

2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023 has been a very busy year for the organisation. With 393 members, we continue to be the peak body supporting the amazing tuckshop convenors in every area of Queensland.

QAST continues to deliver high quality service and support through:

- Our Financial Advisory Service, Menu Health Checks, and Tuckshop Tune-ups and Phone Advisory Service
- Tuckshop Network Meetings
- Comprehensive website
- Social media communication through Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn
- Delivery of training courses, including Food Safety Supervisor, Food Handlers Course, Pathway to Profit, and Convenor Course.

Some of the main highlights for 2023 include:

- The Recipe of the Year competition. This was a standout success and attracted important positive media coverage for school canteens.
- Key partner in delivery of the A Better Choice Conference and Expo with Health and Wellbeing Queensland in May.
- Joining the Canteen Consortium and being successful in funding to deliver the “For the Love of Veg” project for 3 years.
- Connections through Cooking showcase at the Metro Health Multicultural Health Symposium in May.
- Connections through Cooking project announced as a finalist in the Queensland Community Achievement Awards in November.
- Delivery of a Tuckshop Management Masterclass at the Queensland School Business Managers Conference in August.
- Parliament House MP engagement event on 26 October, with approximately 40 MPs attending, including Minister for Education, Hon Grace Grace.

QAST continues to grow and value our key partnerships, including:

- Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQld) – together we delivered two funded projects, worked together on media activities, and partnered for the A Better Choice Conference and Expo.
- Queensland Department of Education – housing and communication.
- Leading the Smart Choices Working Group along with HWQld, Department of Education and Nutrition Australia Queensland.
- Leading the Healthy Food in Schools Alliance with P&C’s Qld, Catholic School Parents Queensland, Queensland Independent Schools Parent Network, Nutrition Australia Queensland and the Heart Foundation.
- Being a part of the executive committee of FOCIS and the National School Food Network.
- Working with Nutrition Australia Queensland as their RTO to deliver Food Safety Supervisor training.
- Working with the Institute of Social Sciences Research (UQ) for evaluation of QAST activities.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff at QAST for everything they do to make this organisation the pinnacle of support for Queensland tuckshops:

- Chris Ogden, Chief Executive Officer (Jan – Sept); Training Manager (Sept - Dec)
- Deanne Wooden, Senior Projects Manager (Jan – Sept) Chief Executive Officer (Sept – Dec)
- Karen Tobin, Administration Manager
- Chrissy Buzzard, Communications Manager
- Donna Moyle, Projects Manager (Healthier Tuckshops)
- Astri Candrarini, Projects Manager (Creating Connections through Cooking)
- Natalie Farrugia, Projects Manager (Healthy Eats and Creating Connections through Cooking)
- Kamila Oliveira, Trainee (Creating Connections through Cooking)

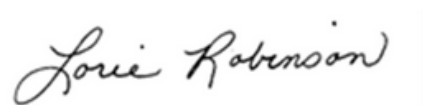
A special mention also to the university placement students for 2023, including;

- QUT students, Christine Johnson and Jacqueline Facey, for their work on investigating the food supply available to school tuckshops in regional, rural and remote Queensland
- QUT students, Felicity Smyth and Lachlan Tierney, for their work on the 2023 Recipe of the Year Competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you and fond farewell to Chris Ogden who has retired from the role of CEO after 17 years. Through her many years of dedication, tireless energy and depth of knowledge, Chris has been instrumental in making QAST the organisation it is today. On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to wish Chris all the best in her retirement – may she enjoy the next chapter in her life.

Finally, on behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to formally welcome Deanne Wooden to the role of CEO. Deanne brings with her a wealth of knowledge and a seemingly endless energy which will continue to bring QAST to new levels.

Thank you to my fellow Management Committee members. Your insight, time and support have made this a very successful year for our wonderful organisation.



Lorie Robinson
President