



President's Report for the AGM 2016

AGTV Committee and Network Leaders

On behalf of members, I thank the Committee and Network Leaders for their voluntary work this year. Some Committee members were overseas at different times during the year, and along with illnesses and other matters, posed extra challenges in planning and delivering services. The Committee has occasionally made use of online meetings to overcome the tyranny of distance, time, commitments and traffic. We may need to use this more often in the future.

Network Leaders in local areas either convened or assisted Regional Final Coordinators with organising Regional Finals of the Poetry Competition. NW Leaders register Network Meeting on our member management system, with Country Networks hosting Network Meetings this year. Some NW Leaders facilitated collaboration for local learning opportunities e.g. immersion opportunities at the Bendigo Art Gallery Day in Calder NW; the Marburg Sister-School Exchange and (upcoming) Nikolaus Tag in the Geelong Western District NW; and the Drama Day in the Gippsland NW.

Life Member OAM

Congratulations to our Life Member Pat Ritter for receiving the OAM for services to German language education. Pat has been a pillar of the German teaching community in Victoria for many years.

Memberships of the AGTV and Subscriptions to SZENE

Individual members (181), Retired (7), Concession (14) and schools (111) from Government, Independent, Catholic and Community schools. A handful of individual Victorian members are from teachers in New South Wales and Western Australia.

SAGTA in SA continues to include a subscription to SZENE as part of their membership, and there are an additional 13 interstate subscriptions, 9 from QLD, 2 from TAS, 2 Libraries - 1 in NSW and 1 in QLD.

Child Safe Policy

The Committee has developed a Child-Safe-Policy and Statement of Commitment to comply with new Victorian legislation and to maintain registration as a student exchange organisation with the VRQA.

AGTV-Bayerischer Jugending (BJR) Exchange since 1988

The AGTV is a nationally registered Student Exchange Organisation (SEO) with the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA) and the Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC), allowing us to facilitate the 10-week AGTV-BJR reciprocal student exchange program in Victoria and Tasmania.

65 students from Victoria will leave for Germany in November with our Group Leaders, which is the reciprocal visit of the 2016-2017 exchange group. The next group has been matched for the 2017-2018 exchange, and 43 students from Bavaria will arrive in February 2017.

Thanks to Christine EkinSmyth for her continued professional service and Brigitte Ankenbrand for supporting her at meetings with families. Thanks to Star of the Sea for the use of their premises.

SZENE 2016

One printed edition was published with reports, teaching materials and a focus on 'Flüchtlinge'. We are grateful for the work of our Editor, Maja Herr, proof-readers and all contributors. Thanks very much to the Goethe-Institut for supporting the production of this teachers' journal.



AGTV online

Other communication channels are through the main AGTV website (agtv.vic.edu.au); the Wild Apricot online member management system (memberships, registrations and email blasts); VIMEO to share videos; SurveyMonkey to collate evaluations and other information; GoToMeeting for online meetings; and a Wikispaces for the Felix und Franzl project.

The Committee is exploring manageable print and digital strategies to make German visible and to promote our services and opportunities to our niche market of students and teachers.

Victorian Government Funding

The Committee was very grateful to receive a \$15,000 grant from the Victorian Government to support the services we provide to teachers and students. This was paid in April and a report due by 31 December. The Committee has managed receiving only half the amount as in previous years well.

Goethe-Institut Australia

The Committee was excited about the appointment of Eva Baker, the new Head of Language and Deputy Director of Goethe-Institut Australia. We first met Eva, when she came to judge at the State Final of the Poetry Competition, and showed her hands on approach by helping the team pack prizes.

We thank the Goethe-Institut for a grant to support of SZENE and other events, for the use of their premises for meetings, and for support and friendly cooperation in organising joint-events, such as the German Day out and Presentation Evening. A special thanks to Joanna Jamroz and Jelena Herster for their tireless work in supporting the teaching and learning of German in Victoria and the AGTV.

Kultur und Sprache, Austria

We are grateful to the support of the Austrian government through Kultur und Sprache. We were pleased to welcome Jürgen Ehrenmüller to Victoria for the Goethe-Institut National Conference in September, where he presented a moving keynote on 'Flüchtlinge' and two workshops. The AGTV organised another immersion workshop with Jürgen in the week following, and two school visits - one in Melbourne and one in Geelong - to work with multiple classes from Years 7 to 12 each day.

AGTV and Scholarships for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE)

The AGTV SAGSE scholarship was awarded to a student originally from near Ballarat, and now studying at the Victorian College of the Arts, and learning German through the Victorian School of Languages. The President of the Bundestag and the new Ambassador to Australia were present at the SAGSE presentation dinner this year. NB: Next year SAGSE celebrates its 50th anniversary.

FYI: Three members of our current Committee are former recipients of SAGSE scholarships.

Network of Australian Teachers of German (NATG)

Thanks to the Goethe-Institut for their ongoing support of the NATG. Catherine Gosling was Secretary and chaired the meeting in 2016, as the meeting was held in Victoria. The next meeting is planned for South Australia and someone from SAGTA will be Secretary and chairperson.

AGTV Years 4 to 9 Poetry Competition

This year, a new model of Regional Finals was trialled to promote participation with Network, Bilingual Schools and Community School Regional Finals. Thanks to Helena Salles, Brigitte Ankenbrand and Ursula Fisher for their work in facilitating the competition throughout Victoria and at the State Final. A special thanks to all Regional Final Coordinators of the Poetry Competition.



Highlighted Services in 2016

Professional Learning

- Publication of SZENE, AGTV websites
- Emails to individual members with tips re. teaching ideas and resources, job opportunities
- VCE PDs *Thanks to all members of the VCE Subcommittee led by Liz Ray and Brigitte Ankenbrand.
- Support for teachers to attend and presentation at the Goethe-Institut National Conference
- Immersion PD, Network Meetings
- AGTV Primary Matters Conference
- Representation at MLTAV (thanks to our Rep. Brigitte Ankenbrand), German Forum, Runder Tisch
- Development of ideas and support materials to distribute and/or share online e.g. *Felix und Franzl* materials; materials for senior students; development of format for eNewsletters and mini-mags.
- Development and trial of the Lieblingsobjekt project at the Martin Luther Homes

Scholarships and Exchanges for Students

- Coordination of the AGTV-BJR Student Exchange program through BJR in Munich, Germany
- AGTV Sponsorship of a SAGSE Scholarship; Rep. on the interview panel, thanks Clare Fleming
- Support for the Goethe-Institut/AGTV Year 10 Awards (\$300 pocket money, one course at GI Melb)

Promotional Event

- GI/AGTV German Day Out at the Melbourne Town Hall, with sponsorship from the City of Melbourne. Thanks to GASS students for moderating the program and to all speakers.

Support for Student Learning

- AGTV website
- AGTV Year 12 Forum (incl. VCE PD)
- Immersion events for students in Melbourne and in country networks
- AGTV Years 4 to 9 *Sprachfest* incl. Regional Finals and State Final at the Austrian Club
- AGTV *Kunst und Poesie: Paul Klee* competition for primary students of German
- AGTV *Chor des Jahres* competition
- AGTV *Song des Jahres* competition
- AGTV *Werbespot* competition
- AGTV support for prizes for the Goethe-Institut School Film Festival

Final Thanks

I personally would like to thank the Executive and all Committee members for their work and for their support of me as President this year. We are a *klein aber fein* team and have much to be proud of in how we maintain services to support and promote the teaching and learning of German in Victoria.

Thanks to all members of our Association their support including attending events, promoting our services, and sharing ideas; and thanks to those members who step up to help when needed including assisting at an event or facilitating a Regional Final or presenting at a conference. We need your help and input. We encourage members to take that one step further to nominate for the Committee.

Thanks to the Goethe-Institut for the scholarships, professional learning, film festivals, exhibitions, student events and other services to support German in schools. The AGTV has a long history of collaborating with the Goethe-Institut to achieve mutual goals. May both our organisations and German in schools thrive.

Catherine Gosling President