is planned for Saturday, March 21 to be held at the German Club.

We are a very strong and active executive, and for such a small team, have huge achievements to our credit.

As usual, we still have some work ahead of us this year – Zootage, Audi Filmfest and the Oktoberfest celebrations. However, the path has been trodden often and so we are prepared and informed!

I thank all members who attend our meetings. Their support and attendance is very important.

Thank you to everyone for your support and contribution to OUR association.



Paula Hay  
President, German Teachers' Branch of the MLTAQ Inc

#### **German Teachers' Branch Executive 2014**

President: Paula Hay	Ormeau State School
Treasurer: Elke Jackel	Ormiston College
Secretary: Linda Miles	Ormeau State School
Webmaster: Beverley Samuel	Quinalow State School
MLTAQ Inc Liaison Officer: Caroline Newsham	Cooparoo State School
University Liaison Officer: Geoff Wilkes	UQ