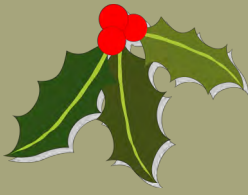


DECEMBER 2015



THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD
WISH ALL MEMBERS A SAFE AND
HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON.

Expanding Horizons

From the Region Boardroom



ITC Australian Region Inc.

NEWSFLASH!

Bylaw amendments are due—check your email for details sent last week from the CLO.

Region Board Nominations are due mid February—see page 5

Free Pre-conference Club and Council Officer training and meeting discuss the future progress of our organisation. Have your say—see page 5

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From your Region President

Around this time every year, I find myself reflecting on the last 11 months, and wondering how it can be that it is again December.

When I find myself in this position, I take time to think about the achievements of the year, as well as starting to formulate ideas and goals for the upcoming new year. This year is no exception.

Reflecting on the last 12 months of POWERtalk in Australia, I recall many exciting events. Some, in the previous term—like the successful Australian Region participation at Convention in Rotorua, both with our combined Australian-New Zealand Conference day, our Australian Region Award Winners and our International Cosmopolitan Speech Contest win—such a great and very exciting achievement! Already in this term we've had successful Council 9 and 7 meetings and the excitement of Diamond Valley Communicator's 35th Anniversary dinner.

The 2014 term PREM initiative has seen some clubs receiving extra dollars to spend this term. Also in PREM, the Member's Survey has given us vital information to assist in formulating our marketing strategy, which will be put to use into the future to increase our membership and longevity.

Clubs have commenced their speech contests, and are arranging Christmas events and planning to recess and re-energise for the new year.

And before we know it, it will be time to start to think of who will make the step up next term into a Club, Council, or Region Board

role—indeed Region Nominations will be due by 20 February, so it's time to start considering now, whether you might take on a role, and/or who you might nominate for these roles.

I absolutely recommend participation in Board roles to learn more not only about the organisation, but also about yourself and your leadership abilities.

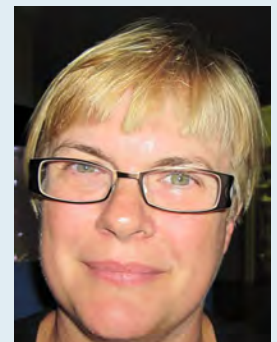
As you relax this festive season, consider putting pen to paper and writing a short story, essay, article or poem for the writing competition. As in your speaking journey, you will gain greatly through participating in the writing stream of our organisation.

Yes, folks, it may be a very overused phrase, but you really do 'have to be in it to win it.'

I trust you will enjoy reading this newsletter, and learn from our article on team-work, compiled by President-Elect, Christine Hardy, who will attest to the fact that we learn through doing.

So, roll up your sleeves and be part of the team as we continue to expand our horizons through participation in this great Organisation.

As you relax and prepare for a year of participation, I wish you all health and happiness this Christmas and into the new year.



Mary Wong

President

Australian Region

POWERtalk International



December	\$30.00
January	\$26.25
February	\$22.50
March	\$18.75
April	\$15.00
May	\$11.25
June	\$7.50
July	\$3.75



*“Better late than never,
But never late is better.”*

Region Fees and Notes for Treasurers

Club treasurers please note, when joining new members, fees must be paid to all levels—International, Region and Council. The calculations for the Australian Region portion of membership fees are shown in the table to the right.

When joining a new member, please assist all levels with their record-keeping by sending a copy of the new member form to all levels; and at renewal please include all details on correct forms and send to all levels, so records are kept up-to-date.

Region requires address, phone number, date of joining and membership numbers for all members [this is a legal requirement], so please forward all information, and send membership number once it is received from International.

Please send Australian Region fees to VP Finance, Bernadette Knight, 90 Richmond Street, Gordon Park QLD 4031 and email forms to bernknight@gmail.com

Thank you for your assistance.

Important Dates for the Term

There's always something coming up, and in our busy lives we forget sometimes. So, to assist you with your planning, here are some dates for the term that you might want to pop in your diary now.

DECEMBER

15 Dec—Closing date for submitting proposed amendments to Region Bylaws Chair

A Happy and safe Christmas to all.



JANUARY

Recess—Happy New Year!



15 Jan—Club to Council Reports due

24 Jan—Club-at-large and Council to Region Reports due

FEBRUARY

1 Feb—Early Bird Registration deadline for Region Conference—remember there is a prize draw for those who register before 1st Feb.

7 Feb—Region to International Reports due

Region Board meeting

20 Feb—Closing date for nominations for Region Office for the following term

MARCH

Region Board Meeting

Mid-Month—End of Term reports for Region All Club Mailing due for Councils and Club-at-Large

19 March—Council 9 Meeting and Speech Contest

31 March—Region All Club Mailing is due

31 March—award nominations due to Region Board

APRIL

2 April—Council 7 Meeting and Speech Contest

9 April—Flinders Council Meeting and Speech Contest

Armidale—40 years.

Region Board Meeting

MAY

6 May—Club delegates Credentials due to Credentials Chair

6 May—Club to Council Reports due

15 May—Council and Club-at-Large Reports to Region due

20—22 May—ITC Australian Region Conference and AGM, Gold Coast

Region Board meeting and New Board training following on from Conference

29 May—Region to International Report due

JUNE

11 June—Council 9 Meeting

JULY

12 July—Flinders Combined Club meeting

23 July—Council 7 Meeting

AUGUST

1 August—fees for new term due

We don't want to miss your event! If you notice a missing date, please let us know, so we can share throughout the Region.

The Importance of Being a Team Member

It may seem sometimes that teamwork is something everybody talks about and nobody does anything about. But teamwork can and does exist. Teams are made, not born. The best results are obtained when people work together with a sense of commitment to one another as well as to their organisation. Team effectiveness stems from shared obligations for the organisation and understanding of the role and responsibilities of each member of the team.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD TEAM MEMBER?

There are nine important components:

#1 – A TEAM MEMBER IS LOYAL

Loyalty to each team member and to the team as a whole is essential. This means that a team member must support team decisions regardless of personal preference.

Don't bad mouth other team members. Keep board and committee discussions confidential.

#2 – A TEAM MEMBER IS COMMITTED

Each of us makes a choice as to the role we will play on the team. We either join in as an active, caring member or we go through the motions from the sidelines. The active, caring team member says, "I make a difference. What I do makes it possible for the Board or Committee to run smoothly. With every telephone conversation, every personal

contact, every letter, I make a statement about POWERtalk International. I am committed to being an excellent representative of the organisation. I adhere to the timelines as requested."

#3 - A TEAM MEMBER IS DEPENDABLE

When you undertake anything – finish it. Build a reputation as a person who is thorough and sees things through.

#4 – A TEAM MEMBER IS GOAL-ORIENTED

Ask yourself these questions and answer them thoroughly:

"Where is my group headed? Are we accomplishing our responsibilities and achieving our goals?"

As a good team member, help determine how the goal should be accomplished. Input from everyone is needed. And your contribution is vital and important.

#5 – A TEAM MEMBER IS PROFESSIONAL

You respect other people's time and effort as well as your own and think, act and perform professionally at all times.

#6 - A TEAM MEMBER IS CO-OPERATIVE

The difference between a successful organisation and a poor one is quite often a reflection of the co-operation, or lack of it, among the members of that organisation.

#7 - A TEAM MEMBER IS COURTEOUS

Courtesy is defined as gentleness and politeness. No degree of

friendship can justify or condone discourtesy.

#8 – A TEAM MEMBER IS PEOPLE-ORIENTED

It marks a big step in a person's development

when they come to realise that other people can be called on to help them do a better job than can be done alone.

#9 – A TEAM MEMBER IS ENTHUSIASTIC

Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. No assignment is too tough, no responsibility too great to handle, if we approach it with enthusiasm and the desire to do a good job.

ARE YOU A GOOD TEAM MEMBER?

Teamwork is important because it integrates the knowledge, skills, thinking and creativity of many people. It is important because it ensures co-ordination so that all members of the team can enjoy success.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Help each other be right – not wrong.

Look for ways to make new ideas work – not reasons they won't.

Help each other achieve.

Celebrate each other's successes.

Don't look for victims – look for solutions.

Speak positively about each other.

Be positive about our organisation.

Do everything with enthusiasm – it's contagious.

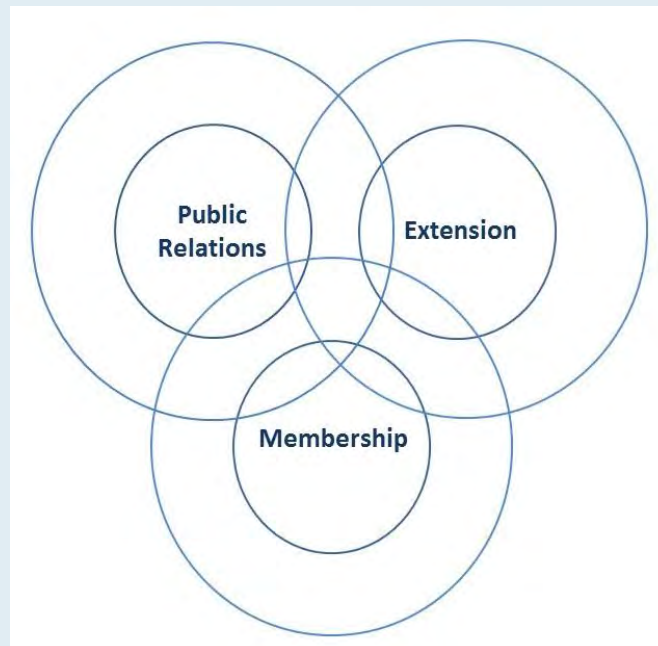


“ Do everything with enthusiasm — It's contagious.”

Christine Hardy
President-Elect
Australian Region

Persistence Pays Off

P
R
E
M



“It takes up to 11 reminders in this modern world before people start to act on their intentions...”

How are the promotional activities for your club progressing this term?

Do you have a database of interested guests, to whom you regularly send information?

Does your club have a Facebook page, or a Meet-up site?

Do you have a website or do you utilize free advertising available on-line at sites such as community pages or gum-tree?

Perhaps you prefer traditional promotional exercises like leaving flyers at the local library?

Whatever your activities, remember it takes up to 11 reminders in this modern world before people start to act on their intentions—so don't give up if just one try doesn't bring in the guests. Use a multi-focal approach, and keep at it!

It's important not to be disheartened if a guest

decides not to join. Current conversion rates throughout all organisations suggest that you might engage less than one-third of all people who register interest, so there's no need to take it personally.

When analyzing why a guest did not join, decide if there is a valid issue, and take action to remedy such issues. Be positive, and look for the benefits your club members can give, rather than focusing on the challenges. Seek assistance from the PREM chair, or Council or Region Board members where necessary, and maintain your energy by collaborating with other members and Clubs.

Make use of free Social Media—remember that the Australian Region has a Facebook page to promote our organisation. Make use of the articles you see there by sharing with others in your network, and encourage them to share too—you never know who in their network could be interested

in what we have to offer.

Also, don't forget, the Region group page for members only. Make use of this page and the POWERtalk Chat Room [international Facebook group page] to keep in touch with other members both locally and internationally. Collaborate with them to find new ideas for promotion and programming.

Getting guests in the door is only the first step—follow up with excellence in programming, lots of good fun, and a warm, supportive environment.

Then, once the guests have joined, make sure you deliver on your promises of quality training, mentoring and participation. The accreditation program in a good way of putting structure into this process. Be supportive, and actively mentor your new members.

The well-used marketing adage applies—**under-promise, and over-deliver!**

Pre-Conference Events– Forward Progress Meeting and Club & Council Officer Training

This year, Conference will commence with a dinner on Friday evening. Prior to conference, there is a full day of events, at no cost to attendees.

In the morning, Linda Bergman and other New Zealand members will be convening a meeting for discussion of the forward progress of the POWERtalk Organisation. Come along and have your ideas for our future growth heard and discussed.

To assist those members who have made the decision to learn through participation by filling a role either at Club or Council level, the Region Board has decided to run a Club and Council Officer Training session on Friday afternoon. All incoming officers are welcome to attend, but the room holds a maximum of 30 people, so it will be necessary to register early to avoid disappointment. If your club has no incoming officers attending conference, please send a representative to the training to collect information to pass on to the incoming Officers.

Lunch will be provided for all interested parties at a cost of \$10, and will include sandwiches and fruit, with tea and coffee. This will be held in one of the apartments. Please ensure you register to attend in order that sufficient food is provided.

Come along, and learn through your participation.

A registration form and more details will be provided via CLO and in the March edition of *Expanding Horizons*.

Call for Nominations

An opportunity exists for you to grow your leadership skills and have a say in our future through active participation on the 2016-17 Region Board.

Nominations are being taken for the following positions:

PRESIDENT-ELECT

SECRETARY

VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE

Nominees must

- ⇒ Be active members of clubs in good standing within the Region or of a club entering the Region, at the next 1st August, or a member-at-large on payment of applicable dues and fees **and**
- ⇒ have been an active member of ITC for at least five years **and**
- ⇒ have held elected office at club and at council [where a council exists] **and**
- ⇒ be nominated by the club of which they are a member [or if a member-at-large, be nominated by a club within the Region].

Nominations must be signed by the nominee and made on the correct nominations form—a copy of which will be distributed via the CLO network.

Correctly completed forms are to be submitted to the Nominations Chair no later than 22nd February, 2016.

Please post to Rose McMillan, 3 Gipps Avenue, Little Bay, NSW 2036

Scanned form may be emailed in advance of posted original to

rosemcmillan@bigpond.com



Learn

through

Participation





ITC Australian Region Inc. POWER*talk* International

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President-Elect: Christine Hardy
christinemhardy1@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jan Broe
broitc@broe.com.au

Vice President Finance: Bernadette Knight
bernknight@gmail.com

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

May 20–22nd 2016



**The next ITC Australian Region Conference
Will be held at Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise, Qld
on 20 – 22 May 2016.**

**Come, Expand your Horizons and Reach new Heights
with us!**

Watch the CLO and website for conference pack.

Early Bird Registration Closes – Feb 1st 2016

Remember, all who register before 1st Feb, go into the draw for \$100



POWER*talk* International.....Coaching in Effective Speaking