

# Mercury's Messenger



## Visionary leader builds team with values and skills



**Bumper  
issue**

Sue, *The Visionary Leader*, thought deeply about being a shining light for Mercury's Motivators, wanting members to obtain more benefits from club meetings. Brian then set about *Developing a Mission* statement to point the club in the right direction. Within this mission he incorporated *Goal Setting and Planning*. Mercury's started to come together as a dynamic club, with membership booming. One reason that stood out for this was that Ian was *Giving Effective Feedback* to Lorraine and Judith for *Resolving Conflict*. Immediate Past District Governor Coral knew how to *Delegate to Empower* and encouraged Hugh, who was tasked with *Motivating People*. **Full story page 7.**

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 Keely**
- Sergeant at Arms:  
**Judith McConnell**

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## Fabulous mix of members and programs

Fellow Mercurians, we have had two meetings at *new* venues since the last Bulletin - venues I am sure we will return to. Fairhill Nursery meeting was a lot of fun, with great coffee and scones. The Rydges Caloundra meeting was well attended and hosted lots of Christmas spirit and fun.

Best news of all since last Bulletin is the fact that we have two *new* members in **Wendy Wareing** and **Richard Hansen**. Both are experienced speakers and welcome additions who will bring a *new* aspect to our club and meetings.

Once again I have been enthused by the way everyone endeavours to find *new ways* to present their segments; **Ian Pinker's** programming is well organized and ready well before the meetings. We've heard some great speeches and mostly three of them at each meeting.

Do you know what your executive has been doing? Well, **Coral McVean** continues to look for and encourage *new* members and follows up visitors after each meeting. **Brian Duckworth** is striving to get our name out there and advertise our meetings.

**Lorraine Keelty** quietly performs her secretarial duties admirably and **Judith McConnell** works hard to ensure we have our meeting requirements at each meeting and of course

### President's report

has been booking all these *new* venues. **Hugh McVean** is keeping our books in good order even though he has been unable to attend a few meetings.

As IPP, **Kevin Wright** is encouraging and motivational to me and what can I say about our Bulletin Editor **Hari Kotrotsios**? Not much that isn't entirely evident to everyone each time a *new* bulletin comes out. Aren't they amazing?

So we have a wonderful committee, a fabulous mix of members and great programming. What more could we ask for?

Having said that though, I would encourage each of you to let us know if you feel something could be done better or differently so that our meetings continue to be fun and relevant to each of us. *New ways* are always welcome!

Our first meeting for 2011 is lunch on 30 January at a *new* venue - the Thai Sweet Basil restaurant in Caboolture. Doesn't look much from the outside, but the food is great. Look forward to seeing everyone there as we start our *new* Toastmasters year.

If you made any *New Year's* resolutions I hope one of them was to continue to find *new ways* to enliven our meetings!

- Sue Kruger, President



## Ian receives award from home club

*Congratulations to Ian Pinker (above) on receiving life membership from his home club Caboolture Toastmasters, which he joined in 1988. Club President Howard Williams presented Ian with the award on 30 November. Ian was further acknowledged with an article in the Caboolture Shire Herald (below).*

### Birthday wishes:

Hari - 4 January

Wendy - 6 January

Judith - 18 January

Hugh - 30 January

Barb B - 6 February

Ian - 19 February



## Veteran talks up his Toastmasters Club

PETER MARSH  
marshpe@qst.newsltd.com.au

WHEN Ian Pinker was named a Life Member of the Caboolture Toastmasters Club, he was not short of words.

The Caboolture local has been a member for 22 years, and has achieved the rank of Distinguished Toastmaster.

"I was absolutely thrilled to receive the award," Mr Pinker said.

The Toastmasters club

aims to promote better speaking and leadership skills among its members.

He said he joined a Toastmasters Club to assist in his career in the military, but said there were benefits for people from all walks of life.

People who need to give best man speeches, students preparing for assignments or people chairing sports or social clubs could all benefit from the Toastmasters club, according to Mr Pinker.

"It can be whatever you need it to be, whether it is to gain confidence or just for the friendship," Mr Pinker said.

"You get to meet interesting people from all walks of life and gain confidence at the same time."

The Caboolture Toastmasters meet on the second, fourth and fifth Tuesdays of each month and are looking for new members.

For more information phone 0416 037 365 or 5498 8802

# Q&A with Esther

## Member profile

### 1. When & why did you join Toastmasters?

I was a Foundation member of Glasshouse Country Toastmasters when it was an evening club, before it folded. A couple of years later Stella Etherington started a day club; I am the only charter member left in our club.

The reason I joined Toastmasters was because I used to be on committees when the girls were at school and at ballet. I was also president of the Ballet School and that required me to make speeches in front of everyone! Guess who was terrified?

### 2. What have you gained from being a Toastmaster?

I have made some amazing friends and I have gained some incredible knowledge, as well as heaps of confidence to speak publicly. Toastmasters has been an empowering, enriching and fulfilling part of my life; my journey in Toastmasters hasn't finished yet.

I am still learning.

### 3. What club/district roles have you held?

Secretary, Treasurer, VPE (currently at Glasshouse Country Club), President and VPM. I have also helped Martine with our Youth Leadership Program at the schools.

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

Every day in many ways I use skills I have learnt at Toastmasters.

### 5. What are your hobbies?

I enjoy quality time with my family and friends. I love life in general, especially having coffee at a really good coffee shop by the beach. It's about ambience and good friends and taking the time to make myself happy. It's good for the soul too!

I love going for walks (well not at the moment - but soon). I really enjoy cooking up a storm - especially parties - the more people the better. I enjoy reading and music (the radio is on all the time).

I enjoy going to concerts and theatres. I like going on holidays. I love festivals - they can be such fun!

I also love to take the time to smell the roses. I enjoy dancing. As I've already mentioned, I enjoy life.

### 6. What do you do for work?

Being a farmer's wife, one has to be able to be multi-skilled, so I have learnt to do many different jobs. I have worked with the public all my life and I thoroughly enjoy it. I really enjoy working in retail. Currently I am unemployed due to health reasons.

### 7. How long have you lived on the Sunshine Coast?

I came to live on the Sunshine Coast from Bundaberg after I married Robert - 39 years in January.



### 8. Which is your current home club?

Glasshouse Country Toastmasters. I love being a member of Mercury's - I regard it as a home club as well.

### 9. Why did you join Mercury's Motivators?

I joined Mercury's because I loved the idea of going to a dinner meeting, but mostly because of Lorraine Keely. I couldn't wait to get my CTM so I could join Mercury's.

### 10. What are your next Toastmasters goals?

I have recently finished my CTB and CL manual. I will now aim for my Silver.

## Diary dates

**Sunday, 30 January**

12.30pm for 1pm start  
Thai Sweet Basil,  
Caboolture

**Saturday, 26 February**

Tranquil Park, Maleny

**Friday, 25 March**

Venue TBC

**Further details & RSVP to:**  
j\_a\_mcconnell@hotmail.com



## Cody presents gifts to members

Young Toastmasters regular Cody distributed handmade edible gifts to members who scored the highest points in an "open forum" segment at the club's December meeting. Barbara Richardson challenged members' thinking skills with a word association game which had some of us puzzled by her clever conundrums. For the winners, though, it was simply a case of:

**MIND**  
**MATTER**

## Let's not talk about mischief!

In 2004, Lorraine Keelty and Ian Pinker had a vision: an advanced club to incorporate all the clubs in Areas 3, 16 and 22.

They called for expressions of interest and a meeting was held at Guido Schouteten's home; 15 Toastmasters attended and the club was able to Charter from that meeting.

There was some dithering about a name for the club and when put on the spot, Ian Pinker chose Mercury's Motivators. Mercury was the god of communication in Roman mythology.

The club was to meet monthly – on the fourth weekend - and incorporate a meal.

The first meeting was held on 2 July, 2004 at Glasshouse Country Tavern.

A Charter Dinner (meeting 4) with a Roman theme was held on Saturday, 25 September 2004 at The Rustic Cabin. Lorraine Keelty was the Charter President.

Various Grecian statues were used as decorations at the charter dinner. One

of these was placed at the head table; Sue Kruger was heard to say "blind Freddie could see it." This statue has since become known as Blind Freddie Mercury and sits at the head table of each club meeting.

### *The god of communication*

In Greek mythology, Hermes was the messenger of Zeus. He was also the god of roads, travel, writing, wit and language.

He was usually depicted as a handsome young man wearing winged sandals and a winged hat.

In Roman mythology, Mercury was appointed messenger of the gods, who, to make him fleet of foot, presented him with winged sandals, the *Talaria*, which endowed him with marvellous rapidity of motion, as well as the winged cap, *Petanus*.

Mercury was also appointed god of eloquence, commerce, rain, wind and the special patron of travellers, shepherds, cheats and thieves.

- by Fran Kay



## Newest members welcomed in traditional style



Laurel leaves were used by the ancient Greeks as a symbol of achievement. In keeping with this Roman and Greek tradition, the club uses the laurel leaf to induct its new members. **Above left:** Fran Kay officially welcomes Heather Hopkins at the club's October meeting. **Above right:** VPM Coral McVean inducts Wendy Wareing at the November meeting.

# Frivolity quashed

At the October meeting of Mercury's Motivators at the Beerwah Hotel, Brian Duckworth moved "That Mercury's Motivators should replace the Blind Freddie statue with a life sized statue of our President Sue."

Under normal situations, this would have been seen as a ridiculous motion. However, it had been explained that this was a frivolous, or training motion, which was not binding on the club.

The aim of the motion was to practice formal business meeting procedure. Procedures such as points of order, amendments and procedural motions can all be used.

What happened to the motion? It was seconded and we began to debate both sides of the argument. There was one argument against the motion that mainly related to the problems of having to carry the statue from venue to venue.

Then we had an amendment to change the word "statue" to "cardboard cut-out". A lively debate on this amendment ensued

and two further amendments were foreshadowed.

Before the debate on the amendment was completed, we ran out of time and the Timer moved the procedural motion "that the motion now be put." This was supported. The amendment was then voted on and was defeated. Because of the procedural motion, the foreshadowed amendments were discarded, as was the seconder's right to speak. However, the mover of the mo-

tion was still able to exercise his right of reply.

The motion was then put to the vote. It too was defeated. During the exercise we learned the correct procedure to follow in a formal debate on a motion.

The chairman had to make instant decisions on some points of order, the procedure for amendments and foreshadowed amendments was shown and we all handled the procedural motion that "the motion now be put".

Frivolous motions are very entertaining methods for training chairmen in formal business procedures. They are also valuable in attracting members to Toastmasters; those people who want to learn chairmanship skills in a safe environment.

The main rule for a frivolous motion is that it is not binding on the club. Guests can be included in the debate and in the vote. We usually vote for the side that put up the best argument, rather than whether we agree or disagree with the motion.

Many clubs avoid business sessions because they can become bogged down in argu-

ments over club business. This can make guests feel uncomfortable and wonder what they are doing sitting in on another group's business session.

Frivolous or training motions on the other hand are seen as education exercises for everyone - especially when they are followed by a Parliamentary report on any unusual events or incorrect procedures.

- by John Kay



**Motion**  
**not taken**  
**seriously!**

*I moved this particular motion because I wanted something that could only be seen as a frivolous motion and would be good fun to debate, without any chance of it being passed.*

*I remember vividly a frivolous motion that had been debated at a club I belonged to in Sydney, but had been passed. It was quite a shock to all the people who voted when they realised they were expected to attend meetings starting at 10pm!*

*I selected Sue as the replacement for 'Blind Freddie' as I thought this would get a giggle; particularly when people started to think about the consequences for the poor Sergeant-At-Arms carting this heavy statue around.*

*I knew that Sue would play it up and that others would follow.*

*The arguments against the motion were logical and were the sort of reasons I had*

(Continued on page 7)

# *The wise, the hippie and feminists converge on stable: live coverage*

Three Wise Women arrived at the stable of the newly-born infant, bringing with them baby wipes, nappies and casseroles.

They swept the stable, put up curtains and ensured Mary and baby were comfortable.

These Wise Women - Lorraine, Jenny and Judith by name - ignored tradition and instead followed a map to arrive safely at the stable in Bethlehem; three weeks ahead of the Three Wise Men.

They nursed the baby Jesus, showering it with love and affection, as only the Wise can do.

In their wake arrived The Three Hippies, who did not know what a stable was! "And why straw?" one asked, "bathtubs are the go."

Barrie, Kevin and Richard were concerned that



*The Three Hippies: Richard, Barrie and Kevin participated in a five-minute Table Topics session at the club's December meeting.*

"blokes have it tough. All that pacing up and down takes it out of you!"

The Hippies bore gifts of a dubious nature - weed, a bong and match, although in a brief lucid moment one was heard to remark: "watch that the hay doesn't catch on fire."

In their hallucinatory state, they pondered the validity of documenting this miraculous birth, as one day "you can buy it in Dymocks."

However, they were soon bundled out of the stable by The Three Feminists, who arrived chanting "women rule!"

Sue, B and Patti quickly brushed that "useless husband" Joseph aside, and encouraged Mary to emancipate herself.

"You're not even getting any Centrelink payments for having a baby!"

They brought a black bra as a gift for Mary, to help combat the forces of gravity on a woman's body.

"You can also burn it, if you like," one Feminist declared.

"And we have also organized with Oprah to get you a bra in every colour."

The Feminists encouraged Mary not to include the father's name on baby Jesus' birth certificate as she alone bore the responsibility of childbirth.

A news crew was quickly on the scene with its Three Reporters, who streamed the event live on the Oprah show and CNN.

Esther, Barbara and Fran encouraged viewers to have their say on the "radical women's group seen running around Bethlehem."

Their panel discussion and commentary questioned the miracle in the stable and the alleged immaculate conception.

The Three Reporters were scathing in their biased reporting of The Three Hippies and their inappropriate gifts to the newborn child.

**- Hari Kotrotsios**



*Jenny and Lorraine, two of the Three Wise Women in the Christmas-themed Table Topics session.*

## Leader as coach is motivated by 'strong values' & service skills

A long time ago...

It was decided by this fictitious Leadership & Communications club (to protect the innocent, we will call it Motivators of Mercury).

One year ago they felt that they could do things better and be the shining light of their organization and obtain more benefits from their meetings.

**The Visionary Leader** thought deeply about this situation and set about **Developing a Mission** statement for the club to point it in the right direction. Within this mission he incorporated **Goal Setting and Planning** as he had always been mentored from other members about these benefits.

**Building a Team** was his first priority and once this team was selected he instilled in them his own **Values and Leadership** skills. He requested this team to seek out members of the club for various sub-committees or as understudies so they could **Delegate to**



**Empower through Motivating People.**

**The Leader as a Coach** found that by his **Service and Leadership** the Motivators of Mercury were starting to come together as a dynamic club with membership booming. One reason that stood out for this, apart from his own leadership skills, was that members were **Giving Effective Feedback** which led to no need for **Resolving Conflict**, which had been a thorn in his side in the past.

Being the "shining light" of the organization, it was decided to base a number of manuals on the principles learnt to reap these rewards, and together they were named "**The Leadership Excellence Series.**"

From that day forward all members were encouraged to study and adapt to these manuals to gain the most out of their experience within the club.

- Ian Pinker



**Mercurian Patti Kuss (back right) with Maleny club visitors, President Eduard Heinisch, VPE Margie Richter and assistant SAA Bill Richter.**

## *Brian breathes a sigh of relief*

*(Continued from page 5)*

*expected to come up. Someone suggested that the statue should be a nude, which just added to the mirth. The amendment was properly moved and seconded, and discussed in the right form.*

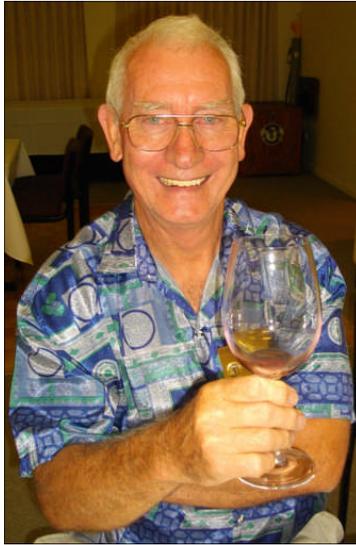
*It was voted on, and defeated, before there was a vote on the main motion. The 'closure' was well moved and the chairman demonstrated tact in deciding to accept it at that point, demonstrating that closure motions don't have to be accepted. The amendment was witty and was a perfect demonstration of the proper structure of an amendment.*

*When the motion was lost I felt rewarded and also relieved. Rewarded because the debate had been properly done and in the right spirit: there were no points of order and not much table-talk. I felt relieved because a motion that should have been lost was lost and we did not have to get a dolly and a forklift to move the statue around.*

*Good fun was had and we all learnt a little more about handling serious motions through working with a frivolous motion. I did feel a little sad that some people were not confident enough to speak on an unashamedly frivolous motion in an advanced club. Perhaps there should be a participation counter when we deal with our next frivolous motion.*

- Brian Duckworth

# Christmas cheer at final meeting



*Above left: Toastmasters protégés Cody and Amber. Above centre: Barrie Richardson. Above right: Immediate Past Santa Brian Duckworth hands over the reins to apprentice John Kuss.*



## Members share festive fun

*Above: Judith McConnell, visitor Ilona Josika, Hari Kotrotsios, B Williams and newest member Richard Hansen at the club's December meeting.*

*Above right: Fran and John Kay.*

*Right: Barbara Richardson and Kevin Wright.*



Wishing members a healthy and prosperous year in 2011



## Fairhill Nursery



Today is the start of something new -  
 I hope it's enjoyed by each one of you  
 A Poet Laureate with verse so inspiring is a segment I was really desiring  
 I will write about nature and places and us,  
 items and gossip and titillating stuff.  
 I will make you cry over matters so sad -  
 and then have you all gasp with matters so bad.  
 Next week maybe a chuckle will cross your lips  
 or else you will learn from some great little tips  
 Whatever it is you can be sure - it is going to certainly draw  
 on my talent and love of writing out verses that rhyme  
 It is something I love to do with my time.

So today I will start with my first poem, you see  
 It's all about our meeting here at Fairhill Nursery.  
 An afternoon tea served amongst the plants and the flowers  
 If you took time to look at all of them you could be here for hours  
 There are ferns from the tropics and crows nest and Elkhorn  
 Bougainvillea and fruit trees and plants that have thorns.  
 There are natives that grow at incredible speed  
 with beautiful flowers on which wild birds feed.  
 There are orchids with blooms that make great wedding bouquets  
 While others' beauty just blow you away.  
 There are plants for the hedges and small ones for the path  
 and rolls to be bought to make a good grass.  
 Here at the nursery there is colour wherever you look.  
 It's just like gazing into a great story book.

So I hope you have enjoyed your surroundings and your Fairhill fare  
 For there is nothing quite like this place anywhere.  
 Each place is unique and makes its own mark  
 and if it is good it will stay in our heart.  
 So until next month when I again have your ear  
 Let's enjoy the rest of the meeting and all the good cheer  
 that we share with each other - our members and friends  
 But for now this poem — just ends.



- presented by **Barbara Richardson**  
 at Mercury's November meeting  
 Fairhill Nursery, Yandina



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](mailto:coralmcv@bigpond.net.au)



**We're on the web:**  
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