

## President Memoir

**Moira Clohessy**

**2000 - 2002**

The highlights of my presidency were the inaugural vocal competition, the visit of Dr. Miriam Hyde and the Australian Piano Pedagogy Conference. Brother Benildus was the MTAQ Representative on the Organizing Committee.

The Vocal Competition had 53 participants with well known adjudicator Joseph Ward giving very positive feedback to the performers.

With many teachers visiting Brisbane for the APPC, a meeting of all State MTA presidents (including the Northern Territory) was organized. Professor Alan Lane chaired the meeting. It was a time of sharing of ideas. A national constitution was even mooted!

I felt that contact with other MTAs was important by attending a seminar organized by MTA NSW in Jan 2000 and meeting with the President Mrs. Julie Spithill in Sept 2000. In March 2001 I had a meeting with Graeme Bartle (Victorian President).

Dr. Miriam Hyde, pianist, composer, and educator was a very special guest. Over 100 attendees-MTAQ members, students and friends listened to her two inspiring presentations. She gave an outstanding recital of her own compositions and gave a masterclass where performers played her compositions. In all, 25 of her works were performed. She gave the background to how and why each was composed - a remarkable lady.

Other highlights included:

Professor Simone de Haan and Dr Philip Bracanin attending our annual dinner at which Professor was the guest speaker "Light the Spark- Future Directions."

Also, professional development with Diane Selmon, Joyce Skelton, Nehama Patkin, Sue Thompson, Jan Lockwood, Adele Nisbet, Janet Delpratt and Valerie Dickson; and a masterclass with Piers Lane at which some of our members students played.

With the costs of establishing our website and upgrading our office equipment and problems with sponsorship, our finances were depleted. Members generously donated money and a fundraising Concert/Dinner was being organized. Members showed their unstinting loyalty by performing/attending at this occasion.

In conclusion, I sought a vibrant council by nominating three new councillors at our AGM 2002. With many councillors continuing, I was confident that the Association was in very good hands and together with its members would be a continuing force in the development of music education in Queensland.