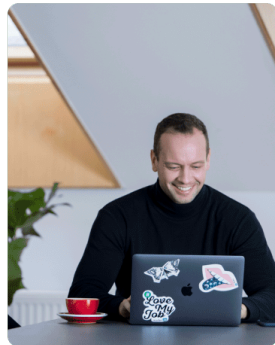




POWERtalk Australia News and Updates November 2025

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Want to know what is happening in your association?

Read on!

Message from the President

Dear Members

Can you believe that Christmas is just around the corner? I have no idea where this year has gone, and that we are in the 5th month of this term. I hope that those of you who have taken a step up and taken on a role at your club/council are enjoying the challenge. This was another topic we discussed at our meeting regarding the way ahead for the Association. We need members to take up the challenge and put their hat in the ring to take a position on the Association board. The current board members are happy to mentor and assist new Board members without interfering, but to serve as a sounding board as and when needed.

ALSO discussed were the various committees that we have; do we need them all? Is it time we culled them, joined them and made them less ominous to encourage members to take on the various roles? I will be contacting members requesting that they take on some of these roles. The board will coordinate the Conference, including nominations and credentials, as well as registration. We need: A Parliamentarian/Rules, Web Master and Website Assistant and importantly a Speech Contest Chair.

I know some members will be disappointed with our discussion on the Speech contest and assure them that the topic has not been closed and we will take the opportunity to revisit the rules. As some clubs had already organised their contests, we did not think it fair to change the rules mid-term. We welcome suggestions on how the Speech Contest might look.

As mentioned in this Newsletter, the board will meet again on ZOOM on 17th December, the last for 2025.

Wishing you all well. Another newsletter will be sent after the meeting.

Margaret

Yours in POWERtalk,

Margaret Sutherland, President 2025-26

What's Happening on the Board – Report to Members

The Board met in person in Brisbane from 14–16 November for a full and productive discussion of the Association's future direction. Our focus was on identifying ways to better support clubs and councils and ensure we continue moving forward together.

Membership.

We now have 92 members.

Short Course.

Courses are planned for February 28 in Brisbane and March 7 on the Gold Coast.

Capstone

Stage One of the Capstone project is now completed, with excellent progress made in establishing the foundations for more streamlined Association administration. This work is

designed to reduce volunteer workloads and minimise errors in member data.

Stage Two, sending the project live and delivering member access to a dedicated membership portal, is scheduled to begin at the start of the 2026 university year.

Survey Results.

We reviewed the results of the recent Survey and Call for Comments. While we are grateful to everyone who shared their views, the overall response rate was low. With so few submissions, it is difficult for the Board to make well-informed decisions on behalf of the membership. Your input genuinely matters, and future participation will be essential as we navigate key issues.

Three Speech Contest categories were suggested; however, with our low membership and limited volunteers, this expansion isn't practical at this stage. There was also not enough detail to guide us in implementing such a change.

Similarly, the comments provided did not offer clear guidance on how the Association should address concerns around AI use in speeches. As always, we rely on members to uphold the rules and present original work, maintaining the integrity of our contests and community.

Only four respondents supported a People's Vote, which does not provide a mandate for change.

New Member Pack

On a positive note, the Association is developing a New Member Pack to help welcome and guide new members. This resource will outline how the Association operates and how members can make the most of the opportunities available.

We look forward to continuing this work and strengthening our direction—with the support and engagement of our members.

CONFERENCE 2026

The 2026 POWERtalk Australia Conference will be held from May 15th to 16th, 2026, via Zoom.

The AGM will be on Friday night, 15th May at 8 pm.

The Speech Contest, installation, and education sessions will be on Saturday, 16th May.

Member Spotlight - Belinda Willoughby



At the National Inner Wheel Conference in Corowa, NSW, Belinda Willoughby captivated attendees with her keynote address at the Opening Ceremony. She shared her remarkable story of surviving a double kidney and pancreas transplant, delivering an inspiring message that “Miracles do happen.”

A proud member of Diamond Valley Communicators, Belinda credits her POWERtalk journey for giving her the confidence and skills to share her story so powerfully, and says she never would have been able to do this without it

Congratualtions Belinda!

Welcome to New Members

To our newest members, a big welcome to you; enjoy your membership.

Brisbane South welcomes Kristine Tay and Aime Pascaline.

Accessing the POWERtalk website powertalkaustralia.org.au

“Account”; (or you can skip this step by going to members.powertalkaustralia.org.au)

“Login”;

“Username”: your membership number (if unknown, ask your Board)

“Password”: your initials in upper case and membership number

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEES			
August	\$65.00	February	\$32.54
September	\$59.59	March	\$27.13
October	\$54.18	April	\$21.72
November	\$48.77	May	\$16.31
December	\$43.36	June	\$10.90 or \$65

			(see below)
January	\$37.95	July	\$65 (13 months)

Club Treasurers, please **pay** into the Association Account

Name: POWERtalk Australia Incorporated

BSB: 016 270

Account number: 4994 99444

AND complete BOTH Form 1 - New Member and Form 2 - Fees Payment referencing your club. To assist us in tracking our marketing outcomes, please also **ensure you complete the 'Where did they hear about us?'** question on form 1.

POLICY FOR EXTENDED PAYMENTS:

Members joining in June have the option of paying \$10.90 to take them to the end of the current term, then renewing at the full rate, OR paying the full renewal rate of \$65 when joining and receiving membership to the end of the following term. Members joining in July pay the full renewal amount and receive membership to the end of the following term.

CYBER MEETING

A reminder that all members are invited to attend the cyber meeting, held on the 3rd Monday of each month, 7:00pm-8:30pm AEST.

Contact the co-ordinator, **Janeen Vosper** 0413 940 117

or janeen.vosper@speechperfect.com.au a few weeks in advance to advise if you are happy to be added to the program for the evening.

Zoom meeting number: 895 2848 9357 Security Passcode **080618**

Or click the meeting link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89528489357?pwd=L2UrYVZaWDFNYlJ5bT...>

2025-2026 POWERtalk Australia Inc. Board

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President-Elect: Marie Cooke 0403 016 447

president-elect@powertalkaustralia.org.au

Secretary: Christine Hardy 0416 111 130

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Treasurer: Mary Wong 0438 624 667

treasurer@powertalkaustralia.org.au

POWERtalk Australia

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(Incorporated in NSW)

ARBN 055 071 344



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