

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



Presidential tug of war

▶ It's ours!

President Coral McVean used persuasive methods to wrest control of the coveted Travelling Gavel from Chermside Communicators President Denis Dowling when eight members travelled to Brisbane on 3 December. We will guard the gavel closely until another club attempts to kidnap it from us at a future meeting.

Have you been good?

Santa arrived at the club's Christmas meeting at Rydges Caloundra last month with a sack full of goodies. Members who performed their roles to Santa's satisfaction (including special guest Cody) were rewarded with lollies. A couple of members were, however, notably blacklisted for their 'bad' behaviour on the night.



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Mercurians capture the travelling gavel

Hello fellow Mercurians, Since our last *Messenger* we have had three exciting, enjoyable and educational meetings at Beerwah Tavern, Chancellor Tavern and Rydges at Caloundra. Some of the highlights were Esther's speech 'Something in yellow' about pineapples where not only did she demonstrate with her plants and give us recipes, but we also tasted the most delicious juicy, acid-free pineapples. At November's meeting, Heather brought her guide dog puppy Hughie for her 'Living Gift' speech and Hari had us singing harmoniously in 'Doh a deer'. The highlight from our Christmas meeting was Santa, who gave gifts to those who she thought had been good. It has been tremendous to witness how all of our members have *stepped up and celebrated*. Thank you for challenging yourselves by

finding new ways and making our meetings so varied. I have been thrilled to see that (as we are all more aware of timing) our meetings have been finishing on time. Thank you to Kevin for organising our venues which have all been suitable for speaking and where the food has been delicious. Please tell Kevin if you know of any other good venues. Congratulations to Ian for not only giving us interesting agendas, but also sending them to us promptly. Thanks Fran for following up with our many guests. Judith, we appreciate the many invitations that you have sent to clubs near our venues. Thanks Penne for keeping us in the black and Barbara for the way you are reconstructing the club's records with Ian and Sue's assistance. Thanks also to Fran and Judith who are preparing a brochure for guests that will be available on our website. We are also grateful to Hari for her professional educational and fun *Messengers*. It is fantastic to have such an amazing executive team. On 3 December eight magnificent Mercurians travelled to Brisbane to Chermide Communicators to capture the Travelling Gavel. This was a fun experience (*pictured above*) and now we can proudly display the gavel at our meetings until someone else kidnaps it from us. Thanks Jenny for writing our name on the scroll. I may be biased, but it reinforced for me what an excellent club Mercury's Motivators is - go Mercurians! Kenmore club has shown interest in

visiting us to kidnap the gavel, but no date has been set yet. Once again we contributed to the clients of the Lions Emergency Shelter Accommodation instead of giving each other a Christmas gift. Thanks Brian and Jenny for organising this for the club. It is true that in giving we receive. We are on track to be a Distinguished Club again. We have had two new members which takes us to 23 members, seven club officers trained, our fees paid on time and one leadership award. When someone in your home club achieves their Competent Communication or Competent Leadership award, invite them to one of our meetings. Being a member of our club may be just the next challenge they want for themselves. Of course, all visitors are welcome including new Toastmasters. The next round of Club Leader Training for Area 3 will be at Ningi Hall, 1320 Bribe Island Rd, on Saturday 11 February from 8am to 12.30pm. Registration can be done online or sent to me. Training is open to all members. Please note also our Central Division Conference in Gympie on 3-4 March. You can register online or directly to Jan Stafford. I look forward to seeing each of you refreshed and renewed on 27 January in Cooroy for our first 2012 meeting, ready to step up by finding new ways and celebrate your achievements. - Coral McVean, President

Birthday wishes:

Hari - 4 January

Judith - 18 January

Barb B - 6 February

Ian - 19 February

John - 6 March

Lorraine - 25 March

Q&A with Joan



Joan Martinuzzi

1. When and why did you join Toastmasters?

I joined in May 1995 because I had moved to Caloundra and was hoping to meet like-minded people and forge new friendships.

2. What have you gained from being a Toastmaster?

Friendships, confidence, communication skills, awards and hours of entertainment.

3. What club/district roles have you held?

President, Vice President Education, Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor, Division Secretary.

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

As a teacher, I communicate effectively. In general, I listen more keenly, give feedback when asked,

confidently introduce myself on the phone and in person; I converse easily.

5. What are your hobbies?

Playing musical instruments, reading, exercising, and writing speeches.

6. What do you do for work?

I'm a teacher of general subjects and music.

7. How long have you lived on the Coast?

On and off for 15 years.

8. Which is your current home club?

Caloundra Toastmasters.

9. What are your next Toastmasters goals?

Complete my ATM Gold targets and my second Competent Communication manual.

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

I first joined in 2005-6 and following a break away from the Coast, I re-joined in July 2011.

Judith welcomes grandchild number five

Mercurian Judith McConnell spent some time in Western Australia in September to welcome her latest grandson Raoul Junior (RJ), who arrived early at 32 weeks and weighed just 1520 grams.



NANA TIME: Judith with her daughter Trudi and grandson RJ in Perth in September.

Little RJ stayed in hospital for about four-and-a-half weeks until he weighed 2kg and was able to nurse.

"It was nice to be able to spend some nana time with him before I had to come home to the Sunshine Coast. I spent 10 days spoiling him and my daughter," she said.

"It's very emotional to see your own children with their own babies. It was extremely difficult to leave them, but they are planning to visit in June-July so the rest of the family can meet little RJ."

RJ arrived on 17 September 2011 at 5.36am (Perth time). Length: 42cm.

"I'm loving every minute of being a grandmother," she said. Congratulations, Judith!

Diary dates

Friday, 27 January

7pm - Cooroy Bowls Club

Sunday, 26 February

1pm - Caboolture Golf Club

Sunday, 1 April

1pm - Maleny Tranquil Park

Sunday, 29 April

Daisy's Place, Landsborough

Sunday, 27 May

Fairhill Nursery, Yandina

RSVP: Kevin Wright (SAA)

Ph: 0409 904 940

E: kev@wrightbros.com.au

Ian & Sue in the pink for charity



Sue and I were privileged on the last weekend of October to travel to Melbourne to support a great event, the Melbourne Breast Cancer Bra Walk. This event, held in Federation Square on the Sunday, was organized by nieces Catherine, Susan and Kim, with Kim treated for breast cancer a few years ago. I had promised months ago that we would be there to support them for this worthwhile cause, so I had to keep my promise. We arrived in Melbourne on the Saturday afternoon to be met by Sue's sister and brother-in-law and were promptly whisked away to Lygon St in Carlton for a late lunch on this beautiful sunny afternoon. On Sunday morning we were met by Antarctic conditions; Sue retreated to our room for her jacket while I, an ex-Melbournian, had my jumper with me. Even though Federation Square was three blocks from our hotel in Spring Street we hailed a taxi, to the displeasure of the driver once he was made aware of our destination. At Federation Square we met up with family and collected our gift bag - I only mention this as there was a

pink poncho in the bag, which we used with haste to provide more warmth, then followed with a hot breakfast and more warmth. We joined the "sea of pink" for the walk along the Yarra River, over Punt Road Bridge and returned along the other side to be entertained by bands and the RMIT Acrobatic team (Victorian state champions) and various speakers, including former Olympian and World Champion cyclist Shane Kelly who was ambassador for the event. Overall about 500 people walked at the event and at last count a \$20,000 profit was made, which was amazing considering the conditions. As the event came to an end, the weather started to clear (typical). We headed for celebratory drinks and eats (more warmth) at a nearby restaurant, and then the sad farewells to finish a great day (won't mention the weather). On Monday morning - yes, the weather was perfect - we spent our time before departure to the airport participating in the great Melbourne pastime, shopping; of course money and goods did change hands. We were both pleased that we made the journey, and felt "in the pink" on our return. If you Google the event as shown in the opening paragraph, more photos are provided.

- Ian Pinker DTM



SUCCESSFUL AWARDS: *President Coral McVean presents 2011-2012 Select Distinguished Area patches to Past Area 3 Governor Gary Kuss and a Distinguished Club ribbon to Past President Sue Kruger.*

Next editions of Mercury's Messenger

1 April - deadline 20 March

1 July - deadline 20 June

Member snapshots



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: District Governor John Kay (above) runs the business session at the Semi-Annual Conference in November, with District Secretary Sue Kruger by his side. Below left: Kevin Wright receives a Triple Boomerang award and (right) Fran Kay lends a helping hand.

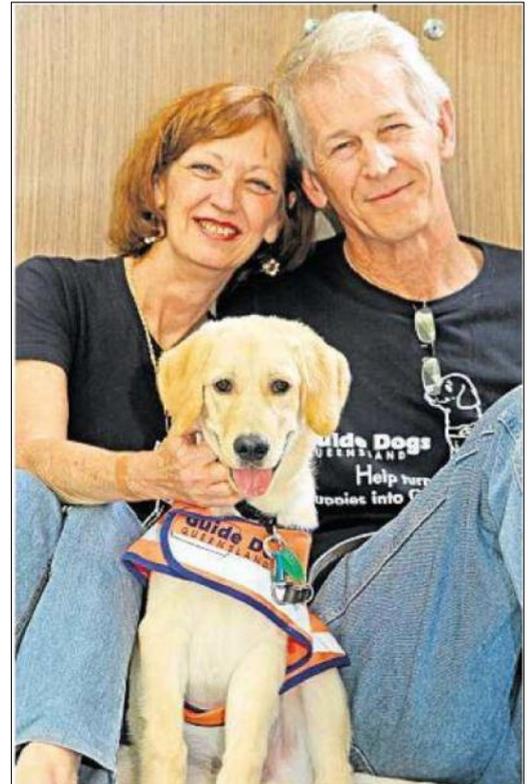


Elfin around

Santa's Little Elf was called to provide MC duties at the 'Santa Comes to Coolum Town' event on 2 December. Hari was also awarded Toastmaster of the Year at the Area 16 Conference in October.



QUEEN B: Celebrating Noosa club's 25th anniversary in November.



NOBLE JOB: Guide dog puppies with their carers at Sunshine Plaza. PHOTO: KARI BOURNE

IN THE NEWS: Heather and Steve with their guide dog puppy Hughie (above) appeared in an article in the Maroochy Weekly newspaper on 10 November. They were also interviewed by Channel 7 local news about their role as trainers. Hughie was also in the spotlight at our November meeting as part of Heather's 'Living Gift' speech presentation.



Did you know: Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis [noo-muh-noh-uhl-truh-mahy-kruh-skop-ik-sil-i-koh-vol-key-noh-koh-nee-oh-sis] **Noun.** An obscure term referring to a lung disease caused by silica dust. It is sometimes cited as one of the longest words in the English language.

Festive photos



From left: Coral and Hugh McVean, Denise Corbin, Gary Kuss, Robi O'Keefe and Di Pasmans.



***KUSS KUSS:** Gary persuaded Santa in his Table Topics speech that he should keep the heavenly chocolate and honeycomb body paint, which was enthusiastically endorsed by Patti.*



***BELOW:** Santa helped celebrate the club's Christmas meeting with Patti, Fran and Hari.*

***CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:** (Above from left) Club members Lorraine, Judith, Kevin, special guest Amber, Sue and Ian enjoyed the festive meeting. Below: (from left) Barbara and Barrie with their grandkids Cody and Joel, with Brian and Jenny.*



Santa with her two special helpers, Amber and Cody.

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



Visit our website:
<http://mercurymotivators.toastmastersclubs.org/>

District 69 website:
www.toastmastersd69.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69

Mercury's Messenger is published by Coral McVean coralmcv@bigpond.net.au
Newsletter editor: Hari Kotrotsios hari.kotrotsios@hotmail.com

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