



MINUTES: Thursday 5th March 2025

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

Attendance:

Leigh Kirwan (Griffith University), Giovanni Picariello (Southport State School), Anna Belousha (GC Russian School - online), Cathy Galligan (Benowa SS), Rosa Chen (Kimberly College), Danielle Swainson (Somerset College), Markus Ebeling (Clairvaux MacKillop College), Rachael Martin (St Claire's - online)

Apologies:

Oriane Monet, Yoko MacDonald, Susie Fenton, Jack Augustine, Aileen Seidman, Candace Sparks, Cathryn Very, Peter Nyberg, Mariko Saito, Masako Ware

Minutes of previous meeting and Business arising:

Leigh Kirwan moved that the Agenda and the Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, Cathy Galligan seconded.

President's Report:

Report on CI (Comprehensible Input) Down Under Conference at Griffith University South Bank campus 12 – 16 January

Leigh covered this in the last meeting in more detail.

To note: Conference is biannual – Brisbane this year next time in Canberra (2028)
Comprehensible Input – Stephen Krashen's hypotheses - making language simple and comprehensible so that the cognitive load is appropriate for all to experience learning.

Leigh also shared that at the conference, a 2 hour language lab was held every afternoon using CI principles for delegates to experience this approach first hand.

Sensei Social – Free meeting and entertainment for Japanese teachers at the Ship Inn, South Bank, Brisbane at 6pm Friday 13 March run by LTQ Japanese Network.

Finger food provided – LK thinking of attending and has extended invitation to everyone.

Mami Yoshino is running an Open Kaizen Classroom at Foxwell State College 8:30am – 3:00pm 30 April 2026. Fully catered \$115. <https://tinyurl.com/3uhv4j6r>

Webmaster's Report:

Giovanni Picariello reported that all is functioning well.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash balance \$6,538.87 in the current account as at 5/3/26.

General Business:

Conti Workshop 20/5/2026 - proposed

- Cathy Galligan has sent EOI's – waiting for more numbers
- LK has booked the room at Griffith University FOC
- Conti cost is \$3000 + room night + inbound flight from wherever he is coming from
- CG to create a flyer to advertise – members could send to all their databases to spread the work via both email and also via socials
- CG to send to Cheryl Saunders to advertise
- Giovanni to work on advertising on the website
- Members are asked to distribute invitation / EOI to all known contacts that may be interested in attending.

Leigh shared photos from his recent trip to Japan and spoke about the highlights of the trip:

- 58th Trip to Japan
- Cold temperatures some at -20 degrees
- Favourable exchange rate AUD at 111 Yen
- Travelled with ex- students
- Visited Snow sculptures
- Anime more popular than ever
- Stayed in Narita - in a 110 year old Ryokan – Japanese Inn, Kirinoya
- Went to Hokkaido, Sapporo, and other destinations

Professional Development: Giovanni will provide one of his excellent sessions: "10 Tips and Tricks for Achieving Comprehensible Input in your class".

Giovanni shared an informative presentation about his top 10 tips, and shared resources and activities to illustrate those tips. GP shared a song that he modified 'I want it that way' – in Chinese.

Top 10 Tips and Tricks

1. Classroom Setup with posters and vocabulary in both English and Chinese
2. Use specific classroom gestures and routines to enhance learning
3. Design lessons about yourself to teach vocab
4. Explain what they are doing and why

5. First lesson, students must experience some success
6. Make things comprehensible using gestures and translation
7. Use diagrams and table - Check for understanding
8. Use repeated patterned reading
9. Backward by design – design assessments first
10. Include same mode in assessments as are covered in class

Future meetings:

Please note that the next meeting is in 3 weeks' time (due to the Easter public holidays).

Thu 26 March

GC LTQ

G39_1.19

Meeting closed at 5.45 pm