

Mercury's Messenger



Mercurians reluctantly hand over prized gavel to Kenmore visitors

Our regular club guest Cody found herself in the middle of a friendly tug-of-war between Mercurians and supposed ‘friends’ from Kenmore club who attended our February meeting on a kidnapping mission. Jenny, Coral, Ian and Heather (with a little help from mascot Blind Freddie Mercury) were determined to hold on to the prestigious Travelling Gavel till the end. The Brisbane trio of Julie, Keith and Derek resorted to thievery during the meeting and even threatened to carry Cody away with the gavel at the end. Mercury’s President Coral challenged her Kenmore colleague to a five minute impromptu speech to justify why they deserved the gavel before we relinquished it.

Quarterly bulletin of
Mercury’s Motivators
Toastmasters Club

Club: 711243
Central Division
District 69

Vision:

Mercury’s is a professional club which provides fun, fellowship and innovation combined with epicurean delights

Meets 4th weekend of every month at various locations around Queensland’s Sunshine Coast



Executive committee:

- President:
Coral McVean
- Vice President Education:
Ian Pinker
- Vice President Membership:
Fran Kay
- Vice President Public Relations:
Judith McConnell
- Treasurer:
Penne Bowles
- Secretary:
Barbara Richardson
- Sergeant at Arms:
Kevin Wright

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Members stay active outside club meetings

Fellow Mercurians,

I am pleased to report that B is recovering slowly, but doing well. She's very grateful for our flowers, thoughts and prayers. We have missed Phyllis and Ilona as well and hope you will all be at our March meeting (on 1 April).

Since our last *Messenger* we have only had one meeting as the January one was cancelled due to the floods. However, many of our members haven't been idle.

We now have a club [Facebook](#) page thanks to Hari, our diligent webmaster, and there is much more on our [website](#) too. If you haven't included your profile on our website please do so.

Our Vice President Membership Fran and Vice President Public Relations Judith have put together a brochure for us to give to guests. A copy is also available on our website. Thanks Hari.

Please give a personal invitation to your home club members to visit us, especially those who have recently gained their Competent Communicator or Competent Leader awards.

Many of our members have been busy with the training days, the Central Division Conference and/or the Area 3 contest day.

Congratulations to our Central Division Governor Gary and his team on their successful Conference. Fourteen members attended and assisted at the Central Division Conference, while several supported our Area 3 Governor Patti at the contest day on 31 March at Ningi.

Seventeen of our members attended club leader training with six of those being our club officers. Many of our members were also presenters on the day. The next training day will be on 9 June at Caboolture.

Extra fun was had at our February meeting when President Derek Miller, Julie Pigdon and Keith Cohen visited us from Kenmore club to capture the [Travelling Gavel](#). Would you believe that Julie stole it from us during our break! And we thought they were friends. She owned up and the gavel was presented to their President.



Our next meeting is on 1 April at Tranquil Park, Maleny. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The mighty and marvelous Mercurians will soon be celebrating their personal and club goals.

Our goal is to be a Select Distinguished Club by 30 June. Are you on track with your goals? *Keep Stepping Up and Celebrating.*

- Coral McVean, President

Diary dates

Sunday, 1 April

Tranquil Park, Maleny

Sunday, 29 April

Daisy's Place
(formerly Rustic Cabin)

Sunday, 27 May

Fairhill Nursery, Yandina

Sunday, 24 June

Rydges, Caloundra

RSVP: Kevin Wright (SAA)

kev@wrightbros.com.au



HISTORY QUIZ: Can you name the date and reason this photo was taken?

Q&A with Hari

1. When and why did you join Toastmasters?

October 2007. I had a desk job in Sydney and missed speaking in public. I had previously worked as an English language teacher and tour guide and had been involved in staff training. I would've joined Toastmasters years earlier, but was distracted by work and/or travelling opportunities.

2. What have you gained from being a Toastmaster?

The opportunity to refine my presentation skills and try different styles of speeches available through the advanced manual projects. I have benefited from receiving/giving evaluations and watching other speakers at both club level and at speech contests.

I also enjoy the challenge of impromptu speaking and this has helped me to better articulate my ideas at work or in the community. I particularly like presenting educa-

tional sessions at clubs and club officer training days, as well as running a Youth Leadership course at the local high school over the last two years after B Williams roped me into it.

3. What club/district roles have you held?

President of Coolum club; VPPR and newsletter editor of Mercury's and am currently editor of District 69's *Corroboree* newsletter.

4. How do you use your Toastmasters skills outside of the club?

I have emceed a couple of local community events and was a guest speaker at Coolum Probus club. While President of the Sunshine Coast Literary Association (2009-2010) I ran executive meetings, and regularly spoke at workshops or other events. Last year I did an impromptu live radio interview about an upcoming workshop while sitting in my car outside a supermarket, with just five minutes' notice!



Hari Kotrotsios

5. What are your hobbies?

Walking on the beach, doing Tai Chi on my deck in the mornings, reading and singing with [Cool Harmonies](#) community choir.

6. What do you do for work?

These days I'm a freelance writer/journalist, although I also do lots of volunteer work around Coolum. Last year I also started writing a weekly [blog](#) about my travels.

7. How long have you lived on the Coast?

Three years exactly.

8. Which is your current home club?

Mercury's Motivators.

9. What are your next Toastmasters goals?

To finish my last four speeches of the Advanced Communicator Gold level - between writing my weekly blog, Facebook, editing *Corroboree* and *Messenger*, I've neglected doing regular Toastmasters speeches over the past six months.

10. When and why did you join Mercury's Motivators?

In April 2009, soon after I arrived on the Sunshine Coast. I didn't know anyone up here so this was a great opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

Accepting an award with class

By Patricia Fripp, CSP, CPAE

Accepting an award is like walking a tightrope. You need to be gracious, grateful and humble – but not so humble or self-deprecating that the audience thinks you are trivializing the honor. The warm glow of the occasion can suddenly turn chilly or sour with a few ill-chosen words.

Sooner or later, you'll be presented with an award. It may be a surprise, or you may have time to prepare. Use your answers to the following questions to weave a warm, wonderful speech that will leave everyone with a big smile (and maybe a tear):

- Who nominated you?
- Who invited you to join this group or encouraged you to get involved in this project or event?
- What is your connection to this group?
- How do you feel about the people and the organization's goals?
- Why are they giving you this award?

People will not remember all the details of what you say, but they will remember the stories you tell. Include a memorable vignette or incident, something entertaining or touching about your connection.

Pictorial highlights of club's history

TOP RIGHT: Members met at Guido Schouteten's home on 28 May 2004 to form an (as yet unnamed) advanced club. Pictured: (front row) Guido Schouteten and Sue Kruger, (2nd row) Margie Richter, Judith McConnell, Lorraine Whitfield, Tracey Head, Shirley Stuart, Lorraine Keelty, (3rd row) David Penrose, Shakara Rose, Fran Kay (back) John Kay and Ian Pinker.



RIGHT: Freddie Mercury on his first social outing at Mercury's charter dinner held at the Rustic Cabin, with then Lt Governor Education and Training David Bowden and club President Lorraine Keelty.



Mercury's Motivators is an advanced club that meets along the Sunshine Coast from Caboolture to Noosa in fabulous venues such as restaurants, wineries, parks and country pubs. The club meets once a month, generally on the last weekend of the month, with meeting times varying between lunchtime and evenings. If you have leadership aspirations then come along and learn from the members who hold District positions. The program is stimulating, the company is riveting, the locations are superb and the food is to die for.

All you need to join is to have achieved either your Competent Communicator or Competent Leadership award. Even if you have not yet achieved these awards, you are welcome to come along as a guest.

Contact the membership officer Fran Kay.

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Email: fran@megakay.net



LEFT: Mercury's members at the District 69 Convention in Ballina in May 2005, with International visitor Maimunah. Pictured: Tracey Head, Sue Kruger, Lorraine Keelty, Guido Schouteten, Ian Pinker, Coral McVean, Shirley Stuart, Joyce Barry, David Penrose and Lynette Clemitson.

RIGHT: Mercury's members at the Central Division President's Weekend in 2005 at Gympie. Pictured: (front) Guido Schouteten, (2nd row) John Kay, Tracey Head, Shakara Rose, Fran Kay, (3rd row) Di Riddell, Lorraine Keelty, Coral McVean, (back) Ian Pinker and David Penrose.



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<http://mercurysmotivators.toastmastersclubs.org/>
www.facebook.com/mercurysmotivators

District 69 website:

www.toastmastersd69.org
www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD69

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