

Expanding Horizons

From the Region Boardroom



ITC Australian Region Inc.

From the Region President

WANTED!

Writing Contest Chair

Forward Direction Committee members

If you are interested, please contact the Region President now.

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Welcome to the 2016-2017 POWERtalk term.

The Region is off to a flying start for the term, with the majority of Appointed Officers positions filled, and rosters soon to be circulated. The Region Board thank all members for promptly sending required information so we are able to complete this task.

Reporting dates and report formats have been sent to Club and Council Presidents, and are included in the term calendar on page 2 of this newsletter. Please ensure your reports are sent on time, as a delay in one report can disrupt the entire chain, and increases stress for those at the next level who are also on a time limit for preparation and submission of their reports.

The Region Board had a very productive meeting at the end of July, and have already planned out Board meeting dates for the term, as well as ideas for Region Training and visits to Councils. It is hoped a Region Board member may also be able to visit clubs -at-large this term and present training to their members.

The Region Website is progressing very well with all clubs now having club-specific pages. Please see the article on page 3 of this issue for more information.

How is your club business card supply going? If you need more, please contact Margaret Sutherland, PREM chair to request them. Also, if your club has ideas for flyers to be printed and distributed, needs a banner, or any other items for promotion of the club, please remember that we have a budget line for marketing, and are happy to provide these for the use of the clubs.

The committee for considering sustaina-

ble future ideas for our Organisation is still looking for interested participants. Meetings can be held by Skype or similar methods so travel would not be required to participate. Please consider assisting in this committee as we need a pool of ideas from which to draw. This is your opportunity to shape our future.

On a sad note, the Region bid farewell to two clubs and one council with the discontinuation of Flinders Council, Maroubra Communicators and Fairlight Communicators at the end of the term. The clubs from Flinders Council are continuing as clubs-at-large within the Region, and four of the club members from Fairlight and Maroubra have remained members-at-large within the Region. We wish those who have decided not to continue all the best and should they decide to re-join, would welcome them heartily back to the POWERtalk family.

On a happier note, congratulations to POWERtalk Brisbane South on successfully celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a fabulous function in August. What a great night and testament to the strength and confidence our training provides.

The Region Conference planning committee is already hard at work. Please respond quickly to requests for program submissions in order that the conference pack can go out early enough for everyone to plan and budget to attend. Conference is always a highlight of the POWERtalk year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes for a productive and exciting term,

Mary Wong

President

ITC Australian Region Inc

POWERtalk International



August	\$45.00
September	\$41.25
October	\$37.50
November	\$33.75
December	\$30.00
January	\$26.25
February	\$22.50
March	\$18.75
April	\$15.00
May	\$11.25
June	\$7.50
July	\$3.75



“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

Alan Lakein

Region Fees and Notes for Treasurers

A pro-rata list of Region fees is in the column to the left.

When joining a new member, please ensure a copy of your Club’s international paperwork is also copied to the Region Treasurer [as this allows us to keep our records up to date] and to the Council treasurer.

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/or 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.

SEPTEMBER—

18 Sept—Club report to Council due

OCTOBER—

Founder’s month. Has your club anything special planned?

2 Oct—Council and Club-at-Large report to Region due

8 Oct—Council 7 meeting

11 Oct—Region report to International due

15 Oct—Council 9 meeting

15 Oct—Region Board meeting

NOVEMBER

26 Nov—Region Board meeting by cyber

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

Recess—Happy New Year!

1 Jan—Club to Council Reports due (feel free to send in advance of this date)

15 Jan—Club-at-large and Council to Region Reports due (feel free to send earlier)

17 Jan—Region Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

Welcome back!

1 Feb—Early Bird Registration deadline for Region Conference

7 Feb—Region to International Reports due

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

MARCH

12 Mar—Region Board meeting (cyber)

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

18 Mar—Council 7 Meeting and Speech Contest

25 Mar—Council 9 Meeting and Speech Contest

30 Mar—Region All Club Mailing is due

APRIL

9 Apr—Region Board meeting (cyber)

April date TBC—Brisbane Central 50 years celebration

MAY

4 May—Club Credentials to Credentials Chair

7 May—Club to Council Reports due

19 May—Region Board meeting

19—21 May—ITC Australian Region Conference and AGM, Wollongong

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

29 May—Region to International Report due

JUNE

10 Jun—Council 9 Meeting

17 Jun—Council 7 Meeting

JULY

21-26 July—International Convention and International Speech Contest, Seattle, Washington

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.

Update on Club Website Pages

The Region website now includes sites for every club in Australia, complete with a blog section, which assists with engagement of visitors to the site, and encourages them to attend as a guest to meetings [see article below]. Please ensure that at least one news item has been forwarded to the Region President so that we can have a minimum single blog entry on your club page [we prefer three]. Please include pictures if possible.

A training video on how to update the club webpage and blog is being produced and will be distributed in the near future. Following that, all clubs should be able to maintain their own page, with only occasional assistance required from the Region Webmaster, Vera Tibbertsma, or from the Website Contractor if there is a larger issue.

All club pages have a member's sign-in section to be used specifically by that club. This is not yet able to be accessed, as the process of entering all these members is not complete [this is a separate process to the main Region sign-in page which is up and running]. If your club does not wish to utilise this opportunity, it can be simply removed. However, this is a great opportunity to share information, programmes, rosters etc for your club without blocking up everyone's email, so please consider using it.

The site is built using Wordpress which uses drop and drag uploading, so is very quick and simple to update and add files.

You will note that at the base of the club page is a 'share this page' section complete with a range of social media buttons. This allows any interested person to share the website through a range of media, thus increasing our reach. I recommend all members share their Club page and the Region page on whatever social media platform they engage in—this is free advertising for us.

To access Region members' documents either navigate to the members section using the account tab at the top of the main Region site, then log in, and use the documents tab to access files.

If you have questions, please ask, using either the contact form on the site, or by emailing the web-chair or President directly. Please remember if there are issues, not to vent frustration on those voluntarily administering this site. This is a very large undertaking and gentle communication of problems is greatly appreciated during this time of transition which brings with it a very heavy workload. We trust our efforts are appreciated.

Share our website on social media using the share facilities set up on the site.

PREM – Why Blog?

With the new club pages all including blog sections, we have a brilliant opportunity to engage those who visit our site.

Two scenarios—the first without a blog...

Imagine, you are lacking in confidence, and wishing to improve your speaking ability. You navigate to the nearest club page, and read about the basic club information, then decide to take the plunge and attend a meeting. On the night, your anxiety takes hold—you don't know anyone or anything about this club and you have no idea what to expect. More often than not, the nerves will win and you will not attend. Or, if you manage to go along, you walk into a room full of people you have never met, and a whole new load of anxiety accompanies you.

The second scenario, with a blog...

You navigate to the page for the club near you, and read the basic club information. While scrolling through, you read on the club blog some information about members, how they have grown, what they now can do, that they couldn't do before. You read on to find someone else attended feeling just like you do now, but is now able to present at a much higher level. You notice comments about the meeting programmes and see that there is fun to be had and all kinds of incidental learning—**like the night one club had a meeting themed 'Places we have Been'** including information on visiting Peru. It peaks your interest to a point where you feel you must attend. When you arrive, you meet some of the people in the blog, and connect easily with them, as you feel you already are slightly acquainted. The whole experience becomes far less anxious for you, and you are more likely to join in.

Blogs create interest, engage the reader, and break the ice for newcomers. The articles don't have to be long—even 20—30 words can be enough to engage a reader. Pictures help—remember your audience all have different learning styles. Keep your style chatty, and light hearted for best results.

So, go ahead, write your club blog. Fill it with interesting and fun facts, reflections, quotes of the night, and start to engage those who look at your club page. You might be surprised at the difference it makes.



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POWER*talk* International

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Come Shine With Us!



The next ITC Australian Region Conference
Will be held at Sage Hotel, Wollongong, NSW
on 19th — 21st May 2017.

Conference pack will be available on the Region website
closer to the time at

<http://www.powertalkaustralia.org.au/conference>



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