

## POWERTALK AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE TERM 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2018 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2019

TABLED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019

*"TRAINING, EXPANSION, ACCREDITATION AND MATERIALS – T.E.A.M."*

The Association's Board for this term consisted of: President, Margaret Grand (from New South Wales); President Elect, Janeen Vosper (from Queensland); Secretary, Marie Cooke (from Victoria); and Treasurer, Margaret Sutherland (from Tasmania). This was the second consecutive term that this same Board has served the Association.

The Board met in-person on three occasions: immediately after Conference in New Zealand; in August; and in January. The latter two were held in Sydney as it was the easiest place for all the Board members to get to. In addition, the Board met on-line on a monthly basis. After each of these meetings, a member of the Board was assigned to write a newsletter that was distributed to the members. In this way, the members were kept informed on the decisions made by the Association's Board on their behalf. The practice of writing to each new member was continued this term.

The communication was a two-way process. In late January, Club Boards had the opportunity to meet on-line with members of the Association Board. The information shared was beneficial both to the Clubs involved and to the Association. The Association Board appreciated the time that the members of the Club Boards took to provide suggestions before the meetings and for the time for the meetings. Those meetings helped the Association Board further develop ideas for the benefit of all members.

The Association's name has been officially changed to POWERtalk Australia Incorporated. This removed all references to International Training in Communication. The required paperwork was submitted to the Department of Fair Trading in New South Wales by the Public Officer, Margaret Grand. The names of the bank accounts will be changed when the change of signatories takes place early in the new term.

In her acceptance speech, the President identified four pillars on which POWERtalk Australia needs to build. These pillars were training, expansion, accreditation and materials. Together, these produced the term theme "T.E.A.M." At the first Board meeting, the members of the Board explored ways to develop further these four pillars.

### TRAINING

The more experienced members will remember the times when the "Region" held training days, called "Management Training". These training days contained worthwhile information. Over the years, the training has fallen by the wayside.

The members of the Board discussed how to improve training. It was decided to use the webinar platform for training this term. Each month, a one-hour webinar was presented to the members. The topics covered fell under these categories: communication; concepts; coaching; creating and composing; and clubs and connections. Presenters came from all states in which POWERtalk

Australia has a presence. There were also presenters from New Zealand. An average of fifteen members attended each webinar live. It is unknown how many members watched the recordings.

The webinars have been able to be offered to members at no cost to the Association. Janeen Vosper generously incorporated the webinars into the same account that she has for her training business. Janeen was responsible for arranging the presenters for the various sessions. Thank you to Janeen for her generosity.

#### EXPANSION

The second pillar on which the Association needed to build was expansion. Any organisation that does not grow and change dies. It is very pleasing to announce that there have been thirty-two new members during the term at the date of writing (14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019). This represents an increase in excess of 30%. This is an amazing result.

The bulk of the growth has been in Queensland. The major difference between Queensland and the other areas appears to be the length of time that the Queensland clubs have been using Meetup. Because of the early success of Meetup in Queensland, a decision was made to extend the use of Meetup to all clubs in the Association. Again, this has been at no cost to the Association. Thank you to Mary Wong for her generosity in incorporating Meetup for all the clubs under her training business' Meetup account.

#### ACCREDITATION

While the Accreditation Program has been replaced with the Development Program, at the time of the installation of the Board the program was still called the Accreditation Program. Level 1 of the Development Program was made available to the members in November, 2018. The remaining three levels have now been completed and are ready for members' use. It is with pleasure and a sense of pride that the Board is launching the complete new Development Program at Conference. Members will receive the complete program electronically. It will be available on the members-only section of the website. There is also one hard copy per club available at Conference so that clubs can show the program to prospective members.

All the Board members had input into the new Development Program. Thanks go to Janeen Vosper for coordinating its completion. A very special thank you goes to Pat Cartwright for putting it all together and typing and formatting the entire document.

#### MATERIALS

The main focus for the Board in this area has been the production and publication of the Development Program. The Board acknowledges that there is still a need to update and publish other training materials. To this end, volunteers have been sought to do some of the training materials. So far, there have been very few volunteers. The Board requests more members to volunteer to assist with some of the materials. The more volunteers there are, the lighter the load.

This has been a very important term in relation to consolidating the position of POWERtalk Australia following the disbanding of the international organisation. Particularly with the increase in

membership numbers this term, it appears that the Association is in a stronger position now than it was two years ago. It is hoped that this impetus carries forward to next term.

Conference this year celebrates fifty golden years since the first Australian Region was formed. Australia was making history then. It was the first Region to be formed outside of North America. Now, it is the oldest surviving "Region" with the demise of all the North American regions. That this wonderful organisation has survived in Australia is testament to the tenacity of all its members. The Board hopes that all members and guests enjoy the fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

Best wishes to the new Board which will be led by President, Janeen Vosper.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Grand', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Grand  
President 2018-2019  
POWERtalk Australia Incorporated  
Tabled 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

**T.E.A.M.**