

President Memoir

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2016 – 2019

Growing up, I always knew that the Music Teachers' Association of Queensland (as it was known then) was the professional body to consult if you needed a certifiably good music teacher. Once I started my own teaching, I put joining on the 'must do' list, yet I never managed to get around to it. After I achieved my ATMusA, my mentor and friend Joyce Skelton forwarded an invitation and application form that she had received on my behalf, so I took that as a sign that it was time to stop procrastinating and get my application in. Being a part of the QMTA has been nothing but a rewarding experience since and I truly wish I'd done it sooner.

Had I been told when I first began my teaching journey 21 years ago that I would one day be the President of the Queensland Music Teachers' Association, I never would have believed it. It all stemmed from attending a social morning tea mid 2013, which resulted in an invitation to join council. After a few years as a councillor and Vice President, then President Janine Rynne suggested I consider succeeding her at the conclusion of her term. I was equally apprehensive and flattered. I wasn't sure that I was ready for such a position but I drew strength from the encouragement and support of the council at the time. I accepted the honour and privilege of representing such a wonderful association and although I found it a trial at times, it was by far a most fulfilling experience.

Like any association, we had our ups and downs but we made some changes during my term that I hope were of immediate and future benefit to the QMTA.

- We freshened up the auditorium, thanks to a series of grants from the Queensland Community Benefit Fund. During my term, we saw the installation of a ducted air conditioning system, new paint on the old and tired panelled walls and fresh carpet throughout the auditorium. It was a good start for what has been a gradual and continuous overhaul.
- We devised a new Mentoring Program and appointed 12 members as mentors.
- After numerous ongoing issues with the website, we bit the bullet and designed a new and user-friendly site with capacity for a 'members only' section.
- We held a membership drive for student members. Many professional bodies offer free membership to students so we trialled a similar offer which saw them join in droves! Now we just need to work out how to hold on to them so we can build the membership numbers long term.
- We saw steady growth of our followers on our Facebook page. Today, we stand at 1854 page likes!
- We continued to enjoy a good relationship with AMEB and many other professional bodies who support and/or sponsor the association.

What I believe was the biggest challenge during my time as President (and likely still is the biggest challenge) was keeping the QMTA relevant in a world that is rapidly changing, thanks to the digital revolution. There is so much support readily available online, but I have found none to be more beneficial than what I have found through QMTA and its members. The opportunity for face-to-face networking and building a rapport with those in your local community is truly second to none. I've made some wonderful connections, personal and professional and for that, I am truly grateful.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the Queensland Music Teachers' Association on their centenary. For any kind of professional body to enjoy such longevity is an admirable achievement. I wish the QMTA all the best moving forward – here's to the next 100 years!