



MINUTES: Thursday 16th July 2026

Venue: Griffith University Gold Coast Campus G39_1.19 (Science, Engineering & Architecture Building)

Attendance:

Leigh Kirwan (Griffith University), Cathryn Very (Benowa SHS), Rosa Chen (Kimberly College), Aileen Seidman (Marymount College), Cathy Galligan (Benowa SS), Peter Nyberg (Beenleigh SHS), Yoko MacDonald (A.B. Paterson College), Susie Fenton (Murasaki Sensei's Classroom), Mariko Saito (Griffith University), Trina Nakahashi, Anna Belousova (Gold Coast Russian School), Yumiko Tatton (Online).

Apologies: Jack Augustine, Oriane Monet, Giovanni Picariello, Masako Ware, Loretta Kishihara.

Minutes of previous meeting and Business arising:

Leigh Kirwan moved that the Agenda and the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved, and Rosa seconded.

President's Report:

- Leigh reported that he will represent GC LTO at Government House in Brisbane for the 50th Anniversary of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan on 22 July
- LTO Gold Coast Japan Tour for Teachers in 2027: There are now nine participants for the tour. If you are interested in joining the tour, please email Leigh at L.Kirwan@griffith.edu.au
- Japan and Friends Day will be held at the Broadbeach Cultural Centre from 10am – 4pm on 20th September. Peter has paid for us.
- Griffith University has provided the Risk Assessment and LTO has provided the Public Liability Insurance for the Speech Contest and both documents will be attached to these Minutes

Webmaster's Report:

Giovanni wasn't able to attend the meeting but said all was well with the website.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash balance \$8,426. Pete picked up both the Gold Coast and Brisbane Speech Contest medals. Leigh will take the Brisbane ones to the contest on the day.

Feedback on LTQ Biennial Conference at UQ on 27/28 June from Gold Coast attendees Leigh, Aileen and Cathy

All said they thoroughly enjoyed the conference and encouraged others to attend future ones.

Playing a musical instrument has long been the gold standard for children's development, but according to Nathan Wallis, the Keynote Speaker, but learning a language is now seen as even higher. It also helps with developmental language disorders.

Feedback on LTQ State Assembly at Griffith University's South Bank campus on 29 June from Gold Coast attendee Leigh

All presidents from around the State presented information on their branches and networks.

There will soon be a change to our State website to www.ltq.asn.au. Email addresses will also change to reflect the move from MLTAQ to LTQ. Susie asked that those concerning our Speech Contest should be delayed until after the event. Leigh contacted Nathan, and he was in agreeance.

The Language Teachers' Forum was renamed LTQ Forum. Our Gold Coast Branch is set down for Thursday, 13 May 2027. We will invite teachers to attend on site at Griffith and also provide it online for the rest of the State. Cathy Galligan will do a session on Explicitly Engaging Students. How teachers can use explicit instruction principles to set high expectations and drive engagement in the languages classroom.

Speech Contest:

There was a lot of discussion on the Speech Contest. There will be Gold Sponsor Corporate Stalls where companies will pay a \$500 fee. Pete will request their logos which will be displayed at the Awards Ceremony and possibly also on the program. These include HIS Travel, Saizen Tours, and Pearlfröst.

General Business

Cathryn announced that Griffith University's Go Global Day for school students would go ahead once again on 28th October.

Cathy will organise a venue for our Christmas Party on 26th November, possibly at a Surf Lifesaving Club on the Coast.

P.D.

There was no P.D. due to extensive Speech Contest discussion, but Leigh showed photos of his recent 69th tour of Japan.

Future meetings:

Thu 06 August	GC MLTAQ	G39_1.19
Sun 16 August	Speech Contest	Various
Thu 03 September	GC MLTAQ	G39_1.19
Thu 08 October	GC MLTAQ	G39_1.19
Thu 05 November	GC MLTAQ	TBA

Thu 26 November Christmas Party

Dinner this month: Some members enjoyed dinner at the Aviary Rooftop Restaurant and Bar

Meeting closed at 6.15 pm



Meeting Attendees



Post-meeting dinner at the Aviary