



WAGGA WAGGA TOASTMASTERS NEWSLETTER...

Something to Crow About

14 June 2006

THE NEW AWARDS SYSTEM

Toastmasters introduced a new awards system with effect from 1 July 2006.

Members who join after 1 January 2006 receive two manuals: one for Competent Communicator and one for Competent Leader.

- The Competent Communicator manual has ten speech projects on which the member receives a written and oral evaluation.
- The Competent Leadership manual has ten projects based on leadership skills of listening, critical thinking, planning, implementing and team building. Projects include serving as timer, grammarian, evaluator and other meeting roles, mentoring, editing the club's newsletter or being the webmaster. The evaluation of projects differs from Competent Communicator in that the only evaluation required is a written one, although an oral evaluation may be given during the meeting if time permits.
- Members may choose to work through both manuals at the same time, or work through them one at a time.
- On completion of the manuals, members will receive the award of Competent Communicator and/or Competent Leader.

Members who joined before 1 January 2006

- Members who have started but not yet completed the Communication and Leadership Program will continue with the speech projects in that manual.
- On completion of the projects in the Communication and Leadership Program manual, members will receive the award of Competent Communicator (rather than the previous award of Competent Toastmaster).
- Like members who joined after 1 January 2006, members may also concurrently work towards the award of Competent Leader by completing the

projects in the Competent Leader manual. (The club's executive has agreed to buy a number of the leadership manuals for members.)

- Members who have received awards under the old system will retain those titles (ie Competent Toastmaster, Advanced Toastmaster Silver/Bronze, Competent Leader, Advanced Leader etc).
- Members who are working towards the old Advanced Toastmaster award will continue to complete the projects in their manuals but, on completion, will receive the award of Advanced Communicator Bronze/Silver/Gold.
- Members who are already Competent Leaders do not have to complete the new Competent Leadership manual although Toastmasters International encourages this because the projects are different and will enhance and refine your leadership skills. The requirements for the replaced Competent Leader award are the same as those for the new Advanced Leader Bronze award. Toastmasters International recommends that existing Competent Leaders skip the Advanced Leader Bronze requirements and work towards the Advanced Leader Silver.

Distinguished Toastmaster

To achieve Distinguished Toastmaster status (the only award that retains 'Toastmaster' in its title), members must complete all awards in both the Communication and Leadership tracks.

MEETING NO 402 (13 June)

President's Address: President Peter Veerhuis welcomed guests Stacey Challacombe, Ann Thompson and Sean Byrnes.

Apologies were noted from Kerry Thompson, Sue Lester, Brendan Judd, Marg Fritsch, Geoff Phillips, Frits Slieker and Geoff Gardner.

Humour Spot: Goon aficionado, Gary Langtry, told the joke which has been voted the world's best joke. The joke is attributed to Spike Milligan because it closely resembles a skit in The Goons' Show. (I had cut the article reporting the joke out of the paper, thinking I would use it next meeting...but Greenbottle beat me to it.)

Thought of the Day: Joan Veerhuis's thought came from Jane Canfield in a book "365 day Brighteners for a Woman's Heart". Happy people enjoy the simple, fundamental things of life, are flexible, adaptable, aware, compassionate and have a capacity to love.

Did You Know That: Gary Langtry went to a seminar in Sydney where he learnt the importance of Body Mass Index (BMI) to men's health. For men, the ideal BMI is between 18.5 and 24.9. To calculate your BMI, the formula is: weight over height x height.

Something New Happened to Me: Peter Chenoweth has spent his life traveling the world visiting air shows. Last Sunday, he went to the Temora Air Show which he described as the best he has seen.

Table Topics: Colleen Moyes asked participants in the table topics section to tell a child a story about butterfly wings (Ros Prangnell), a rainbow (Peter Veerhuis), a flying saucer (Janelle Stewart), a truck (Cheryl Wallace), a ballerina (Peter Chenoweth), and a balloon (Alec Shortus).

Toastmaster's Toast: Dallace Hunt proposed a toast to the Queen who celebrated her 80th birthday last April, despite our celebrating her birthday in June.

Prepared Speech No 1: Two ice-breaker speeches warmed us on what, I understand, was the coldest night in Wagga since 1974.

Young Sean Byrnes painted a picture of the early influences which have made him the person he is today. His big brother, Marcus, is a karate expert who dragged Sean along to karate classes. Through karate, Sean learnt discipline and respect as well as the importance of friendships.

He is very close to his sister, Katrina, who has two children under two, with another on the way.

Sean's mother taught him how to ride a bike and dive, despite not knowing how to do either herself.

It took some time for Sean to realize his father was right and to appreciate his wisdom. One thing he stressed to Sean was that no matter how gifted a person may or may not be, persistence and perseverance will always out.

Prepared Speech No 1: The second ice-breaker came from Yoka Slieker who was born in Holland, the fourth of seven children. Yoka took up a variety of sports - gym, rowing, sailing, life saving - to get out of household chores. Yoka and Frits, her husband, grew up together as friends in a life saving group.

Yoka had worked in a child care centre for children with disabilities when she decided to take a six month break and holiday in Australia. She fell in love on that trip - with Australia. (Apparently, Frits still wants to know what else happened - he should have been at the meeting and not working.)

On her return to Holland, Frits proposed while taking her for a spin on his motor bike. Yoka agreed on condition that Frits turned his head around and watch the road which he was speeding along. They spent their first three years living on a houseboat before deciding to migrate to Australia. Here, they settled in Wagga, raised three children and Yoka continued her work in child care.

Magazine Article: Peter Veerhuis chose the special humour issue of *Toastmaster* (June 2005) to discuss the importance of laughter to our health, and how humour can help us deal with failure. In his talk, he threw out a cryptic line about going through a phase of vandalism when he was 14! I think this would make a very interesting speech.

President's Awards: Peter presented his chocolate awards to Peter Chenoweth and Ros Prangnell for their table topic talks.

WEB SITE

www.toastmasterswagga.org.au. You can also find it by using Google.

HALF YEARLY DUES

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, send your payment (\$43) to Geoff Gardner at PO Box 674, WAGGA WAGGA 2650.

DIARY DATES

- 27 June - next Toastmasters meeting, The Rules Club Wagga Wagga (6.50 pm)

Colleen Moyes