



Minutes: Thursday, 4th September, 2025
Venue: Griffith University Gold Coast Campus
G39_4.27/4.47 (Science, Engineering and Architecture Building)

Attendance:

Leigh Kirwan (Griffith University), Mariko Saito (Griffith University), Aileen Seidman (Marymount College), Rosa Chen (Kimberley College), Masako Ware (Ashmore S.S.), Peter Nyberg (Beenleigh SHS), Jack Augustine (Park Ridge SHS), Candice Sparks (St Hilda's School), Cathy Galligan (Benowa SS), Rachel Martin (St Francis Xavier, Runaway Bay), Danielle Swainson (Somerset College), Cathryn Very (Benowa SHS), Susie Fenton (Murasaki Sensei's Classroom).

Apologies: Loretta Kishihara, Yoko MacDonald, Giovanni Picariello, Yumi Tatton.

Minutes of previous meeting and Business Arising:

Leigh moved that the Agenda and the Minutes from the previous Minutes were approved, Cathy seconded, and the Minutes were carried.

Correspondence in and out: N/A

President's Report:

Gold Coast Branch Language Teachers' Forum next week 11 September: Cathy Galligan will do a presentation: Modelled Lesson – Using EPI approach and V9 curriculum to engage students and build a sense of self efficacy. It is important that we have a 'class' of teachers for this presentation

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which will be offered on Zoom to the rest of the State, so Gold Coast teachers are strongly encouraged to attend at 4:30 on 11 September in our usual room G30_4.47.

State LTQ Assembly: Leigh reported on the Assembly which took place on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August where he represented the Gold Coast Branch. Some of the interesting outcomes were a plan for special certificates for secondary students who do exceptionally well and a reintroduction of Languages Camps for teachers and students. Leigh also attended a meeting run by the State President at South Bank on Monday 1 September attended by GU and UQ representatives, EQ Principals Leader, Institute of Modern Languages staff and QSAA staff. The meeting is attempting to stop the closure of languages programs in schools and create more new languages teachers. In the short term, we will ask Year 12 teachers to inform students that language courses at universities have cheaper HECS charges than other subjects, the fact that both GU and UQ offer a Diploma of Languages which can be undertaken concurrently with degrees which don't allow languages so all students can study languages at university. Also, GU's GUEST Program which allows Year 11 and 12 students to do language courses at Griffith and obtain credit points at no charge.

Treasurer's Report: We currently have **\$3,625.45** in our account and are expecting a further \$4,915 from the Speech Contest. Peter moved and Leigh seconded that \$85 be paid to a teacher to recompense them for Speech Contest expenses.

Webmaster's Report: NA

General Business:

Leigh's Retirement Party: Although Leigh will continue at Griffith as Adjunct Professor and be able to continue organising LTQ events, he will retire from teaching on 23 October this year. Susie and Jack have organised a Retirement Party on Wednesday 22 October at 7pm at Kamikaze Teppanyaki at Pacific Fair. You are all invited to attend. Anyone interested should email Susie murasakisensei17@gmail.com

Christmas Party: It was decided to hold our Christmas Party at Mr P.P.'s in Southport at 6pm on Thursday 27 November. Cathy Galligan will make bookings.

Print and Digital Contest: Candice has kindly taken this over from Simone who has now moved overseas. All the information is now on our website. Thanks Gio! It will be free this year and judging will take place at St Hilda's from 4:00 – 5:30pm on Wednesday 22 October. Candice said that because only a few schools had been competing in recent years, if numbers don't pick up this year it will probably be cancelled so schools are encouraged to take part.

Speech Contest Discussion:

Aileen was given special thanks for overseeing another excellent Speech Contest. Convenors were thanked for their wonderful work.

The new idea of convenors spending \$15/head for refreshments seemed to work very well. In some areas even less was spent.

It was decided that at next year's Award Ceremony there should be an Entertainment item which Jack is happy to organise and also perhaps some senior students talking about what got them into languages study and how it makes their lives special.

After some unfortunate outbursts by parents in the judging rooms, it was decided that there will be no audience allowed from next year. A Code of Conduct will be composed.

As a lot of schools are busy in August there was much discussion about moving the date of the Speech Contest to early Term 3. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Dinner was at Yuyin Chinese Restaurant in Southport and it coincided with Rosa's birthday. Meeting concluded at 6 pm

Future meetings: (No October meeting due to school holidays).

Wed 22 October Leigh's Retirement Party

Thu 06 November Regular Meeting

Thu 27 November Christmas Party

