



WAGGA WAGGA TOASTMASTERS NEWSLETTER...

Something to Crow About

25 July 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 405 (25 July)

President's Address: President Colin Davis opened the meeting with the announcement of the 2005/2006 Toastmaster of the Year Award. This award is judged on the contribution of members throughout the year and will be announced at the next Toastmaster meeting. Colin also spoke about the Officer Training Day on August 12th and encouraged all members to participate.

Colin welcomed our visitors Ben Regan, Damian Burns, Terry Lewis, Lea Davidson, Jade Martin, Ian Campion and Zaman Narruzaman.

Apologies; Dallace Hunt, Alec Shortus, Peter Veerhuis, Joan Veerhuis and Colleen Moyes.

Colin also reminded us of the "Peter Veerhuis Feather Duster Award" and how it is the general evaluator's duty to award that to an outstanding Toastmaster for the evening.

Word of the Day: 'Appendix' was the word of the day. Rachel Viski explained several meanings with the most common appendix being a worm shaped body part located at the top of your large intestine. Rachel went on to tell fellow Toastmasters of her ordeal with caring for her husband after he had his own appendix removed last Wednesday.

Humour Spot: 'Don't mess with Grandma' was Ian Champion's message in the humor spot for the evening. He reported a most hilarious incident where Grandma found four men loitering around her car in the shopping centre car park. Laden with a trolley full of groceries she pulled out her gun and proclaimed, "I have a gun and I know how to use it." As the men scattered in their different directions she proceeded to load her groceries in her car only to find out SHE HAD THE WRONG CAR!

Thought of the Day: Jade Martin explained the idea behind chaos theory and asserted that if the flap of a butterfly's wing can cause a tsunami on the other side of the world, then a smile should be able to create years of happiness.

Something New Happened to Me: Zaman Narruzzaman told the story of his time back in 1995 in Japan while holidaying between university semesters. After traveling for a whole day on a hot and humid bus, he and his friends arrived at their hotel wanting only a shower and some rest before dinner. He was looking forward to this steamy shower right up until he discovered that the Japanese hotel had a communal shower where he had to wash naked in front of his friends!

Table Topics: Colin Davis was the Table Topics Master for the evening and provided Toastmasters with a comedy sketch depicting the various speeches at a wedding ceremony. Sean Byrnes as Dipper Freely married Rachel Viski playing Trixie Freely. They were accompanied by Dipper's mother I.P Freely (Kerry Thompson), Trixie's father Seymour Butt (Peter Chenoweth), the Best Man Jock Strap (Damian Champion),

and the lovely Bridesmaid Amanda Huggenkiss (Jade Martin). The concept of the table topics was to respond to comments made and to make these comments relevant.

Toastmaster's Toast: Lea Davidson made the Toastmasters Toast to orthopedic surgeons who do a fantastic job on the snow fields each winter.

Prepared Speech No 3: Peter Chenoweth delivered his third prepared speech entitled "Why a new Vet School in Wagga?"

Peter decided to give this speech despite several oppositions. Peter took us back in time and described the dramatic scenes in England when the foot and mouth disease was rampant. He explained that too little was done too late; there were too few qualified people on the ground and organization was terrible. Another vet school to educate students would be the perfect opportunity to counteract this. Charles Sturt University in its wisdom seized the moment and decided to build the first rural vet school against the will of the established vet association. Students are selected for their interest in animals, their background, interview and aspirations rather than their academic scores. Today CSU graduates are professional and competent vets in regional Australia who can detect diseases before they create a disaster.

Magazine Article: Christine Hill managed to give a summary on the major articles included in the May edition of Toastmasters magazine after only having a few minutes to skim over them herself.

Peter Veerhuis Feather Duster Award: The General Evaluator, Geoff Gardner awarded this to Jade Martin for her heart warming Thought of the Day.

WEB SITE

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

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

- 8 Aug - next Toastmasters meeting, The Rules Club Wagga Wagga (6.50 pm)
- 12 Aug- Officer Training Day

Rachel Viski