

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION

Australian Region Inc.



THE AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE



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October, 2011

President's Message

'CEAD MILE FAILTE'

(One Hundred Thousand Welcomes)
to the 2011-2012 Term of Australian Region.

*"The time has come your President says
to talk of many things;
Of clubs – and Councils and Committees –
Of Training and Commitment
And why things are the way they are
And whether we can win".*

An adaptation to Lewis Carroll & Alice

Term Theme:

'Accentuate the Positive'

Board Meeting Dates:

6 August 2011
5 January 2012
17 March 2012

Council Board Reports due:

30 September 2011
1 January 2012
1 June 2012

Term Goals:

1. To accentuate the positive aspects of POWERtalk membership at all times.
2. To increase the membership of Australian Region by one member per club.
3. To develop positive communication between clubs, councils and region.
4. To charter a new club in Australian Region

By now you will have settled into your roles in Council and Clubs. Congratulations to all new board members – may your term be rewarding.

Each of us can Accentuate the Positive in our commitments, our determination and our resolve to be the best that we can be in all our roles within POWERtalk. As Proust said, "A powerful idea communicates some of its strength to she who challenges it"

Winston Churchill said, "Give us the tools and we will finish the job". You have the tools in all the POWERtalk material available, in the Training Sessions planned for this term and in your Officers. Use them to do the job and the task will be easier. Powerful ideas and the right tools are a formidable combination.

Let us in Australian Region Accentuate the Positive by working together. There is exciting TRAINING planned for Council meetings. Be sure to mark your diary so as not to miss out. Listen carefully at Club for notices and dates. Come and learn, participate and experience. Because – 'Experience isn't interesting till it begins to repeat itself – in fact – until it does that – it hardly is experience'. (L. Carroll)

The Region Board is here to work with you and for you. Keep the lines of communication open and together we will accentuate the positive for our Region.



Slainte

Marie Cooke
President, Australian Region.

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Welcome to

New Members

FAIRLIGHT COMMUNICATORS

Linda-Ann Henwood – April 2011

SHOALHAVEN COMMUNICATORS

Jenny Edwards – May 2011

POWER*talk* GOLD COAST

Will Griffiths – June 2011

SOUTHSIDE SPEAKERS

Luz Galindo – July 2011

Sonya Bradford – July 2011

Jacki Hallahan – July 2011

MAROUBRA COMMUNICATORS

Lee Bavan – August 2011

ARMIDALE COMMUNCIATORS

Mellissa Wood – August 2011

Janene Carey – rejoined – August 2011

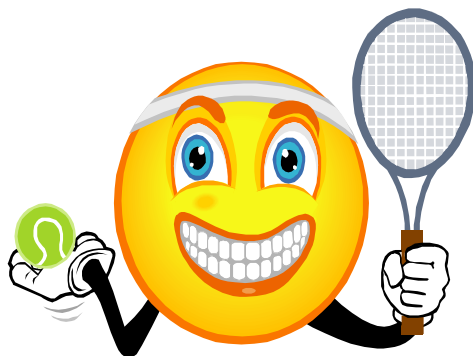
POWER*talk* BRISBANE SOUTH

Lorne Jone – August 2011

Diana Leishman – August 2011



The Ball's in Your Court.



We have been taught that communication is a two way process – that for every communication offered there must be a response. I am sure you have heard it described as a tennis match; backwards and forwards until the game (conversation) is over.

But how do we get the process started? How do we engage with another player? Well, we set up a challenge to play. We offer our potential partner something tantalising to talk about!

And what could be more interesting than to share your excitement about our wonderful organisation, *POWERtalk* International?

In our society today we often define each other by what we do, by what work we are engaged in. So next time someone asks you “what do you do?” resist the temptation to tell them what your work is and tell them instead what you are passionate about – *POWERtalk*!

In my work as a celebrant I am often asked “how did you find yourself in such work?” And I always answer with “I’m a passionate public speaker and I wanted to find a career where I could be paid to speak!” This always leads on to a discussion about where I learnt my speaking skills and my current involvement with our wonderful organisation.

So the next time someone asks you “What do you do for a living?” sidestep the question with “I’ll tell you that in a minute, what defines me more is what I am passionate about and that is *POWERtalk*.” This is sure to lead to more questions about what we do, how often and where.

With very little effort you have changed the direction of play into a discussion that you want to have. You have created an opportunity to discuss the benefits from belonging to an organisation that not only teaches public speaking but also offers confidence building opportunities, improvement in planning skills and wonderful friendships.

Ramakrishna, an Indian mystic of the 19th Century wrote, “When the flower blooms, the bees come uninvited.” Your enthusiasm as you speak will attract your listener and encourage them to want to know more. You may not recruit a new member at this initial conversation but you have sown a seed. You have lost nothing in the exchange and who knows where that information will take itself, or who it will be shared with next!

So next time you find yourself about to embark on a conversation with a stranger, remember as you are about to serve that first ball (comment) or lob it back to their side of the court (respond) what have you got to lose by talking about *POWERtalk* International?

Leigh Martin, President-Elect.

POWERtalk International theme for 2011-2013 term is: “**Be the Change**”

PREM

Publicity – Recruitment – Extension – Membership

1 + 1

AND MEMBERSHIP WILL DOUBLE

'Selling' POWERtalk International using the 'Each one bring one' depends on members telling others about the organization. There have been some excellent suggestions as to how this can be done, especially using the 'elevator speech'.

However, these short, pithy speeches are not easy. How to find out what the enquirer's needs are and how to respond in a few words requires:

- Knowing the facts. This includes:
 - Having the name come automatically when speaking of *POWERtalk*.
 - Knowing the nitty gritty details of time, venue, parking availability, next meeting theme of your meetings.
 - Knowing the exact cost of joining. As this can change every year, members need to have it written down, so they can remember. I find that there are very few members who can give exact details of dues.
- Knowing your own reasons for joining and continuing to be a member. In the last edition of *From the Boardroom*, Margaret Sutherland listed her seven reasons for her continuing participation.
- Finding out the other person's needs. This requires listening skills.

If these 'elevator speeches' are to be effective, they need to be practiced. An effective way of doing this is to have a variety of programming situations where members can improve their skills in this area.

Here are some.

- Topics. At least twice a term, the Topics Leader could have one of the above facts as the basis of Topics for the evening.
- Two person debates using elevator speeches.
- Quick quizzes - true/false quizzes. Fact based quizzes need to be done often if remembering is to be effective.
- team competitions
- The President or First Vice President could introduce a prize each meeting for the member/team who manages to put in an inspirational sentence about *POWERtalk* during their presentation.

- Creative writing. Members could work in pairs to write and present a short script using elevator speeches and/or facts about POWERtalk and then present the skit. Evaluation could include whether good listening skills were used.
- If each club was set this task by Councils, there could then be a competition at a Council meeting as each Club presents the best one. This could be judged by the members present and a prize given.
- Encourage every member to do a short speech to inspire people to join POWERtalk.

Happy recruiting.

Jo Bailey

PREM Chairman



Wanted!

AUSTRALIAN REGION – Renew your commitment!

Nominations are invited for the positions of:

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

For the 2012-2013 term.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

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*

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 2012 to:

Australian Region Board

President : Marie Cooke

71/390 Toorak Rd

Sth Yarra Vic 3141

mariecooke@bigpond.com

Secretary Janeen Vosper

12 Owens Cresc

Regents Park Qld 4118

shiftingvisions@hotmail.com

A nomination form can be downloaded from the region website

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

Or ask your Region Board 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



Amendments were proposed to the Bylaws and Standing Rules for the 2011 AGM. These proposals were held over until 2012 AGM, but any member club in good standing, any council, any region standing committee or the region board may submit further proposals.

All clubs were provided with copies of the proposals. Copies of these and of the current 2010 Bylaws and Standing Rules may be requested from the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman.

All proposals are to 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 2011, 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 POWER*talk* 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 second time entrant won a category internationally!

NOTE: The entry, cover sheet, together with the member's eligibility statement, must be emailed or postmarked to Australian Region Writing Contest Chair, Margaret Sutherland by March 1 2012. 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,
Margaret Sutherland
8 Jutland Street
New Town 7008
Tasmania
margs@bigpond.net.au

Money Matters

Pro Rata Region Dues

October	\$45.00
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.

If you have any finance related questions or would like to make a direct bank deposit instead of sending a cheque please email Natasha at dnhydon@optusnet.com.au

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 Changes

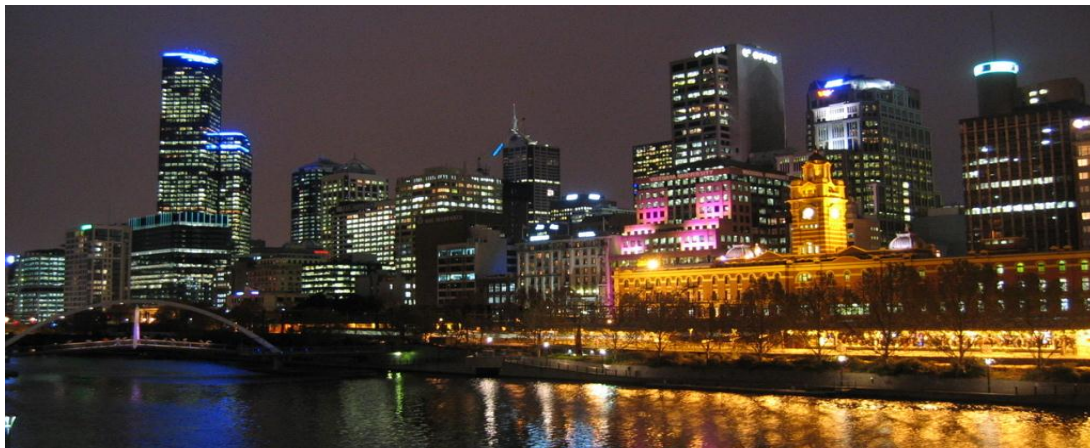
The Roster is not yet ready but it isn't far off completion.

The Region Secretary, Janeen Vosper 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. Janeen 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 shiftingvisions@hotmail.com

Conference

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE



Dear POWERtalk Members,

An early reminder from the Conference Committee of next year's exciting Melbourne Conference. The conference is from **Friday 18th May – Sunday 21st May 2012** and will be held at **Bayview on the Park, 52 Queens Rd, Melbourne**. President Marie Cooke has chosen "**Accentuate the Positive**" as our theme....so let's start accentuating together!

Bayview on The Park is an award winning 4-star hotel situated on Queens Road opposite Albert Park Lake and Golf Course, and only minutes from the St. Kilda Road Business District.

The City Centre, South Yarra shopping area, Crown Entertainment Complex, St Kilda Esplanade and Port Phillip Bay are all only a short tram ride away.

All Magnificent Melbourne has to offer in Autumn and much more!

Old friends, fellowship, POWERtalk educational and FUN sessions to be announced as we approach THE BEST May 2012 Conference.

We want to see many partners and family members at our Melbourne Conference to enjoy the fun and friendship POWERtalk offers.

With a gold course and lake across the road, combined with the many attractions within a short tram ride, let's make this the biggest, best family-friendly Conference to date!

Why not plan to stay a little longer to enjoy our penguins at Phillip Island , discover the lovely Mornington Peninsula, taste all the Yarra Valley has to offer with fine food and wine...All this and so much more in the world's most liveable city...MAGNIFICENT MELBOURNE!!!!

So, mark those calendars now, plan for a few days in May to enjoy POWERtalk and ready yourselves for Positive Accentuating.

Keep an eye on this spot for monthly updates.

We intend to have a **POSITIVELY FUN, AFFORDABLE Conference**.

Marie needs volunteers to assist her and her wonderful team at Conference...don't be shy!

From your Positive Promoting Conference Committee Co-ordinators,

Kim and Darryl Shields

2011 Australian Region Conference Report

By now most members who missed the 2011 Australian Region Conference would have received enthusiastic reports from their club delegates so I won't go into the specific details of the event.

The Vibe Hotel on the Gold Coast proved to be an excellent venue for the conference particularly due to the convenient set-up of rooms, abundance of great food and the terrific support of the hotel staff. Although the Gold Coast weather on the weekend didn't reflect the usually perfect Queensland winter climate, it was still an excellent location on the picturesque Nerang River and a step away from the famous Surfers Paradise beaches.

Any successful event is reliant on the people involved and thanks to my amazing support crew the conference went off without a hitch. Accolades must go to all the committee members who supported me in putting this event together. My heart-felt thanks goes out to the following people.

Bernadette Knight who in her usual thorough manner, ensured all hospitality duties were organised to the finest detail. The gold & black scarves worn by her busy hospitality team proved to be a popular fashion accessory and much sought after item at the auction;

Vera Tibbertsma whose detailed management of the members' registrations ensured all bookings ran smoothly. Any last minute changes to plan were handled by Vera with a great deal of composure (which is a necessary requirement from anyone who takes on this role);

Jo Bailey who assisted with the important role of communicating with honoured guests and Jeff Riley who is diligently finalising the conference financials;

And last but by no means least, Mary Wong who put her heart and soul into ensuring such an interesting educational and entertaining program – a perfect balance of life skills and speaking skills presentations mixed with high quality, professional plenaries meant all attending had opportunity to enjoy, learn & grow.

A big thank you also goes to the members on the Hospitality and Programming committees. I'm sure the committee Chairmen would agree that many hands make light work and your support was appreciated.

Thank you also to the members who attended the conference. Without you, the members being there to join in, it wouldn't have been such a success.

A few of the highlights were:

- ✓ *Outback Spectacular Dinner Show*
- ✓ *Japanese Tea Ceremony*
- ✓ *Karen Schmidt's plenary session*
- ✓ *All the educational sessions*
- ✓ *The Gala Awards Dinner and set by singer Ashleigh Grossner*
- ✓ *Karni Liddell's moving motivational speech (Margaret Sutherland even welled up & shed a tear at hearing Karni's story)*
- ✓ *And of course...renewing and making new friendships*

Don't miss out on the Australian Region Conference fun in 2012.

I would encourage all members to attend in Melbourne in May.

*Janeen Vosper
Fellow of ITC
2011 Conference Chairman*

Audited Conference financial statements will be sent out via the CLO network

From our Members

Aussie Leaves her Mark in Indi!

Some members may know that I went to the 2011 International Convention in July, in Indianapolis, USA, and fell over. I crossed the hotel lobby and slipped on the highly-polished floor. Members and hotel staff came to my aid and an ambulance was called. I was taken to Methodist Hospital, accompanied by Sue Ballard, where it was diagnosed that I had fractured my right kneecap and fractured the left orbital (eye) base.

The leg was braced and a CT scan taken of the eye and I returned to the hotel. My insurance company arranged for my evacuation to Australia. I did not get to see Washington and New York, but I saw many airports from a wheelchair.

No surgery was needed on the knee, just bracing for six weeks and keeping it straight, but the eye injury required an operation. At the time of writing, I am walking without a brace and my face has only a small residue of haematoma from the eye surgery.

It is thought by the doctors, and intended by me, that I shall make a complete recovery.

Thank you Sue (who refused to leave me all day, thus missing the first day of Convention), Stephanie, Vicki, Judy, Hazel, Deborah, Vera, Ruth, International President, Margaret, of course, and others who constantly enquired about my welfare, pushed my wheelchair and offered to help in many ways. (Thanks for the offer to shower me, Marie!)

The interest has continued, since I returned home, once the word spread among those who weren't there. I thank all for their kindness.

Members are probably familiar with plaques that are placed on buildings such as: "George Washington slept here."

I believe that one should be placed in the foyer of the Convention hotel:

"Jan Broe Slipped Here!"

Jan Broe.
Fairlight Communicators,
NSW Council 9

Thanks for the update Jan – so glad to hear you are recovering well – Ed.

TICK TOCK...

Your life can change in an instant.

A truck driver from one of my concrete plants was driving to a job site. As he checked his mirror he noticed a bicycle flying through the air. He had hit and killed a young cyclist –Two lives shattered in half a second.

When I heard the news my stomach dropped and I slumped back in my chair. I couldn't imagine what life would be like after something like that. And yet there is the probability of something just as earth-shattering happening to me.

The thought of death is overlooked by most until it is too late. The thoughts persisted and I began to think about the nature of life and purpose. Am I working towards where I want to be? Would I be satisfied if I died tomorrow?

Have you thought about it?

Imagine you're invisible and viewing your funeral. Smell the flowers, hear the crying. Feel the sadness. Who do you want to be there? What do you want to be remembered for? What accomplishments or awards do you want to have achieved? What do you want to possess? What are the most important things after you're gone? Do you wish you worked more? What about watched more TV? Bought an iPad 2?

For most of us, doing this exercise, brings the realisation that we want to do more and be more. It is the experiences and the relationships that really matter when all is said and done. You want your family around, you want to have been the best partner and parent, you want to have travelled, you want to have experienced and achieved. This is an insight into your purpose in life.

What are you doing today to work towards fulfilling your goals?

A lot of people choose to coast along without realising that every choice they make adds up to a lifetime, hoping that they will end up the person they want to be. But if you don't know where you are going, you will never get there. Time is ticking by and every wasted minute will never come round again. The mystery is 'when' and 'how' but one thing is certain... you *will* die.

There are families out there who, instead of doing things together, chase the newest technology, nicest car and biggest house. Parents have begun buying toys as a substitute for spending time with their children. Possessions are idolised when the things that are actually valuable are intangible.

I would like to share a short parable (1) that really made me stop and think about my priorities and goals.

A boat docked in a tiny Mexican village. An American tourist complimented the Mexican fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

"Not very long," answered the Mexican.

"But then, why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the American.

The Mexican explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The American asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs ... I have a full life."

The American interrupted, "I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you!"

"You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked the Mexican.

"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the Mexican.

"Twenty, perhaps 25 years," replied the American.

"And after that?" the Mexican asked.

"Afterwards? That's when it gets really interesting," answered the American, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?"

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends."

Are you climbing the career ladder? Are you working harder and sacrificing more to get that promotion or pay rise? Will you get to the top and realise that your ladder is leaning against the wrong wall?

There is one thing I want you to do when you stop reading. Once again, visualise your funeral and write down what you want to be. Turn your goal into something you can do this week. It might just reveal that what you're chasing is right under your nose. Take a step towards your purpose in life... before it is too late.

Will Griffiths
POWERtalk Gold Coast

(1) www.cleanairpurewater.com/parable.html

Thank you Will for that thought-provoking article – Ed.

CLOSING DATE for the next Gazette 19th February, 2012

Editor, Mary Wong maryhannahaus@iprimus.com.au

Australian Region Theme "Accentuate the Positive"