

# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION

Australian Region Inc.



## THE AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE



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Patron: Pat Farmer

[www.itcaustregion.org.au](http://www.itcaustregion.org.au)

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### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF POWERtalk INTERNATIONAL

#### Armidale

Eleanor Chong; Ziba Hamnawa

#### Brisbane Central

Wal Flawith; Dawn Reid

#### Chinchilla

Aileen Sommerfeld (re-joining)

#### Dalkeith

Sandy Heak

#### Diamond Valley

Danie Common; Colleen O'Donovan;  
Myrna Beverley

#### Doncaster

Anne Philpott

#### Launceston

Susan Bennett; Robert Stephens

#### Maroubra

John Gunnell; Jessica Poole

#### Mt Gravatt

Patricia Holden; Hemming Luu;  
Bernice Yap

#### Parkview

Jo Huxley

#### Shoalhaven

Denise White

#### Warringal

Francis Logan

#### Waverley

Christine Connor; Robert Foo;  
Eleanor Johnson;

Barbara Jackson; Lisa Holloway

#### Wollongong

Anna Simonaitis

Congratulations to Waverley who has  
**five** new members. Can your club  
beat that?

#### Australian Region Membership Nos.

Council 7	46
Council 8 (Flinders)	76
Council 9 (NSW)	77
Clubs at Large (TAS and WA)	10
MAL	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>211</b>

-Total number for whom Region dues have  
been received.

-Region fees for several clubs are still  
outstanding. Would you please forward  
your fees to Marina Harries, Region Vice  
President-Finance, as soon as possible.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The region has come to life slowly this term as members spent a little time taking a rest and some recreation after their busy time in the run-up and attendance of the Regions' combo conference and convention in July.

The conference and convention offered many of us an opportunity for a renewed and revived optimism for the future of our organization as we learned of the global marketing strategy. In Australia, the Region has registered the business name of *POWERtalk* International as a company owned by International Training in Communication Australian Region Incorporated.

Whilst clubs and councils will be able to use the name *POWERtalk* and *POWERtalk* International, the official documents of the Region must remain in the name of the incorporated association. These documents are By-laws and Standing Rules, bank accounts, minutes of board meetings, and documents related to the AGM. The Region Board will continue to use the ITC Australian Region Incorporated letterhead for all correspondence with the Department of Fair Trading and any other government bodies, but will use the *POWERtalk* International letterhead of everyday use acknowledging the incorporated association and ARBN in the footer.

The Region Board has developed region goals to be in line with the International global marketing strategy that was unveiled at convention in July, and with the International Board's short and long term strategic objectives. These are:

Generate and disseminate a positive attitude regarding the value of *POWERtalk* International

Develop and Implement an integrated Region PREM plan, including:

- The delivery of *POWERtalk* short course and CMT in all Councils
- A proactive plan for the promotion and participation of members in the accreditation programme.
- Restructure of the region website to reflect the new brand, to accommodate the increased needs of members in areas of information and education, and to expand its use as a tool for publicity and recruitment.

- Offer clubs and councils incentives for growth and success under the PREM policy.

Training - review and consolidate Council Management Training modules developed over the past three years and add one module in the current year, related to PREM the implementation plan.

Maintain a 360 degree reporting strategy between all levels of ITC

To achieve 75% new member growth by the end of the term.

The International Board has asked regions to look at incentives that they can implement in their region to compliment those offered by International. We have looked at this request in light our goal to develop an integrated PREM strategy, and have introduced the following incentives for the Region this term:

- P Publicity – the region will provide all councils with a *POWERtalk* banner for use at Council meetings and special events.
- R Recruitment - A \$10 award for each new member recruited by the club during the year.
- E Extension - free annual membership for the extension chair when a club charters and 10% discount on membership fees for charter members.
- M Mentoring, membership retention - A Region Accreditation Award for clubs with the most members through to the next level in the Accreditation Program during the award year (April to March); 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive \$100; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$70; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$40.

These awards can be used by clubs for further PREM activities, be they for publicity and recruitment, further education, mentoring and other retention initiatives. I wish to encourage you all in the new initiatives offered by both International and Region. The goal can look hard and daunting, but we can all contribute to their success by introducing one new member each to *POWERtalk* International.

Vera Tibbertsma  
President Australian Region 2007/2008

## Back to Basics – The Club Speech Contest

Many of us will soon be thinking of your club speech contest! Many of us approach this time with fear and trepidation but it can be fun and you will be surprised how much you will learn and how your club members will support you.

From experience I find that I need to think about the words and phrases. Think about how I can prepare a speech and work out which direction this speech will take. Often you need to play with the words and phrase a bit before coming up with an idea. Begin to write down all thoughts that occur, and you will be surprised how many will spring to mind. Then write down in one sentence the main point of the speech that you want the audience to understand.

Gather your information and sort it so that one point flows naturally from another.

Make sure that you develop an arresting opening to the speech; this will grab your audience's attention – immediately. The opening sets the mood and theme and paves the way for the body of the speech.

The body of the speech sets out the main points in an order that the audience can follow. If you are writing a speech about something you wish to inform people about, then you will need to inject some humour to lighten the speech. We often draw on something that has happened to us and this relaxes and gives us the confidence we need to put aside our notes to relay our speech to others.

Once your speech has been formed, begin to familiarise yourself with it. If you have to use notes then use them as an aid to memory and to remind you of the direction you are going. The most important thing is to enjoy what you are doing. Others listening will be **willing you** to do the best that you can do and will be there for you.

Even if you are a newish member do not feel that you cannot do this. At the speech contest everyone is wishing you to enjoy yourself and your opinions in your speech are very important to all present.

**Have a go. Enjoy yourself.  
Good Luck**

Carol Punyer  
President Elect

## CLUB TREASURERS

### Pro-Rata Dues

Please note pro-rata Region fees apply to new members joining POWERtalk International during the 2007-08 term, as follows:

August	\$36.00
September	\$33.00
October	\$30.00
November	\$27.00
December	\$24.00
January	\$21.00
February	\$18.00
March	\$15.00
April	\$12.00
May	\$9.00
June	\$6.00
July	\$3.00

### Cheques

Would you please ensure all cheques are made payable only to:

### International Training in Communication Australian Region Incorporated

as this is our bank account name and the bank will not accept cheques made payable to **ITC**.

*Marina Harries*  
*Vice President-Finance*

**FINAL REPORT  
for the  
AUSTRALIAN and NZ COMBO  
CONFERENCE  
BRISBANE  
FROM 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007**

It is with a great deal of pride that I write this report on behalf of the Combo Conference 2007 Committee. It is hard to believe that 18 months work is now over and plans are under way for another exciting event in 2008.

**Conference outcome**

I have great pleasure in announcing that Conference 2007 was a financial success with an unconfirmed profit of in excess of \$4,000, to be shared between the two Regions as agreed prior to the conference. The final figure will be known as soon as we have the final bank statements and the audit has been completed.

While there was much consternation about whether we would meet budget it is reassuring to know that over the final few weeks up to and including the conference we exceeded the budgeted Full Registration target by 13. The overall registrations for the two days included 123 full, and 60 part time registrations.

Attendance at each meal included 127 at the luncheon on Thursday, 170 at the Gala Dinner and Speech Contest and 136 at the Installation lunch on Friday. This is an excellent result and contributed greatly to the financial success of the combo conference.

**Education**

The education program was outstanding and congratulations to all those who contributed to making it such a success, especially Rose McMillan and her team. The quality of both the ITC presenters and those from outside of ITC was excellent and provided adequate variety for the members to make a choice. Attestation to the quality was noted from the conference evaluation forms which indicated a satisfaction rating of 8+ out of a

maximum of 10 points. Well done to all who presented!

The Debate was a highlight and an excellent way to finish the conference. Jo Bailey and her team did a wonderful job of coordination and the event attracted a lot of interest from people registering for convention. It difficult to stop the flood of interest and at last minute it was decided to let others sit in on the debate. The Pages lost count at 150 people at the debate.

A big thanks is to be extended to Mair Newman who had to manage the constant changes to the seating arrangements as additional guests and requirements at the last minute. A mammoth job for all concerned!

The Pages under the guidance of Loraine Sedgwick kept all sessions on track and an excellent record of the attendances at all sessions. Well done to all of the Pages!

**Speech Contest**

The Combined Speech Contest was a highlight of the conference. The mammoth effort in bringing off such a wonderful event is certainly to be acknowledged! Although the night was long, the quality of speeches certainly made up for the time it took to conduct the event. The Speech Contest Coordinator, Marina Harries and her two teams from Australia and NZ are to be congratulated on the conduct of the event. Not an easy task! The contestants were of a very high standard and the delivered such wonderful speeches. Congratulations to the winners who did not have long to wait to perform again at Convention.

**Hotel**

The facilities, catering and service at the hotel were excellent. The food quality was of an extremely high standard and the service of the staff was outstanding. The staff were often dealing with a tight schedule but delivered the goods as requested. The staff adapted well to late changes as

numbers and timings changed. Nothing was too much trouble!

The Audio/Visual facilities and technical staff were excellent and provided the presenters with professional quality facilities and excellent technical support for all of the sessions. It was good to have the ability to load the presentations before sessions commenced and to test that everything worked enabling sessions to commence on time. This facility should be sought for all future conferences.

### Recommendations

- That the Protocol Chairman be Computer literate (it is not fair on the person if they are battling with Computer skills).
- That where possible Region Conference not be held just prior to Convention. It is not fair on the Conference when the Convention team are trying to set up while conference is in progress.
- That more time be scheduled between sessions to allow people move from one session to the next.
- That meals be served in quick succession and all presentations be done after the meal.
- Ensure that all Chairmen have a committee. This means that all the work doesn't fall on one person's shoulders.

### Conclusion

The recommendations above are quite minor and it proved that this Conference ran smoothly. The general feedback at the post conference meeting was positive and all of the committee reported members' comments were for the most part extremely positive.

Overall the conference was a huge success and worth every minute spent in preparation for the event.

This officer is pleased to have been given the opportunity to lead the combined conference team and would like to thank the committee members of

both regions for their enthusiastic support in making the conference a huge success.

### Alan Raisbeck

Conference Coordinator  
Australian and NZ Regions Combo  
Conference 2007

## International Training in Communication Australian and New Zealand Regions Combo Conference, July 2007

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Registrations	\$39,834.50	
Bank Interest	\$33.31	
Ex Australian Region	\$1,350.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$41,217.81</b>	<b>\$41,217.81</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program/Education		
Refunds	\$320.00	
Postages	\$1,905.00	
Printing	\$220.15	
Stationery	\$838.44	
Transport/Meals	\$432.94	
Telephone/Emails	\$31,733.03	
Conf. Deposit returned to Region	\$26.43	
Bank IntC/Card fees & Trfrs.	\$1,000.00	
	\$515.13	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,991.12</b>	<b>\$36,991.12</b>
<b>Surplus/(Shortfall)</b>		<b>\$4,226.69</b>

*Call for Proposed Amendments to Region  
Bylaws & Standing Rules*

**ITC Australian Region Incorporated  
Revised Budget 2007-2008 Term**

Proposed amendments to Region Bylaws & Standing Rules may be submitted by member clubs, councils, region standing committees and the Region Board. Proposed amendments will be considered at the Australian Region Conference in May 2008.

Proposed amendments are to be posted to:

Hedda Mountain  
Bylaws & Resolutions Chairman  
6 Scott Street  
Maroubra NSW 2035

or emailed to:

[mons1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mons1@optusnet.com.au)

Deadline for submitting amendments is *30 January 2008*.

Proposed amendments are to be submitted in the following format:

- State the bylaw/standing rule in its current form
- State how the bylaw/standing rule is to be amended
- State how the bylaw/standing rule will read if the proposed amendment is carried
- State the rationale for the proposed amendment

Bylaws & Standing Rules may be amended in one of the following ways:

- by inserting
- by adding
- by substituting
- by deleting

Further information on amendments can be found in Renton, Guide for Meetings. The latest version of the Region Bylaws & Standing Rules can be found at [www.itcaustregion.org.au](http://www.itcaustregion.org.au) under Region Policy tab.

Should assistance regarding formulating amendments be required, please email queries to [mons1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mons1@optusnet.com.au).

Item	2007-2008 Budget Revised
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership Renewals	7,920
New Members	900
Members at Large	72
Conference Deposit Refund	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,892</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Audit Fees	500
Bank Charges and Taxes	20
CLO Expenses	100
Conference Registrations	1,620
Gazette	100
Incorporation Expenses	130
Insurance	3,305
Gifts, Awards, Engraving	350
Presidents Allowance	250
Phone	10
Photocopying	50
Postage	50
Printing & Stationary (incl. business papers)	280
PREM Initiatives/Awards	
Publicity	500
Recruitment	150
Extension	216
Mentoring (Accreditation Award)	210
Speech Contest Expenses	350
Writing Contest Expenses	250
Travel	7,000
Web Site	100
Sundries	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,541</b>

**Surplus/(Shortfall)**

**(5,649)**

**AUSTRALIAN REGION CONFERENCE -  
FRIDAY 16 to SUNDAY 18 MAY 2008**

**RENEW AND REVIVE – ONE POSITIVE  
STEP FORWARD**

Conference 2008 is at an exciting new venue – a venue with a difference in an area laden with the history of early Australian settlement. The Macarthur Region has become known as Sydney's "Living Heritage" precinct, being home to an impressive number of heritage listed buildings, sites and pioneer cemeteries. There are Aboriginal heritage items, buildings dating back to the early 1800s, and fascinating museums.

Geographically, Campbelltown is one hours drive south-west of Sydney, with easy access by motorways, and is *only* 45 minutes by train direct from Sydney Airport. The venue, the Campbelltown Catholic Club, is set in pleasant surroundings with free parking facilities for 700 cars. The venue's entrance makes a lasting impression, with a foyer featuring hand crafted Terrazzo floors and rich finishes. The grand staircase leads up to the three conference rooms with modern audiovisual equipment installed and other bonus facilities for our use. As well, there are five star facilities including a variety of cafes and bars for you to relax in during conference.

Accommodation will be available at the newly opened Rydges Hotel, connected by covered walkway to the venue. Details of the cost will be sent to members individually. Take another positive step forward now, by making the decision to be part of conference in Campbelltown on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008. To enjoy all that conference in Campbelltown 2008 will offer, good value, a variety of education and training, vibrant company, historical surroundings, a terrific friendly venue with great catering.....

Rose McMillan  
Conference Coordinator

**Renew Your Commitment!**

**Nominations are invited for the positions  
of:**

***President-elect  
Vice President/Finance  
Secretary***

**For the term 1 August 2008 to  
31 July 2009**

From any member who meets the criteria and is willing to:

- be part of the management team of the region;
- broaden their horizons within ITC;
- travel for some council and board meetings;
- ensure all areas are represented on the region board.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Are you currently an active member of a club in good standing or a member-at-large within Australian Region?  
Have you:
- been an active member of ITC for more than five years?
- served in an elected office at club and at council (where a council exists)?
- served at least one term on a Region Board (President-elect only)?

**Send nominations by 15 February 2008 to:**

Australian Region Incorporated  
Nominating Committee Chairman  
Patricia Raisbeck  
Unit 8, 562 Burwood Highway  
Vermont South 3133  
[pmraisbeck@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pmraisbeck@iprimus.com.au)  
Tel: 03 9887 1678

The Nominating Form (Word file) may be downloaded from the website:  
<http://www.itcaustregion.org.au> or contact Patricia for a copy or if you have any questions.

**Send Nominating Form, with list of offices held, by 15 February 2008.**

**Nominations may be sent by email, followed by the signed copy sent by mail.**

## WRITING CONTEST

Are you eager to write and share a spell-binding fiction story, an intriguing true {non fiction} tale or a poetic gem? Then start now to enter the writing contest. Entries need to be in by 1 March, 2008. Please refer to the rules on the web site.  
[www.powertalkinternational.com](http://www.powertalkinternational.com)

Happy writing

Send entries to:

Loraine Sedgwick  
81 Brandon St  
Kensington WA 6151

The members of the Australian Region have been very successful at the international level of the writing contest. Here are some examples.

### She Got Her Girl

It was 1932 and Alice had been determined to disregard her doctor's advice and have another baby. She already had two healthy sons, the youngest one born ten years before. Now Alice desperately wanted a little girl. What could go wrong she had asked herself repeatedly? Hadn't life already been tough enough on their family? Her husband had seen the horrors of World War 1 and had come home to his family a hardened and cynical man. This made their marriage very difficult as he had become a complete stranger to her.

Doctors had informed Alice after her second child was born that she was not to become pregnant again under any circumstances. Alice though could not accept this. She was a tiny woman but what she lacked in size, she made up in determination and courage. Alice was nine months pregnant when she entered the small country hospital in labor and the duty doctor was called. Unfortunately he came in drunk and as no other doctors were available; he had to deliver her baby. It was an extremely difficult birth and the doctor was very rough, but Maree was eventually safely delivered. Alice took the little girl she always wanted and went home.

Some months later Alice put her daughter in a high chair but the child could not sit up. As the weeks past, Alice noticed that Maree was unable to hold up her head and her body was also constantly twitching. Neither of her two sons had behaved like this. Several doctors examined Maree over the next few months and came up with only one plausible diagnosis. Maree had cerebral palsy.

Life continued to be hard for this family, but Alice did have her little girl. There was no money to spare and very limited resources. Maree was unable to attend school and Alice's second son who was nearly top of his class at the local Catholic High School was told to leave at age fifteen, because the family needed his income. Sacrifice became an integral part of this family's life very early on. Several years later Alice saw both her beloved sons come home safely from World War 2, get married, have children and eventually move away.

After her husband died, Alice and Maree moved to the city and bought another house. For the first time in their lives they were financially comfortable. There was always good quality food on the table, nice clothes and they were one of the first to get a brand new television set in the sixties. In those days there was no respite care available, so Alice had sole care of Maree twenty four hours a day seven days a week. Alice did not drive so she purchased a large blue three wheeler bike for Maree and they were able to get around town without to much difficulty.

Alice and Maree were quite a novelty in the little city where they lived. The disabled woman on her three wheeler bike was a rare sight indeed. People may not have known who they were, but if you mentioned the bike, their faces would light up in recognition. Maree could walk within the confines of her home unaided, but her speech was generally unintelligible. Many people including the medial field deemed Maree unintelligent, but she was actually very bright, merely uneducated and unable to articulate appropriately.

Alice had given up her entire life to care for her disabled daughter. When she neared sixty years of age, her doctor warned her that she would have a nervous breakdown if she did not take time off from caring for Maree. They were encouraged by family to

find some sort of permanent care. Together they would get on a bus and travel to other cities to check out possible homes and every time they would come back without making a decision. They could not bear to be separated, so Alice continued to care for her daughter.

When Alice was frustrated with Maree, she would say to her daughter-in-law Ruth, "well, I got my girl didn't I". Ruth would nod and agree. Another decade passed and their lives slowly began to unravel. Alice did have the nervous breakdown that was predicted by the doctor and for the first time in their entire lives mother and daughter were forced to separate. This separation continued until Maree died at age forty five. Alice lived another fifteen years and knew her daughter had died even before she was informed.

Alice was my grandmother and Maree my aunt. I look back on my time as a child with these two spirited characters with very fond memories. It gave our family an enforced education on how to care for and respect the disabled.

I loved their home which was right on the perimeter of the main shopping district and surrounded by other similar quaint houses. An added bonus was their outside toilet which was delightfully scary for a young girl, especially at night. Maree thought my fears were hilarious.

It always amazed me how Maree could drink a cup of tea straight after it was made. I was convinced she had a cast iron throat. My sister and I would take Maree for rides on her bike down the street and scream obscenities at anyone who made fun of her disabilities. We were a family. For obvious reasons we were quite different from other families, probably very dysfunctional in many ways, but united in our desire to make the best of life.

Yes my grandmother did get her girl and she gave her life, her sanity and her whole heart to prove that Maree was very definitely wanted and accepted.

By Joy Skellern  
Non-fiction

### Released by Rain

On this dry day your letter came  
thanking us for sympathy,  
not in cardboard stilted form;  
no trite pretence, nor cliché terms  
for his too sudden death.  
Your phrases catch the lonely resonance  
of grief distilled in some unwatered place.

Somewhere out there I heard  
a magpie's solitary arpeggio;  
beyond the creek more distant calls  
of a strange purity,  
like cries of pain in all this dryness;  
as if they know as we have known  
survival in alone-ness.

It rained late afternoon.  
Afterwards, trees stood as if consoled  
and every silent bird was wet with gladness.  
I went outside and stood upon the path,  
inhaled the juniper tree's aroma  
released by rain, flooding misty silences  
out to the edges of perception.

Merle Goldsmith  
2007/2008 Writing Contest

### **CLOSING DATE**

**for next Gazette**

27<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

Contact: Margaret Grand  
[grand@hermes.net.au](mailto:grand@hermes.net.au)