

Firstly, congratulations to the Queensland Music Teachers' Association (QMTA), it certainly is an achievement to reach such a ripe old age of 100.

My first acquaintance with the association, was when my parents were looking for a piano teacher for me in the late 1960's, in Brisbane. We found a lovely teacher through contacting the association. I have fond memories of lessons with her throughout my school years, her gentle and kind way, and so knowledgeable. I hope I do her justice in my teaching studio,.

So when I began looking into becoming a piano teacher myself, after a career as a legal secretary. I found great teachers, mentors and friendship from connecting with the local Association on the Gold Coast.

I became involved in the Gold Coast Teachers' Branch and was appointed Secretary for a number of years. As my youngest child was heading off to university and moving away from home, I was asked to consider the roll of President for Queensland.

It was a good time in my family life to throw myself into a new project - helping to bring the MTAQ (as it was known then) into the 21st century. Improving technology to help improve the running of the association, and implementing the online workshop process so that our regional members could become involved in professional development without the need to travel to Brisbane or regional centres. None of which could be achieved without the commitment, dedication of the governing body, the Council and others, it's no one man show!

As with all Associations there were ups and downs along the way, but with overall progress. Here are a few highlights:

Twilight concert held at the Taringa Auditorium, piano and cello, it was such a special event.

My husband and father were involved in the renovation of the kitchenette at the Taringa office- with my assistance as the "gofer" - that was fun!

At the end of my term on Council, (handing over the Presidency to Elissa Higgins by the time the event took place) our team organised the most wonderful Alan Lane Memorial Weekend - such a fabulous time with fond memories of mate-ship and wonderful performances, cocktail evening, workshops and our patron concert.

Many workshops, masterclasses, the initial second hand book sale, and meetings and as always, friendships.

Taking Bravura to a digital platform.

Reworking the Associations website, a task that needs constant attention to remain current.

Travelling up the highway between Gold Coast and Brisbane was usually eventful, as the highway was constantly having roadworks - sometimes the trip taking over 2 hrs, one way, and then travelling back again, having students waiting at my door for their lessons....

Treasured friendships were developed during this time... volunteering is certainly a way to enrich your life.

I wish all at QMTA a bright future.....