

Mercury's Messenger



Bi-monthly bulletin of
Mercury's Motivators
Toastmasters Club

Club: 711243
Central Division
District 69

Vision:

Mercury's is a professional club which provides Fun, fellowship and innovation combined with epicurean delights

Meets 4th weekend of every month at various locations around Queensland's Sunshine Coast



Sue encourages members: **Find new ways**

Thank you for allowing me to be your President in 2010-2011. It is an honour and not a duty I take lightly and I have some big shoes to fill! (*Have you seen the size of Kevin's foot?*)
I acknowledge the wonderful job Kevin has done this year and congratulate him on this. I believe my challenge as President is to help keep the interest and motivation up in this advanced club. You are all busy people and have many other roles in your life, your home clubs and District 69. We need to make sure this is a club we look

forward to coming to in spite of this, and one where we enjoy the challenges. I must admit I was not too enthusiastic about the role until recently as I was so involved (as we all were) in the 2010 Convention, then had a large family commitment following close on the heels of 2010. But I went to the Club Officer Training Session at Nambour and came away very enthused. I listened to Hari's presentation on the Distinguished Club Program and then Barbara's presentation on the Presi-

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ABOVE: Newly elected executive committee members (from left): Lorraine Keilty, Ian Pinker, Coral McVean, Judith McConnell, Sue Kruger and (front) Brian Duckworth. Absent: Treasurer Hugh McVean.

Executive committee:

- President: Sue Kruger
- Vice President Education: Ian Pinker
- Vice President Membership: Coral McVean
- Vice President Public Relations: Brian Duckworth
- Treasurer: Hugh McVean
- Secretary: Lorraine Keilty
- Sergeant at Arms: Judith McConnell

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Setting the bar high for an advanced club

It was with excitement and enthusiasm that I took on the President's role for Mercury's Motivators in 2009 - 2010. I wanted to set the bar high as we are an advanced club. The areas I felt we needed improvement on were also highlighted in our Moments of Truth segment, conducted just prior to my role. These were specifically: better time management, better run Business Sessions and more variety in programming. This was of course as well as maintaining a fun and professional atmosphere. Quite a challenge, but we are an advanced club and I was happy to try to help make a difference.

As many of us know, change does not always come easy, but I feel we are making headway, especially with our Business Sessions. Appointing a Parliamentarian and trainee Parliamentarians has not only provided valuable feedback on each Business Session, but has also meant some of us less experienced members have been able to learn by acting as trainees.

Time management has always been an issue for us and something we need to continue working on. I am certain that we will conquer this and I have already seen improvements in many of our meetings to date. We have had discussion on allocating more time for meal breaks and making allowance for the fact that most speeches



are from the advanced manuals thereby requiring more time allocation on the program.

I certainly feel we are a professional club and have a lot to offer as a mentor club. At the time of writing we are on track to achieve our Distinguished Club Program status. We still enjoy a healthy blend of fun and professionalism which reflects in our Charter strength, with active membership around 90 percent. My congratulations go to Sue and her incoming executive team who I know will do a fantastic job of leading us this coming year.

Kevin Wright
President 2009 - 2010

Mercury's Motivators is an advanced club that meets along the Sunshine Coast from Caboolture to Noosa in fabulous venues such as restaurants, wineries, parks and country pubs.

The club meets once a month, generally on the last weekend of the month, with meeting times varying between lunchtime and evenings. If you have leadership aspirations then come along and learn from the members who hold District positions. The program is stimulating, the company is riveting, the locations are superb and the food is to die for.

All you need to join is to have achieved your Competent Communicator award.

Even if you have not yet achieved this award, you are still welcome to come along as a guest and check out what happens at an advanced club. Contact the membership officer, Coral McVean on 5441 7820 or email coralmcv@bigpond.net.au

Distinguished Club Program report for Mercury's Motivators:

1. Two Competent Communicators: B Williams, Fran Kay. Completed.
 2. Two more Competent Communicators: Kevin Wright, Barbara Buchanan. Completed.
 3. Advanced Communicator Gold: Muriel Smith. Completed
 4. Advanced Communicator Gold: Sue Kruger. Completed
 5. Leadership Award: Barbara Buchanan (Competent Leader). Completed
 6. Club officer training: Completed
 7. Semi-annual membership & club officer list submitted on time: Completed
- * New members – Christian Trost & Penne Bowles.

Birthday wishes:

16 July

Sue Kruger

21 August

Brian Duckworth

23 August

Coral McVean



Q&A with Allie

Member profile

1. What have you learnt from Toastmasters?

I have grown in confidence. I have learnt to listen with more than my ears, eg hear what people are not saying, read body language, be more intuitive, sensitive and encouraging to others.

2. How do you use your communication / leadership skills outside of Toastmasters?

I wear many hats - I volunteer for Hinterland Tourist Info Centre, Save the Children, the local high school chaplaincy, Eden. I have been a keynote speaker for Compassionate Friends, View Club and the Cancer Council.

3. What has been the main self improvement you've noticed?

More confidence in my abilities.

4. What do you do for work?

Lots of volunteering. I love it, because I

don't "have" to do it! I want to make a difference. I dance five nights a week - Rock and Roll, Latin, Ballroom, Old Time, Swing Jive. I also love to garden, entertain and cook.

5. How long have you lived on the Sunshine Coast?

Nearly 20 years. I came to spend two weeks over Christmas with my mum. My parents wanted me to move here. I said I would need a job first. Two days later I had a job offer, after my stepfather put the word out to his business associates.

6. How long have you been in Toastmasters?

I joined in 2002 but I dropped out for a few years to nurse my dying mother.

7. What is your home club?

Glasshouse Country.

8. What other committee roles have you had within your club since being a member?

President.



9. What did you enjoy about your role as Area 3 Governor?

Meeting the members of each club and seeing their growth as Toastmasters.

10. Are you taking on any executive roles in 2010-2011?

No, I am taking on a mentoring role as some of our executive members are new Toastmasters and others are away for some of the year. As the Immediate Past President my job was to find the incoming executive - the team were so eager there wasn't a space for me on the new committee!

Innovative ways to have fun and fellowship

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dent's role, followed by the executive meeting where we were to plan our vision, goals and my motto for the year. There were only two of us there, Ian and myself, as everyone else was with their home club. However we took it very seriously and sat down and worked out a vision based on the club's founding vision of fun, food and fellowship.

We decided to add innovation as we felt we needed to introduce new things to keep up the member interest.

The vision for the year was therefore decided as "Fun, fellowship and innovation combined with epicurean delights."

We talked in length about club goals, bearing in mind that most members will

give their awards to their home clubs. However, when looking at the Distinguished Club Program outline, it is obvious that five goals are easily obtainable and another two goals are reasonably easy - anything above that of course would be a bonus.

Without making a major push for club goals, Select Distinguished is something that we believe Mercury's can achieve.

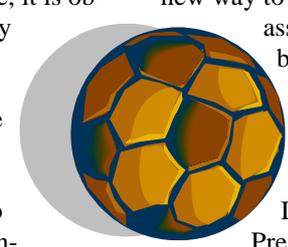
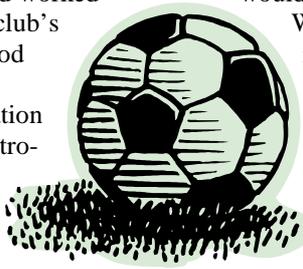
As Vice President Education Ian has surveyed the club members and will endeavour to address their requirements through his programming.

From that discussion, I was then easily able to formulate my motto for the year

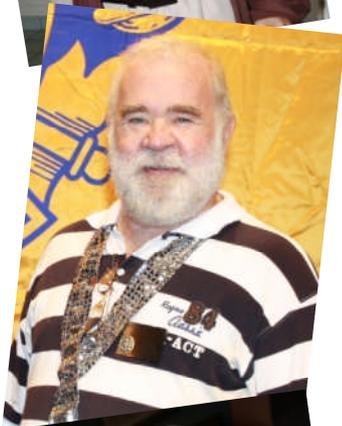
and decided on: Finding New Ways. My challenge to all of you is to find a new way to do any of the roles you are assigned this coming year. I believe this will stimulate enthusiasm, motivation and help us to stretch the boundaries a little when planning our roles.

Ian has promised as Vice President Education that he will introduce a new segment into every meeting, so his challenge is to come up with 12 new and exciting segments. I look forward to being your President and promise to do the best job I can and along with our new executive, I believe we will have many exciting and different meetings as we "Find New Ways".

Sue Kruger
President 2010-2011



Convention snapshots



30 April - 3 May 2010

Team effort by mighty Mercurians

2009-2010 District Governor Coral McVean said the Convention was a perfect example of TEAM.

"Together everyone achieves more. Our Convention Convenor Sue Kruger did an amazing job of guiding and inspiring her team. I felt so proud of everyone who had assisted and everyone who had attended," Coral said.

"Our members definitely 'unlocked their passions' - we were inspired by our International President's sessions and contributions, our speech contests, educational sessions, our participation in the business of our District, guest speakers, keynote speaker Mark Hunter, the fun night, the networking and the forming of new friends."



30 April - 3 May 2010

Seriously now: we're eager to learn

Zoo staff keen on Speechcraft

One of our achievements as Mercurians was to convince Australia Zoo of the benefits a Speechcraft Course would provide them.

Once the details were given to Jess Brown, one of the HR managers, they embraced it with open arms! Within weeks she had organized 12 keen candidates to complete the course.

Upon meeting with Jess prior to the course starting and finding out a little about the participants, I soon realized we were dealing with many already experienced speakers and that our main challenge would be to keep them all interested. Knowing this, Robyn and I quickly tweaked the course two weeks before the start to suit the advanced nature of the participants. Reluctance to speak was not a problem for this crew as we soon found out!

From week one we had each member participating in Table Topics and three delivered Ice Breakers!

Over the next five weeks we worked on speech development, body language, selecting a speech topic, evaluation as well as a leadership segment which was a spe-



Fun group: Australia Zoo staff show off their humorous nature during their six-week Speechcraft course.

cific request of the Zoo.

My thanks must go to Robyn Downey as my assistant coordinator, as well as Guido Schouteten, Sue Kruger, Ian Pinker and Christian Trost as educational presenters. They all took time out of their busy lives to help make this six week segment an action-packed, entertaining and informative Speechcraft course.

I have attended a few Speechcraft courses during my time in Toastmasters, but have never seen one where the participants were so eager and full of such humour.

Take one look at the picture and you will see what I mean. There was a genuine camaraderie between all the participants which is great to see in a work environment. We really had fun during those six

weeks and there was a genuine feeling of sadness when the course ended.

Australia Zoo provided formal feedback and from all accounts the course was well received. Members commented they got the most from Table Topics as it helped them think on their feet and from evaluations as it forced them to listen and helped them improve.

It was interesting to note that participants said they felt more nervous speaking in front of a small group of their peers than they did presenting in front of hundreds of people during a Zoo presentation.

Overall, the course went very well and it definitely shone a positive light on Toastmasters and the community.

Kevin Wright, Speechcraft Coordinator

We're on the web:
<http://mercurys.freetoasthost.info>

District 69 website:
www.toastmastersd69.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69

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