

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION

Australian Region Inc.



THE AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE



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President's Message

Hello Australia Region members. It is indeed an honour to be your President and I will do my best to fulfill that role. I joined Toastmistress [now POWERtalk] way back in March 1978 to learn a bit about public speaking so I could stand for a political position. Little did I realise that after 32 ½ years that I would still be a member, still learning and still making gaffes (without malice) on a regular basis. Mark Twain once said, you have to learn the rules so you know how to break them...I have endeavoured to learn to know the rules well enough so that I know when they can be broken, because things are not always black or white. My artistic side knows there a thousand shades of white, a thousand shades of gray and a thousand shades of black, so Ladies and Gentlemen, when you make a gaffe – KNOW that all is not lost. I remember once saying at a Council 7 meeting that I could see no point in having a 'Council Courier' as it was just another piece of correspondence to put in an apple case under the bed and if I hadn't discovered I needed it in the next year or so I could toss the lot out without reading it. Of course the poor Courier editor was there and quite devastated [so I found out years later]. But I am very sorry to tell you that one of my chief faults is to say what I think in spite of all my best efforts to be tactful! I also have a great love of the Australian vernacular and having had 29 fully fledged married brothers-in-law and eight years of being a meat-worker, I am gradually becoming an expert on Australian slang....which can sometimes conflict with our motto of 'To love and Language and use it with Grace and facility'. C'est la vie! We do learn by our mistakes, certainly. But, we are also, each and every one of us, our own person so that what is right for me may not be right for you and vice versa.

My theme for the year is 'Love our members and treat our Councils with respect'. For a long time after I joined I had many little kids and with a whole year of Toastmistress training under my belt, was an elected member of Beaudesert Shire Council, so sometimes Council meetings were just impossible to get to. But once I discovered how wonderful Council meetings were and how wonderful the members of the diverse clubs were, you couldn't keep me away.

Your Region Visitor at your next Council meeting will be doing a one hour workshop so that all Councils will get the same training. The educational workshop is still being developed by your Region Board. Could all Council Programmers please allow time for this? The Board members come to your Council to offer assistance and to oversee how the Council meeting and the education program and ambience of the day is organised. Subsequent evaluations done by Board members result in one of the Councils winning the Rosebowl Award - an award to be very proud of [as is the Alex Applebaum Award - a trophy for the Clubs which is decided by Region Board vote after nomination by your Council].

Members, I trust you will be happy this year; I trust you will learn a lot at Club and Council meetings; I am sure you will forge friendships within the clubs and councils and Region conference that will last a lifetime. Once you have achieved your goals in POWERtalk, you may decide to leave and go on to other things OR, like me, you may stay to enjoy the company of friends and stimulation of assignments whilst contributing to the growth and nurturing of new members, so that they may have as gloriously happy a life as you have had with the help, education, love and support of fellow members.

God bless you and keep you all. Keep smiling,
Joy Drescher President, Australian Region

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Welcome to**New Members****ARMIDALE COMMUNICATORS**

Maria Moss, joined August, 2010

POWER*talk* BRISBANE CENTRAL

Bernie McKeering, joined June, 2010

POWER*talk* BRISBANE SOUTH

Angie Lou, joined August, 2010

Dawn Foster, joined August, 2010

Debbie Willico, joined August, 2010

Norm Ferguson, joined August, 2010

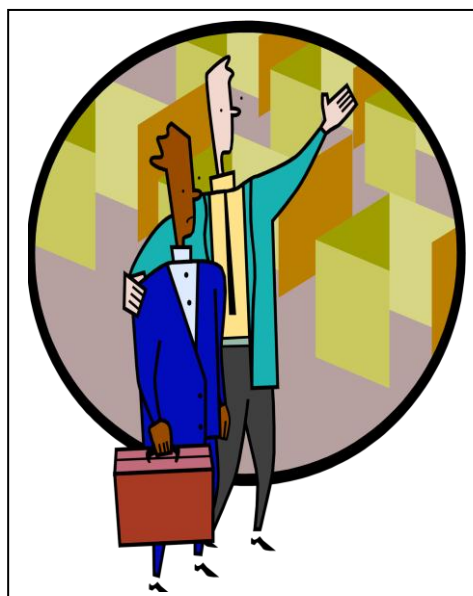
Peter McDowell – rejoining

WAVERLEY COMMUNICATORS

Sunny Sisranatha, joined August, 2010

PARKVIEW COMMUNICATORS

Karen Trainer, joined August, 2010



Creating a Balance



DEVELOPING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

WHAT IS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE?

- Your attitude is the disposition you transmit to others. It is the way you see things mentally.
- The more you focus on the positive factors of your environment, the easier it will be to remain positive.
- Outside events can shake our attitude into a negative focus. When this happens and your attitude becomes negative, the challenge is to quickly employ an attitude adjustment technique to bounce back and regain a positive outlook.

PERSONALITY AND ATTITUDE

- A positive attitude is the most powerful and priceless personality characteristic one can possess.
- The way to make the most of physical and mental characteristics is to communicate them through a positive attitude.
- A charismatic personality is impossible without a positive attitude.

THE MAGIC OF A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- A positive attitude can provide higher energy levels, greater creativity, and an improved personality.
- A serendipitous attitude can cause good things to happen.
- You can be 'beautiful' with a cheerful, positive attitude.

ATTITUDE AND CAREER SUCCESS

- Building good human relationships begins with a positive attitude.
- When a person is successful in building and maintaining positive working relationships a human support system is created that helps keep that person's attitude positive.

THE NEED FOR FREQUENT ATTITUDE RENEWAL

- Our attitude is constantly under pressure from shock waves, image problems, negative drift and other factors.
- Attitude maintenance is a regular daily and weekly process everyone should engage in.
- It is important to plan an attitude overhaul when required.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS POWER*talk*?

- Do you positively promote the value of POWER*talk* membership?
- Do you invite friends and others to attend a POWER*talk* meeting?
- What have you done recently to promote POWER*talk*?
- Are you keeping POWER*talk* a secret?
- Do you share with others what benefits you gain from POWER*talk*?
- Have you participated in the 1+1 program? That is every member is encouraged to bring one friend/relation/work-mate to a POWER*talk* meeting.
- We can only build if the membership is supportive of our efforts.
- The only way up for POWER*talk* is membership growth.
- Membership growth is up to you the member to tell others about us.
- Have you a positive attitude about POWER*talk*?

DEVELOP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ABOUT POWER*talk* AND MEMBERSHIP WILL GROW

Marie Cooke – President Elect 2010

POWER*talk* International theme for 2010-2011 term is: “**Coach for Success**”

PREM

Publicity – Recruitment – Extension – Membership

The focus for PREM in the last couple editions of the Gazette has put forward the plans of Council Seven to grow club membership and ensure the satisfaction of continuing members. As a reminder, the plan incorporates four key strategies that members would focus on to promote growth.

These strategies are

1. GATHERING NEW MEMBERS THROUGH SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS
2. INVESTING IN CURRENT MEMBERS
3. USING TECHNOLOGY TO OUR ADVANTAGE
4. **PURSUING BRAND RECOGNITION AND VISIBILITY**

I will persist to address these strategies with the purpose of possibly enabling clubs to adopt their own points of focus to grow and retain membership. I know from my experience in business that a scatter gun effort rarely hits a target. I also have discovered...albeit after many, many attempts of trying to prove the adage wrong...that the definition of idiocy is continuing to do something the same way and expecting different results.

I recently sent a request to club Presidents asking for feedback as to what is working and what isn't regarding promoting their clubs. There were many very mixed results.

A number of clubs do regularly advertise in their local diary sections of their community newspapers. To work this needs to be done at least on a weekly or fortnightly basis and the wording must grab the reader in the first sentence. It often takes a person seeing an advertisement a number of times before they act, so ensure you advertise regularly. Also change your first line catch phrase often.

Examples of ideas for first lines are:-

- ***Do you need to learn to communicate more effectively?***
- ***Is good communication important in your job?***
- ***Are you sick of not being able to say what you want when you want to?***
- ***Do you want to learn how to become a leader?***
- ***Need to know how to run efficient business meeting?***

Always bold the first sentence when you email your add.

A request could be as simple as "I would appreciate if you would include this add in the community notices of the paper. We are a not for profit organisation and welcome the opportunity to promote our club. Thank you"

Don't go into too much detail...the editor won't be interested and usually has a lot to read each day already. Apply the KISS principal!

Include the club details and a point of contact that is always available to take calls.

Join members of (club name) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday night of each month at 7:30 pm at the (venue) for an evening of fun & learning. For more information contact (name of contact, phone and website)

The newspapers usually only want a few sentences and if you send too many details they will often edit or omit your add entirely. The time to sell the benefits of attending a meeting is done when a person calls...not in the ad! Be prepared for the call. Make sure that rather than jumping in and telling the interested person what the club has to offer...ask them what it was about the add that interested them and what they want from improving their communication skills. Remember it is all about what is in it for them...not necessarily what we offer. Trust me there is a difference.

As well as community newspapers, schools and other sporting or local clubs regularly print newsletters and may include your add. You may be able to do contra deals for free adds offering judges for contests or speaking to club boards on topics such as running a business meeting or speaking with confidence etc.

Regular promotion of clubs in the media and in your local communities will continue to raise the recognition of your club and our organisation.

Go forth and multiply!
Warm regards
Janeen Vosper FITC
PREM CHAIRMAN
AUSTRALIAN REGION



***Congratulations to Janeen Vosper [Australian Region PREM chair]
on becoming Australian Region's newest Fellow of ITC.***

Wanted!

AUSTRALIAN REGION – Renew your commitment!

Nominations are invited for the positions of:

- **President Elect**
- **Vice President Finance**
- **Secretary**

For the 2011-2012 term.

Any member who meets the eligibility criteria and is willing to:

- *Be part of the management team of the region*
- *Broaden their horizons within POWERtalk International*
- *Travel for some Council and board meetings*
- *Ensure all areas are represented on the region board*

Can nominate.

Eligibility Criteria:

You must be a current, active member of a club in good standing or a member-at-large within the Australian Region

You must have:

- *Been an active member of POWERtalk international (or ITC) for more than five years*
- *Served in an elected office at club and at council (where a council exists)*
- *Served at least one term on a Region Board (President-Elect only)*

Send nominations by 15th February 2011 to:

Nominating Committee Chairman
 POWER^{talk} International Australian Region
 (Incorporated as ITC Australian Region Inc.)
 Mrs. Christine Hardy
 9 Luculia Ave
 Baulkham Hills 2153 NSW
 Tel 0296391888 christinehardy2001@yahoo.com.au

A nomination form can be downloaded from the region website

<http://www.powertalkaustralia.org.au>

Or you can contact Christine for a copy or if you have any questions

Send Nominating Form, with list of offices held, by 15th February 2011
 Nominations may be sent by email, followed by the signed copy sent by mail.

Bylaws

AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN REGION BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

Do you think the region could operate more effectively if changes were to be made to our operations? This can be achieved through amendments to Bylaws and/or Standing Rules.

The 2010 Bylaws and Standing Rules can be found www.powertalkaustralia.org.au under Region Documents.

Proposals may be submitted by any member club in good standing, any council, any region standing committee or the region board.

All proposals must be submitted through the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee.

Please include:

- Bylaw or Standing Rule number
- Current wording
- Proposed amendment (eg. Amend by striking out, striking out and inserting, substitution, adding)
- Wording if the proposal is carried
- Rationale (brief reasons for the change)



Please send, by 15th December 2010, to:

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman, Pat Cartwright, by email to pat.cartwright@optusnet.com.au

Contact Pat if you have any queries 03 9432 8051

Writing

GIVE IT A GO

Entries are now open for the *POWERtalk* International Writing Contest. The contest is open to all members who meet the qualifications as set out in the contest rules; i.e. active members of clubs in good standing, members-at-large, and members of unattached clubs/councils.

The rules, entry format, and deadline dates can be accessed on www.powertalkinternational.com >Members' sign in> Members Resources>Contests>Writing Contest. Please ensure you look at and follow these rules – even experienced contestants have been disqualified for not adhering to spacing and margin requirements! Also, ensure an eligibility form is signed by your Club treasurer and yourself and sent in with each of your entries.

With Christmas break rapidly approaching, why not take advantage of the time off to put your thoughts to paper in the form of a fiction or non-fiction short story or poem.

You could surprise yourself – last year a novice won one category and came second in another.

NOTE: The entry, cover sheet, together with the member's eligibility statement, must be emailed or postmarked to Australian Region Writing Contest Chair, Vicki Lamb by March 1 2010.

If you have difficulty accessing the rules or other sheets, or have further questions, please contact the Writing Competition Chair whose details appear below.

Come on – give it a go!

Australian Region Writing Contest Chairman,
Vicki Lamb,
1 Marsh Avenue, Cronulla NSW 2230
(02) 9523 8028 vlamb@bigpond.net.au

Money Matters



Pro Rata Region Dues

November	\$45.00
December	\$45.00
January	\$45.00
February	\$22.50
March	\$22.50

Please make cheques payable to:

International Training in Communication Australian Region Incorporated

Do not use abbreviations please.

Send fees to:

Natasha Hydon, Australian Region VP Finance
49 Leilani Drive
BIRKDALE QLD 4159

PLEASE NOTE: CLUBS WHO HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED REGION FEES FOR THIS TERM ARE REQUIRED TO SEND IN MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND OVERDUE FUNDS IMMEDIATELY. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of members from eligibility to participate in region competitions [including speech and writing competitions] and cause your club to be not of good standing as per Australian Region Bylaws. PLEASE REMIT IMMEDIATELY to Natasha Hydon at the address above.

When submitting new member fees and annual dues to council or region, please include a copy of the club membership statement or new member form. Also, please send a copy of multi-action forms for resignations or change of address or positions to region and council to assist with the maintenance of records.

Roster

The Roster is not yet ready but it isn't far off completion.

The Region Secretary, Leigh Martin and Region Treasurer, Natasha Hydon are in the process of collating and updating all of the material. Many thanks to all those who have passed on the changes from their Council and Club Boards.

If you haven't yet sent this vital information, could you do so as soon as possible. Leigh and Natasha need club membership lists, the list of officers for the term, complete with contact details, email addresses and telephone numbers. Please email them to dalyleigh@optusnet.com.au

Australian Region Conference 2011

“GO FOR GOLD”

Dear Fellow Members

The planning for the 2011 Australian Region Conference being held on the Gold Coast next May is well underway. The Education and Programming Team have some exciting ideas for an interesting program. You will by now have received requests for session presenters. Keep in mind you don't have to be a long term member to apply.

We have a treat planned for the Friday night of conference. As an option, you will be able to attend the sensational Outback Spectacular Show, feast on a great Aussie meal and get carried away with the action packed show. This show is a must on your Gold Coast holiday itinerary – many goose bump and gut wrenching moments.

I hope you are collecting your items for the Scavenger Hunt to bring to conference. A number of New Zealand members will also be attending conference and are playing along with the hope to win the “Golden Prize”.

We encourage you to start planning your visit to the Gold Coast for conference. You might even want to make it a family experience.

Warm regards
Janeen Vosper
2011 AUSTRALIAN REGION CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

FROM THE PROGRAMME CHAIR

Are you ready to take on the challenge of presenting at Region level?

Does your Accreditation folder need some signatures?

The programming committee for the Australian Region Conference is seeking submissions from interested parties for presentations at The Gold Coast May 20th – 22nd 2011.

If you think you have what it takes, please contact Mary Wong Programme Chair by email on maryhannahaus@iprimus.com.au with your expression of interest **prior to Nov 15, 2010**.

The committee is working hard to ensure the Australian Region conference 2011 is one to remember for all the right reasons! We are seeking experienced presenters who would be prepared to take on the challenge of presenting to a specific nominated topic as well as those who wish to present on a subject of their own choice.

In addition, we want to encourage those who may not have taken on the challenge of presenting at this level previously, to consider presenting either a shorter session [time slots of 30, 60 or 90 mins are available] or to work with a more experienced member to present a longer session.

Sessions should fit into one of the following categories – personal or professional growth, language [including sessions suitable for ESL members], and some light relief.

We look forward to being inundated with your expressions of interest as we GO FOR GOLD in 2011 at the GOLD COAST!

Mary Wong, Programme Chair, Australian Region Conference 2011





**GO
FOR
GOLD!**

POWERtalk Australian Region Conference
20th – 22nd May 2011
Vibe Hotel, 42 Ferny Ave, Surfers Paradise
GOLD COAST, Queensland
Loving our members and nurturing our councils'

Conference 2010 Financials

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Australian Region Inc. ARBN 055 071 344

Australian Region Inc. Conference 21st - 23rd May 2010

The Old Woolstore Apt Hotel, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 9TH JULY, 2010

CBA ACCOUNT 06 2121 1066 7636

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Statement as at 9th July, 2010		\$3,966.88
Less Unpresented Cheques		
901413 J. Vosper	\$33.88	\$33.88
Balance as per Cash book 9th July, 2010		\$3,933.00

I have examined the books and supporting documents of the ITC Australian Region Conference 2010, and in my opinion they show a fair and true view of the financial position of the event, according to the information and explanations given to me.



Jeff Riley

August 6, 2010

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Australian Region Inc. ARBN 055 071 344

Australian Region Inc. Conference 21st - 23rd May 2010

The Old Woolstore Apt Hotel, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Opening Cash book balance determined from 2009 Bank Reconciliation:

Bank Statement as at 1st July, 2009		\$8,006.58	
Less Unpresented Cheques			
138 N & D Hydon	\$60.00		
146 Anne Hurst	\$10.00		
147 Leigh Martin	\$245.00		\$315.00
Cash Book Balance 1st July, 2009			<u>\$7,691.58</u>

Receipts

Bank Interest	\$1.72		
Registrations, Rec.1459-1512	\$16,506.25		
For Region officers	\$1,391.25		
Silent auction	\$716.00		<u>\$18,615.22</u>

Expenditure

Cheques 149-151	\$5,691.58		
Cheques 1401-1413	\$16,592.22		
Cash reimbursement (M Sutherland)	\$90.00		<u>\$22,373.80</u>

Cash book Balance 9th July 2010\$3,933.00**Bank Reconciliation**

Bank Statement as at 9th July, 2010		\$3,966.88	
Less Unpresented Cheques			
901413 J. Vosper	\$33.88		\$33.88
Cash Book Balance 9th July, 2010			<u><u>\$3,933.00</u></u>

I have examined the books and supporting documents of the ITC Australian Region Conference 2010, and in my opinion they show a fair and true view of the financial position of the event, according to the information and explanations given to me.

Jeff Riley
August 6, 2010

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Australian Region Inc. ARBN 055 071 344
Australian Region Inc. Conference 21st - 23rd May 2010
The Old Woolstore Apt Hotel, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Balance of Cash Book 28th August, 2009		\$7,691.58
less repayment to Australian Region cheque 150		<u>-\$4,691.58</u>
		<u>\$3,000.00</u>
INCOME		
Registrations	\$16,106.25	
Theatre Royal Visit	\$400.00	
Ex Australian Region	\$1,391.25	
Silent Auction	\$716.00	
Bank Interest	\$1.72	
TOTAL INCOME		<u><u>\$18,615.22</u></u>
EXPENDITURE		
Theatre Royal visit	\$760.00	<u>\$760.00</u>
The Old Woolstore	Meals - conference package	\$13,522.50
	Breakfast	\$1,147.00
	Pre-paid venue deposit	<u>-\$500.00</u>
		<u>\$14,169.50</u>
Program & Education	Presenters, gifts, handouts	\$555.00
	Writing contest	\$176.24
		<u>\$731.24</u>
Administration	Postage	\$33.88
	Stationery, copying & laminating	\$88.90
	Wine for top table - Gala Dinner	\$92.00
		<u>\$214.78</u>
Individuals	Room hire - 2 nights	\$490.00
	Conference bags	\$128.70
	Conference programs	\$90.00
	Floral decoration	\$98.00
	Pre-paid venue deposit	\$500.00
		<u>\$1,306.70</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u><u>\$17,182.22</u></u>
SURPLUS		<u><u>\$1,433.00</u></u>
Pre-paid venue deposit for Conference 2011		<u><u>\$500.00</u></u>
Balance of Cash Book 9th July 2010		<u><u>\$3,933.00</u></u>

I have examined the books and supporting documents of the ITC Australian Region Conference 2010, and in my opinion they show a fair and true view of the financial position of the event, according to the information and explanations given to me.


 Jeff Riley
 August 6, 2010

ITW JAPAN - AN AUSSIE PERSPECTIVE

On Oct 19th 2010, three members of *POWERtalk* Brisbane Central travelled to Japan for a dual-purpose visit, which included a visit to our sister-club ITC Hiroshima, and attending the International President's Training Weekend in Kobe. What a fantastic week it turned out to be!

The visit to our Sister club more than fulfilled our expectations with members going out of their way to spoil us and make us feel welcome. Travelling by bullet train from Kobe to Hiroshima was an adventure in itself – whizzing along at around 300km/h, so fast our eyes simply couldn't adjust, whilst seemingly motionless due to the smoothness of the ride, is a very impressive experience and one I would thoroughly recommend. On our arrival into Hiroshima, we were met by the Hiroshima Club President and three other members who escorted us on a tour of Miyajima Island – an area heralded as one of the most beautiful in the country. We were mesmerised by the tranquil beauty of century old temples as well as the sheer size of the monolithic Torii gate seemingly suspended in the waters of the bay. The deer on the Island provided a few interesting moments as the cheeky little chaps have a liking for cloth and paper and decided to sample some of our notes! Some of them even were attempting to enter one of the Island's many restaurants. Lunch in one of these restaurants was a very tasty array of sea-food, exquisitely presented – as only the Japanese can do – and eaten in peaceful harmony overlooking a tranquil Japanese Garden.

After a tour of around 5 hours we were escorted to our Hotel for a quick freshen up before attending a welcome dinner at which 19 club members were present. Next morning we wandered around the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum – an infinitely moving experience which really makes one treasure our peaceful existence here in Australia – prior to attending the Club meeting. This was a luncheon meeting with a very delicious lunch at the regular meeting venue owned by the family of one of the members. We were treated to multiple gifts and made to feel as though we were royal visitors. The meeting was especially enjoyable – and although much of it was in Japanese, members went out of their way to translate for us and to make us feel comfortable. We parted some 3 ½ hours later, feeling that we had made many new friendships that will last a lifetime.

On returning to Kobe, we sampled local food before collapsing into bed for a much needed rest. Friday heralded the commencement of the Training Weekend. We had some time free during the day to look around the city and get a small taste of the excellent variety and superb quality of the wares available in the Japanese stores. It certainly left one hungry for more retail therapy!

Then the Weekend commenced with a drinks and a buffet supper – a very well attended event. We were given hand-made paper roses then treated to a spectacular performance of Traditional Japanese theatre, presented by members of Nishiki Club, Council 1, Japan Region. The facial expressions and vocal quality were superb, and whilst the play was entirely in Japanese, the non-verbal communication

was easy to follow with the assistance of a précis which had been translated to English to assist those non-Japanese speakers present.

The training began in earnest on Saturday with multiple concurrent sessions – with so much quality education on offer, it was quite a task to decide which session to attend. The Plenary Speech “The Silent Power” was given by Anita Henzler, Member at Large of the Southwest Region - the topic being the influence women have had throughout history when exercising their power to be a maker of change. It was heartening for this ‘stay at home mother’ to hear Anita add an assertion that moulding the lives of our young in our roles as mothers can be equally influential on world events as other more high profile activities.

Traditional Japanese art mini-workshops on Saturday afternoon saw us dressed up in Kimonos learning how to fan dance, and learning Japanese floral art, among other things. Saturday evening’s Gala dinner once again entertained us all immensely with a particularly beautiful Ballet performance of the “Prologue to Sleeping Beauty” by young girls aged 12 – 15 years. More gifts were presented with all non-Japanese guests being given origami cranes and dollies to mention just a few of the treasures that were bestowed upon us. Margaret Sutherland was presented with a stunning traditional Japanese Kimono by a member of the Japan Region.

Sunday’s education sessions were as busy as Saturday’s and were followed by a plenary workshop on Evaluation led by International President, Margaret Sutherland. This included two speeches – one in English and one in Japanese. Again, the Japanese speaker’s language did not need to be understood as she displayed a spectacular command of non-verbal communication skills which had the audience practically rolling in the aisles.

Following on from this was the plenary session which was a most informative demonstration of the *POWERtalk* website, followed by a question session, during which there was lively discussion about the need for more translation on the website. Following the plenary session, the weekend came to a close with the usual formalities, finished off by the non-Japanese Region guests thanking the Japanese Region with a touching and quite tuneful rendition of “Now is the Hour”. With 422 attendees [6 Aussies including Margaret Sutherland and 2 spouses] it truly was a remarkable event and well worth attending, well and truly fulfilling the meeting theme of “Together we grow, Together we succeed”.

For one Australian, attendance allowed the fulfillment of an ambition to become a Fellow of ITC - Congratulations Janeen Vosper on achieving this milestone. Of course, the Aussies cannot attend an overseas function without some frivolity, so we got together with the Kiwis on Sunday evening for some drinks and relaxation, hosted by Margaret Sutherland, prior to adjourning to the Hotel lounge to continue to celebrate what had been a marvelous week-end, topping off a spectacular week in my new favourite overseas destination, Japan.

Mary Wong
First Vice President
POWERtalk Brisbane Central

From our Members

Prior to this edition, a call went out to our members, asking for submissions for publication in the Gazette. The following were received. The editor wishes to thank the contributors for their effort – I trust you will enjoy reading them as much as I did.

"I've been a member of Southside Speakers for about six years and in that time have taken on the role of Secretary, and am the current President, this being my second term of office.

We are very fortunate in having a caring and supportive membership and I've obtained immense satisfaction from the encouragement of fellow committee members over the last four years. They have assisted and supported me in planning meetings, and special occasions, not the least being a most successful Council 9 Speech Contest in March of this year.

For those of you unsure if you should take on a committee role, be assured that POWERtalk Clubs are the best place to spread your wings. I'm sure that, like me, you'll find the necessary support and encouragement from your fellow members, and thus widen your horizons. Go on, give it a go."

Enid Leighton
President
Southside Speakers

TREASURE



Treasure can mean different things to different people. You may have an object you cherish or someone you treasure dearly. But you must admit that the things that pop into your mind when "treasure" is mentioned are gold, treasure maps and of course pirates! Where did this famous legend of buried treasure and eye patches come from and did any of it originate from truth?

The definition of a pirate is a person who commits criminal acts at sea without the authorisation of any nation. This could include robbery or even warlike invasions of other ships. Sound familiar?

You may already know that pirates were in fact real although not exactly as they have been portrayed in books or movies. Buried treasure is a well-known and loved theme for stories, but in reality there are actually very few cases documented that have pirates burying their treasure. The pirate, Captain William Kidd, is most responsible for this legend.

So where did all our imagination of the tattered maps with the oversized X come from? Many of the pirate and treasure stories we have grown up with have left their mark on us! The famous story of *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson is known for popularising the idea and inspired many later stories and films.

The buried treasure theme then made its way onto the big screen from Indiana Jones to the Pirates of the Caribbean series and whilst these stories are fiction, there are actually some truths behind them - the flag for example - the so called "Jolly Roger" with large skull underlined by long bones forming an X on a black background. We may know this symbol to represent Poison or Hazard and pirates used it to frighten their victims into surrendering without a fight, since it conveyed the message that the attackers were outlaws who would not consider themselves bound by the usual rules of engagement. Pirates were thought likely to slaughter those they defeated (since captured pirates were usually hanged, they didn't have much to gain by asking for mercy).

The same message was sometimes conveyed by a red flag because the name Jolly Roger comes from the French word for Pretty Red - "Jolie Rouge". However, there are some more theories associated to the Jolly Roger that make more sense. In the Elizabethan era "Roger" was a slang term for beggars. Another theory suggests that the name is an English corruption of "Ali Raja" the name of a Tamil pirate who was from India. The last theory is that it is a nickname for the devil "Old Roger", and the Jolly at the front suggests the wicked grin on the skull. All are possible theories, although the truth may never be known.

When you imagine a pirate you most likely think a gruff man with earrings, beard, peg leg, holding rum and possibly a hook for a hand. The idea for the peg leg was misinterpreted from the story *Treasure Island* in which the character used crutches. These ideas became the stereotypes for many costumes of pirates later on. There is some truth in this however because many pirates had injuries in which amputations were the only way of surviving. Then a substitute like a wooden log may be used instead.

The idea of the parrot on the shoulder came mainly from the story *Treasure Island* and whilst it was true that many people at sea had pets, surprisingly monkeys were more common than parrots.

Another popular belief is the tendency for movies to portray the characters with a western country accent, with the "Ah-hargh, me hearties!" One of the first people to suggest this was a famous actor, Robert Newton who played the pirate roles in several movies and used this type of accent. This influenced the thinking that pirates spoke in this manner. However this is just a myth, pirate crews could be made up of people all over the world so accents would vary.

Then there is the myth of the plank! In many movies we hear the phrase “Walk the plank!” but it is known that whilst pirates used every torture they could think of, the plank was not mentioned at all in the Golden Age of Piracy. A century later an incident in which the pirates refused to show where the gold was hidden led to them being blindfolded and forced to walk the plank with cannon balls tied to their feet.

Nowadays the term ‘pirate’ is more commonly used to describe those illegally making money from unauthorised copies of movies, books or music and downloading things for free. Many people around the globe are guilty of this piracy, whilst some may not even realise that they are being pirates!

I hope that you have learnt a lot about what’s true and what’s not when it comes to pirates and buried treasure. And whilst the possibility of a map of buried treasure is unlikely, remember that we are on our own map and **we** choose where we want to go to reach what may be our most precious treasure.

Jennifer Kim,
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CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT GAZETTE

14th February, 2011

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I look forward to receiving multiple submissions to your region Newsletter. – Ed.

Australian Region Theme

“Love our Members and Treat our Councils with Respect”