

# Mercury's Messenger



Quarterly 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:  
**Coral McVean**
- Vice President Education:  
**Ian Pinker**
- Vice President Membership:  
**Fran Kay**
- Vice President Public Relations:  
**Judith McConnell**
- Treasurer:  
**Penne Bowles**
- Secretary:  
**Barbara Richardson**
- Sergeant at Arms:  
**Kevin Wright**



**▶** ABOVE: 2011 World Champion of Public Speaking Jock Elliott (holding his trophy) visited the club's August meeting at Flaxton, soon after his success at the International Convention in the USA.

## Wanted: Mischievous thieves for adventurous kidnapping mission

In the spirit of the Roman god Mercury's not-so-often-talked-about mischievous character, club members are being rallied for a mission to kidnap the Travelling Gavel.

Newly installed President Coral McVean is excited about leading a contingent to Chermside Communicators on Saturday, 3 December to claim this highly coveted prize.

"As many magnificent Mercurians as possible will travel to Brisbane to kidnap the Travelling Gavel, which is in memory of Stella Etherington for her contribution to District 69 over many years," said Coral. "At least three of our club members will be allocated on the agenda. I'll keep everyone informed as to which positions they'd like to give us."

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# Busy start to first quarter

We are a quarter of the way through our year and this is both a happy and slightly sad report to give you.

We are welcoming back charter member Phyl Dodd; at our August meeting we were thrilled to gain new members Joan Martinuzzi and Ilona Josika.

However, we have lost a couple of members at least temporarily due to pressures of life, family and home club commitments. Wendy Wareing, Hugh McVean and Richard Hansen will be missed and we hope they can rejoin at a later date.

Our venues this year have been excellent for catering and ambiance, albeit a little challenging at times with regard to speaking environments. However, we have had great meetings with the professionalism and the spirit of our members shining through.

Congratulations to our club representatives Joan Martinuzzi and Heather Hopkins at the Area 3 Conference. Thank you to those members who attended to support them and celebrated their participation.

It was great to welcome the 2011 World Champion of Public Speaking Jock Elliot at our August meet-

ing. The club photo with Jock holding his hard-earned trophy will be a treasured part of our club history.

Talking of club history, your executive is working hard to reconstruct the club's records in a centralised place. Thank you to our secretary Barbara Richardson for bringing this need to the attention of the executive. Vice President Education Ian Pinker has been coordinating this with the help of Sue Kruger and has a list of missing records. If you have any old records or minutes please contact Ian.

Mercury's is one of the first clubs in the area to get new badges for all members as well as order a new banner. Ian, with the help of Penne Bowles and Gary Kuss, has transformed our agenda to the new look.

This is another example of how Mercury's members are finding and embracing new ways.

The new team had an executive meeting in August following the joint meeting with the previous executive in June. We have an outstanding executive team at Mercury's Motivators. Good communication continues among the executive and members in between our meetings.



At the September meeting I resigned as President due to work pressures. Every club needs a leader and I do not currently have the leadership time/capacity that this great club deserves. The executive members have been outstanding in their support, but I believe this is the best decision for both the club and myself at this time.

Moreover, I am thrilled to be passing the reins to such a capable and brilliant leader as Coral McVean.

Fran Kay is stepping up to be your new Vice President Membership. We appreciate this, Fran, as we know this is the year that you primarily wish to support John Kay in his role as District Governor.

As the new president, Coral is continuing with this year's vision Step Up and Celebrate as well as Finding New Ways.

I wish Coral and the executive all the best.

**Patti Kuss**

**President June-September 2011  
and now enthusiastic member**

*Step Up and Celebrate*

**Conundrum:** a riddle, the answer to which involves a pun or play on words:

1. What do you fill with empty hands?
2. What can go up and come down without moving?
3. If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don't have it. What is it?
4. You can't keep this until you have given it.
5. Take off my skin, I won't cry but you will. What am I?
6. What question can you never answer "yes" to?

*Answers on page 6*

# Q&A with Penne

**1. When and why did you join Toastmasters?**

I joined in 1994 to learn to be able to speak in front of people.

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

Listen, think and then reply.  
Confidence in front of an audience.

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

All club roles, Area 8 Governor, Metropolitan Division Governor.

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

Chairman skills at work.

**5. What are your hobbies?**

Most handcrafts, but cooking is one of my passions, plus sewing.

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

Draftswoman.

**7. How long have you lived on the Coast?**

Shorncliffe for 33 years and Donnybrook for 5 years.

**8. Which is your home club?**

Caboolture.

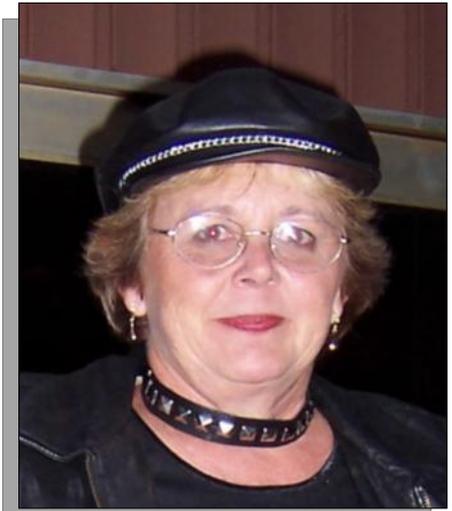
**9. What are your next Toastmasters goals?**

I love passing on what knowledge I have about Toastmasters and also encouraging newer members to have the courage to try.

**10. When and why did you join Mercury's Motivators?**

About a year ago, because I liked the members whom I have known for many years, as well as the challenge of an advanced club.

**11. Greatest achievement in Toastmasters:**



*Penne Bowles DTM*

Writing a skit, producing and performing it with Sandgate Toastmasters at a District Semi-Annual Conference held at The Acacia Ridge Hotel in 2003. It was called Snow-white Revisited. I was Butchy Babe. It was an absolute hit.

### Birthday wishes:

**Jenny Duckworth**  
28 September

**Kevin Wright**  
3 October

**Patti Kuss**  
4 October

**Penne Bowles**  
13 October

**Barbara Richardson**  
14 October

**B Williams**  
9 November

**Esther Frizzo**  
14 November

**Gary Kuss**  
11 December

**Fran Kay**  
22 December



*New Mercurians: Club president Patti Kuss (left) inducted members Joan Martinuzzi and Ilona Josika at the August meeting held at Le Relais Bressan in Flaxton. Joan and Ilona both delivered inspirational and insightful speeches at the meeting.*

# Special course to showcase uni programs

During May and June some students taking part in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) asked USC Speakers for help in preparing for the National Championship in Sydney.

We spoke with their President Amy Jones and put together a 12-hour, three-session course where the students had to showcase the programs they were running at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

We focused on what they needed for the contest - preparing a speech and answering questions from the judges who ask about the students' programs.

As a result we used lots of impromptu activities - table topics, games, word-at-a-time, fortunately/unfortunately, round robins, role plays and using a microphone.

We had a ball! John and Fran Kay helped at two of the sessions and other USC Speakers members made up the team to run the special course.

I went with them to USQ for a workshop and we also attended two rehearsals just before they left for Sydney. They didn't win, but got really high marks for their presentation, and answered the judges' questions confidently. They are keen to enter again next year.

We asked one of the SIFE students to give the Demonstration Icebreaker speech at session one of our Speechcraft course - she was delighted to be asked and made a great speech.

The first session went well, and all Speechcrafters are looking forward to gaining confidence during the course.

## Students gain confidence

The five-week Speechcraft course is run at the start of each semester to assist students to gain the confidence and skills they need when making presentations during their university courses.

Many students tell us doing Speechcraft has made a huge difference to their grades; it has saved them failing



*Above: Jenny and Brian Duckworth at the University of the Sunshine Coast Market Day promoting the USC Speakers Speechcraft course.*

a course because they were too terrified to present the work they knew, but were unable to communicate in front of their class.

It is essential that the course is held during the first five weeks of semester, as after that time there are too many assignments and the work level makes preparing speeches and attending a course extremely difficult.

We generally ask students who have done the previous course to help run the following one, as it further enhances their confidence, and allows them to work in their Competent Communication and Competent Leadership manuals.

All Speechcrafters choose a Toastmaster to be their mentor during the course.

**- by Jenny Duckworth, DTM**

### Next editions of Mercury's Messenger:

**1 January - deadline 20 December**

**1 April - deadline 20 March**

**1 July - deadline 20 June**



**Celebrating seventh anniversary**

# *Fantastic effort at Area 3 Conference*

*ABOVE: Members celebrated the club's seventh anniversary on 25 September at Seaclusions on Bribie Island. The afternoon meeting was held against a spectacular sunset backdrop.*

Mercurians Joan Martinuzzi and Heather Hopkins represented the club at the Area 3 Conference on 2 October.

Joan came second in Table Topics and Heather was third in the Evaluation speech contests. Joan also competed in the International speech contest.

"What a fantastic Conference we had - congratulations to both contestants," said club president Coral McVean.

"The standard of all the contests was high, the day flowed smoothly, it finished on time, the food was delicious, all clubs were well represented and they participated in the forest theme for their table decorations.

"We had 13 mighty Mercurians present at the conference," she said.

"As many of our members are dual members, some were there to support their home clubs.

Congratulations to Area 3 Governor Patti Kuss on a successful day and to Penne Bowles, Robyn Downey and Kevin Wright who, as members of Ca-boolture club, were responsible for many aspects of the Conference."



*Heather Hopkins and Joan Martinuzzi.*

## **Diary dates**

**Sunday, 30 October**

12pm for 2.30pm

Daisy's (formerly Rustic Cabin)

**Friday, 25 November**

Flinstones Burpengary

**Saturday, 17 December**

Caloundra

**Friday, 27 January**

Noosa

**Saturday, 25 February**

Maroochydore

**RSVP: Kevin Wright (SAA)**  
kev@wrightbros.com.au



*Colour my day: Mercurians splashed colour into their July meeting at the Sweet Basil Thai Restaurant in South Caboolture. (From left) Sue Kruger, Richard Hanson, Lorraine Keilty, Heather Hopkins and young guest Alex.*

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 either your Competent Communicator or Competent Leadership award. Even if you have not yet achieved these awards, you are welcome to come along as a guest.

Contact the membership officer Fran Kay.  
Ph: 5493 2406  
Email: [fran@megakay.net](mailto:fran@megakay.net)



## On the road with our travelling DG

District 69 Governor John Kay and Fran Kay (both Mighty Mercurians) visited Papua New Guinea in July. The purpose of their visit was to meet members of Komuniti Toastmasters in Port Moresby and KK Kingston in Lae. John also conducted the Charter Ceremony and new executive induction for the Komuniti club, plus club leader training for both clubs.



▶ **Answers to page 2 conundrums:** 1. Gloves. 2. The temperature. 3. A secret. 4. Your word. 5. An onion. 6. Are you asleep?

Visit our new website:  
<http://mercurysmotivators.toastmastersclubs.org/>

District 69 website:  
[www.toastmastersd69.org](http://www.toastmastersd69.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69](http://www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69)

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