

## Message from the President



On behalf of the Management Committee, I welcome you all to the 65th City of Toowoomba Eisteddfod Inc.

Our Eisteddfod has continued to grow and expand in 2009 with over 25% more entries than last year to date and many new initiatives including the introduction of Dance and Rock Band sections, revised Literary sections, the TS Burstow Opera Gala on 9 May and a Closing Concert & Award Ceremony on 2 August.

The Toowoomba Eisteddfod is an Incorporated Association run by a volunteer Management Committee, most of whom have families and full time jobs. The organization of the event involves thousands of hours of preparation throughout the year and would not be possible without the hard work of the Committee and Executive members. We are greatly assisted by the team of volunteers who assist as comperes, scribes, door keepers and ticket sellers during the running of the event.

Despite being manned entirely by volunteers, we have to raise approximately \$120,000 a year in donations and sponsorships to stage the Eisteddfod. This covers the hiring of the venues, adjudicators' fees and expenses, prize monies, medals, certificates and trophies, publicity, printing and graphics costs and general office expenses. We hope our patrons will continue to appreciate that we are obliged to charge admission fees into the venue and other services in order to cover these expenses.

The Toowoomba Eisteddfod gives individuals and groups the opportunity to participate in the performing arts, to develop their artistic potential and to receive expert and professional adjudication on their performance. Many awards and incentives are offered to encourage performers in their pursuit of further study and excellence. We are indebted to all those in our community who have generously donated the funds needed to provide these prizes. A list of donations and gifts to the Association is included in this program and on our website. In particular we acknowledge our major sponsors; the Toowoomba Regional Council, TS Burstows, Owen Ray's International Music and Kustom Amplification.

As I officially open the 65th City of Toowoomba Eisteddfod my thanks go to everyone who has made the event possible and wish all contestants a positive and enjoyable experience.

*Paula Melville-Clark*