

Mercury's Messenger



Gary gives club the 'green light'



Area 3 Governor Gary Kuss used the example of red, orange and green traffic lights to determine the 'health' of clubs in his area. Mercury's Motivators club was deemed to be a green light club: all clear ahead and travelling well. President Sue Kruger was presented with a 'green light medallion' and asked, with the aid of her executive, to continue to ensure Mercury's remained a green light club. A summary of Gary's presentation is on page 2.

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



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 Keelty
- Sergeant at Arms:
Judith McConnell

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Delighted by challenges

Fellow Mercurians, we have had two meetings since the start of our new year and I have been elated at the way everyone is accepting the challenge to “*Find New Ways*”. We have had some interesting, different and surprising segments and I look forward with eager anticipation to what you can come up with to stretch and delight us.

We have had quite a few visitors in those two meetings and I'm very happy to say that our Area Governor Gary Kuss and his wife Patti have now officially joined us and will add to our already charter strength numbers. Gary and Patti are experienced and fun-loving Toastmasters who will be an asset to our meetings.

Good to see Esther back and looking so good and our four international travelers John, Fran, Coral and Judy back safe and sound. Best wishes to Muriel who hasn't been well for a few weeks. Area 3 Conference is coming up and we have the following members competing for us: Brian Duckworth (Humorous), Kevin Wright (International and maybe Table Topics) and Fran Kay (Evaluation). Best of luck to all of you. We can be assured that our club will be well represented and certainly in the running to take home awards with the



calibre of those three members! Congratulations to Judith who has booked most of our venues for the coming year and we can look forward to a variety of days, times and some new venues. Please continue to keep those Mercurian Mind Muscles working with “*Finding New Ways*” to enhance our meetings!
- Sue Kruger, President

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

Gary inspires members to achieve success in their club

When you move around Area 3 you will most likely come across people either talking to themselves or out loud; you may be tempted to think that it is a Toastmaster practicing their International or Humorous speech.

But no – it's a Toastmaster doing their Incantation Walk.

At our Area Governor training, we were introduced to the District Governor's vision for the year:

Toastmasters – Achieving Greatness Together

Prior to this, I had been thinking about my own vision for Area 3 for this year. What I came up with was the statement:

In Toastmasters – What could I achieve if I knew I would succeed?

This vision focuses on two key ele-

ments: *achievement* and *success*.

It is also an inCANtation. I'm one of these weird people who believe that what we aim at, we regularly hit. What better outcomes to aim at than *achievement* and *success*?

Also, the vision statement is in the form of a question. Whenever we ask ourselves a question the unconscious mind will always answer. The more often we ask the question, the quicker the answers will come through to the conscious mind.

This vision then leads to the motto for our Area 3 Conference, which is:

Achieve to Succeed

Members of Area 3 are asked to:

1. Give at least three manual speeches for the year;
2. Bring along at least two guests to a

meeting over the year;

3. Attend an event outside your club. The example of red, orange and green traffic lights was used to determine the 'health' of the club. Mercury's Motivators club was deemed to be a green light club: all clear ahead and travelling well. President Sue Kruger was given a 'green light medallion' and asked, with the aid of her executive, to continue to ensure the club remained a green light club.

With regard to Area 3 Conference on 17 October, the club was also asked the following:

1. Have at least 12 registrations at the conference.
2. Enter the 'Best Decorated Table' competition at the conference.

- Gary Kuss, Area 3 Governor

Q&A with Barrie

Member profile

1. Why did you join Toastmasters?

With the job I had in my Lions Club I had to go and speak to other clubs about it. I felt I needed to be able to do that job better.

2. Which other clubs have you belonged to?

Peninsula, Murumba, Corporate Communicators, City Business, Downunder, Main & Mercury's Motivators.

3. What club/district roles have you held?

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Area Governor, Division Governor and District Public Relations Officer.

4. What have you gained from being a Toastmaster?

Confidence.

5. How do you use your Toastmasters skills outside of the club?

Not so much these days but with helping people with their presentation skills.

6. What are your hobbies?

Lions, boating, caravanning.

7. What do you do for work?

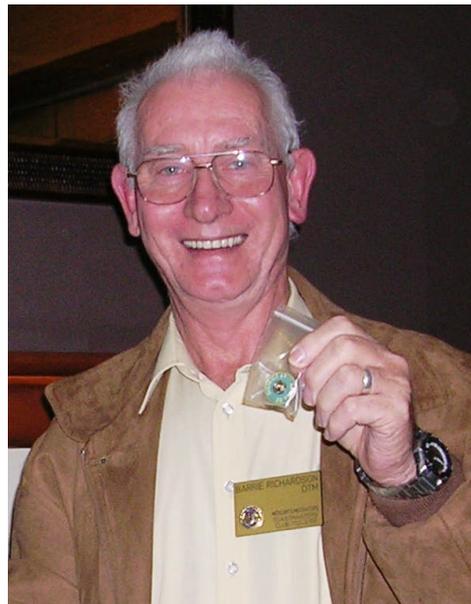
I make trophies and Toastmasters badges.

8. Which is your current home club?

Mercury's Motivators.

9. Why did you join Mercury's Motivators?

To get back to being able to attend Toastmasters meetings.



Barrie Richardson DTM with his 15-year pin for continuous membership in Toastmasters.

10. What are your next goals?

Just to enjoy the company of Toastmasters.

Penne joins Mercury's team



ABOVE: Our newest member Penne Bowles (left) wears the Mercury's Motivators laurel for her induction into the club. Penne joined Toastmasters in 1994 and has served in all club officer roles, as well as Area 8 Governor in 2002 and Metropolitan Division Governor in 2003. Penne joined Caboolture Toastmasters in 2006 and recently received her Distinguished Toastmaster award. Vice President Membership Coral McVean presented Penne with her Mercury's badge.

Diary dates

Saturday, 25 September

6.30pm for 7pm
at Villa Noosa

Sunday, 31 October

12pm for 12.30pm start
at Beerwah Hotel

Saturday, 27 November

1.30pm for 2pm start
at Fairhill Nursery

Friday, 10 December

6.30pm for 7pm start
at Rydges Caloundra

Further details & RSVP to:
j_a_mcconnell@hotmail.com

Ian's a quick thinker in front of news camera

Walking down the street during the Federal election campaign can be a hazardous experience for a Toastmaster.

Ian Pinker and Sue Kruger were on their way to lunch along the main street of Cotton Tree in July, when they found themselves in front of a TV camera.

"I was asked to comment about the main issues, where I was from, and what I thought about the candidates," said Ian.

"It didn't worry me being put on the spot, as Sue warned me that the TV crew were out asking political questions."

Muriel Smith and Fran Kay, who saw Ian's comments on the Channel 7 local news said Ian "came up well" with his impromptu responses.

"Thank goodness for Table Topics," said Ian.



Members defend impromptu accusations

The accused, Lorraine Keelty (above right), defended her dog's alleged abduction of "chooky" when she appeared before Judge Sue Kruger at July's meeting in Maroochydore.

Members of the "jury" returned a not guilty verdict after hearing one-minute presentations from Patti Kuss (witness) and Lorraine (accused) during the club's Table Topics session.

John Kay also found himself under

scrutiny when Kevin Wright's teddy bear went missing and was discovered the next day under John's pillow.

When a ship's wheel went missing, visiting Area 3 Governor Gary Kuss was "allegedly" spotted running from the scene of the crime with a ship wheel and photographed on his boat soon after. Hari Kotrotsios failed to convince the "jury" that her tall tale was a true story.

Birthday wishes:

26 August

Barrie Richardson

28 September

Jenny Duckworth

3 October

Kevin Wright

13 October

Penne Bowles

14 October

Barbara Richardson



ABOVE: Mercury's President Sue Kruger (left) and Immediate Past President Kevin Wright (right) accept a special club banner in recognition of the "fantastic teamwork" by Mercury's Motivators, the host club for the District 69 Convention in May. Immediate Past District Governor Coral McVean presented the banner at the club's July meeting.

John and Brian pair up for a rare TV interview

Brian Duckworth had almost given up finding a “guest” to interview for speech #3 in the advanced manual *Communicating on TV*.

“This is a manual that I’ve been working on for 15 years. I am working on three other manuals and this one was left on the shelf.”

Brian was surprised when John Sells from Buderim club asked him if he knew anyone who was working from that same manual, as he needed to appear as a guest on a simulated TV show.

“I was surprised because I had been looking for someone to interview as a host of a TV show.”



Brian Duckworth (left) hosted the simulated TV interview with his guest John Sells at July’s meeting of Mercury’s Motivators, both coincidentally working out of the same advanced manual, ‘Communicating on TV.’

“When I had the chance to interview him and let others see what I saw in him, I took that chance.”

John’s speech ‘*When you are the guest*’ fitted perfectly with Brian’s speech, ‘*When you are the host*’.

“We decided not to rehearse our speeches too much,” Brian said.

“We sat around with a cup of tea the

day before the Mercury’s club meeting and I drafted the questions I was to ask, and that was all.

“We felt that anything more than this would take away some of the freshness of the interview. I wanted to have a situation where we heard the

real John Sells,” Brian said.

“I have known John ever since we came up here. He was one of the first people we met outside Mercury’s and I have learnt to appreciate his honesty, integrity and fairness. He is one of the straightest guys I have run across. I respect him.”

John was the Area 22 Governor when Brian completed his High Performance Leadership (HPL) program for the Area Conference in October 2006. “I picked up a whopper knockdown bug in July of that year and spent most of July and August horizontal,” said Brian.

“I was better by the time of the conference but I didn’t feel that I had done enough to be able to claim the HPL as done. In 2007 I organised the Presidents’ Weekend and claimed that as my HPL.

“I have worked on a number of occasions since with John. When I had the chance to interview him and let others see what I saw in him, I took that chance,” he said.

Speech projects compliment each other

John Sells said there was no specific reason for choosing the *Communicating on Television* manual.

“I have already completed or started at least half a dozen advanced manuals, so there was not a huge choice left,” he said.

“It was more a case of closing my eyes and grabbing the first one that came to hand!”

John said speeches number two and three from this manual were complimentary to each other.

“That is, one person assumes the host role and the other the guest role of the same speech delivery.

“As far as coordinating matters went, Brian and I spoke about the room set up, placement of timing lights and chairs to act as studio cameras under Stage Manager Jenny Duckworth’s control.

“The questions and responses were not rehearsed, although we briefly discussed these so there would not be any awkward moments during the presentation,” John said.

Dinner celebrations for Convention team

Immediate Past District Governor Coral McVean and husband Hugh hosted a thank you dinner at their home in July for members of the District 69 Convention team. Each member received a special Convention mug as a memento of their contributions to a successful Convention in Caloundra in May.



ABOVE: (back, from left) John Sells, Brian Duckworth, John Kay, (front) Jan Stafford, Allie Lovett and Jenny Duckworth.



ABOVE: Di Riddell, Convention Convenor Sue Kruger, Judith McConnell and Lorraine Keelty.



ABOVE: Coral McVean (from left), Penne Bowles, Hugh McVean, Hari Kotrotsios and Sue Sells.



The four Bs: Barrie Richardson (left), Barrie Fuller, B Williams and Barbara Richardson.



Among roses: Ian Pinker with Evelyn Fuller (left), Helene Ross, Fran Kay and Vera Nolan.

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

District 69 website:
www.toastmastersd69.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69

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