



WAGGA WAGGA TOASTMASTERS NEWSLETTER...

Something to Crow About

25 August 2006

MEETING NO 407 (22 August)

Tick, tick, tick....it's 7.00 pm and no Sergeant-at-Arms and no Vice President Education to be seen. Thankfully, **Dallace Hunt** took control and called the meeting to order.

President's Address: President **Colin Davis** advised that following the recent executive meeting, a number of changes are to be made to the agenda, commencing at the next meeting. The changes are detailed later in the newsletter.

Colin welcomed visitor **Karla McCormack** who has moved from Albury to take up the position of Marketing Manager with TAFE. Karla is a Competent Toastmaster. She also showed she isn't slow to make a decision. By the end of the evening, Karla had signed up as our newest member. Welcome Karla.

Our **Toastmaster of the Evening** was **Kerry Thompson**. Kerry's versatility came to the fore as she began calling for volunteers to fill in the blank agenda items. However, just as she was getting down to business, the door flew open and in rushed our **Vice President Education** a little jet lagged from his trip from Brisbane, but ready to sort things out. **Geoff** wasted no time and soon had the agenda fully booked.

Word of the Day: In the midst of a cold Wagga winter, **Zaman Nazuarazaman** moved his family from Perth where the weather was mild. They were unprepared for temperatures which range from -4 to 10 and are looking forward to SPRING.

While not used in the context provided by **Zaman**, several Toastmasters managed to spring the word into their talks - **Frits Sliker**, **Peter Veerhuis**, **Kerry Thompson**. **Colin Davis** tried to claim credit when he used the past tense, "sprang".

Humour Spot: **Peter Veerhuis** chose a number of jokes from *The World's Best Business Jokes*, one of which crept up on people. It went something like this...a

manager was tired of arriving at work and finding his staff sitting around drinking coffee and chatting. He set up a suggestion box and asked staff for their suggestions on how to improve the situation. At the end of the day, there was only one suggestion: stop wearing rubber sole shoes.

Thought of the Day: **Frits Sliker** asked us to think of people who are worse off than ourselves. Our trials and tribulations are small compared with those who don't have enough to eat or who live in cardboard cartons.

Something New Happened to Me: The man of the moment, **Frits Sliker**, told how he used to avoid paying the full fare for train journeys in Germany. On one trip he was sprung by ticket inspectors. He was unable to avoid the penalty by pretending he didn't understand German and could only speak English. Just goes to show - crime doesn't pay.

Did you know that: An amazing fact from **Kerry Thompson**. Did you know that if you type "unsuccessful" (only one "c") into Google, and you get a hit for George Bush. Try it for yourself - I did.

Table Topics: **Sean Byrnes** was the Table Topic Master. He chose topics which would require speakers to take, and convince others, of their point of view.

The first topic was "Is the future bleak?" For me it started to look bleak as **Colin Davis** stripped off his jacket and became The Man in Black.

Colleen Moyes was asked "are good Samaritans dead?"

Has anyone from 'Gen Y' ever experienced corporal punishment? This didn't stop **Rachel Viski** from arguing that corporal punishment should not be brought back to schools.

Is money the root of all evil **Christine Hill** was asked?. No, said Christine, it's the love of money that's the problem!

Cheryl Wallace was up for the Nobel Peace Prize when she was asked: is world peace an ideal or can it be a reality?

Geoff Gardner put the boot into Collingwood as he discussed whether politics is present in sport.

Geoff Phillips and **Joan Veerhuis** evaluated the table topics.

Toastmaster's Toast: Making his third appearance for the night, **Frits Sliker** proposed a toast to school bus drivers.

Speeches:

All speeches tonight were from the program leading to Competent Communicator.

Colleen Moyes gave her third speech. Her speech "...The Best Medicine" was inspired by an article in the "Health and Science" section of *The Sydney Morning Herald* which looked at how and why laughter is good for you. My thanks to **Peter Veerhuis** for stepping in at the last minute to evaluate this speech and demonstrating his fine singing voice.

"Get Out of It" was **Rachel Viski's** second speech. Rachel used her speech to challenge us to get out of our comfort zones, to break free of our daily grind, to take advantage of the younger you. Rachel's speech was evaluated by **Geoff Phillips**.

Cheryl Wallace gave her fifth speech, "Me, My Bike, and I". Cheryl usually has props for her speeches and tonight was no exception. She wheeled out her bright red Cervelo triathlon bike and then stripped (first Colin, now Cheryl!) off her top to reveal a fluoro yellow bike shirt. Cheryl's enthusiasm for cycling and Rachel's challenge to get out of my comfort zone almost convinced me to get a bike and join the Bicycle Wagga Wagga rides. **Christine Hill** evaluated Cheryl's speech.

Magazine Article: After a caution about the subject of his speech, **Sean Byrnes** spoke about suicide.

Timekeeper: **Ian Champion** apologized that because he was late, his report began with Word of the Day. However, he more than made up by timing and reporting on his own contribution!

Peter Veerhuis Feather Duster Award: General Evaluator, Dallace Hunt, awarded the PVFDA to **Frits Sliker**.

AGENDA CHANGES

Vice-President Education, **Geoff Phillips**, outlined a number of changes to the agenda which emerged from information provided at the recent Officer Training Day:

- **Commencing with the meeting of 26 September**, business meetings will be included in the Toastmaster agenda.
- From now on, speakers are to send their introductions to the Toastmaster of the evening, rather than their evaluators. Geoff will be Toastmaster of the evening for the 12 September meeting where he will demonstrate this change to the Toastmaster's role. The Toastmaster of the evening will introduce all speakers. Evaluators will outline the objectives of the speech.
- Toastmasters who are completing project components for the Competent Leader award must receive a written evaluation of each assignment. To meet this requirement, a new role of Competent Leader Evaluator will be included on the agenda. For more information see below.

OFFICER TRAINING DAY

Some very interesting information and ideas emerged from the Area 43 Club Officer Training Day which was held on 12 August. Two things which, I think, have relevance to all members were the new recognition system and evaluations.

Competent Leader program:

The Competent Leadership Manual has 10 projects, each with a number of roles which are to be completed over a specified number of meetings. For example, Project 1, "Listening and Leadership", requires that the member serve in any 3 of the following 4 roles:

- Ah-Counter
- Speech Evaluator
- Grammarian
- Table Topics Speaker.

The time given to complete this project is three meetings. Only one role in one project can be evaluated per meeting. The written evaluation has to be completed on the night.

Members can't complete two roles at once. For example, in our club, we combine the Um/Ah Counter and Grammarian roles. If a member wishes to complete the "grammarian" role, they can't also be evaluated for the "ah counter" role. Members who wish to be evaluated in these roles, should contact the VPE so the agenda can be amended to make two separate roles.

To complete the Toastmaster role, we have to follow the US procedure which is that the Toastmaster (not the VPE) organizes the meeting and introduces speakers.

I have attached the 10 projects and their components which we were given at the Training Day.

It should also be noted that the project matrix in the manual has errors.

Evaluations:

The following is an excerpt from "Step into the Speaker's Shoes" by Ruth Rinot DTM.

"A good evaluator will step into the speaker's shoes and ask: 'What would I like to hear?'.

WHAT Can I say that will encourage the speaker to speak again?

- Empathise
- Empower
- Motivate
- Be honest and sincere

WHAT Can I share that will help the speaker next time?

- Highlight the positives - so the speaker can build on their strengths
- Identify no more than two points for improvement, suggesting ways to enhance their presentation.

WHAT Effect will my evaluation have on the audience?

- Was it meaningful
- Did they benefit from it?
- Will they return (in particular newer members and visitors)
- Did I communicate my ideas effectively?
- Ask for feedback (after the meeting) from both the speaker and members of the club.

WHAT equipment do you need to become a good evaluator? A good pair of ears, a good set of eyes and the ability to step into the speaker's shoes."

In her presentation, Marie Murphy DTM also offered suggestions:

- Evaluate at the speaker's level - ice breaker versus advanced speech
- Be sure of what the speaker is trying to achieve
- Evaluate how the speaker constructed the speech and delivered it, not the content.
- Give your reaction in personal terms, eg "I felt...", "I got the impression..."
- Make suggestions eg "I suggest you could improve by...."
- Highlight what you thought worked well and why.
- Motivate the person to come back, be positive, and avoid value judgements.

DIARY DATES

- 12 September- next Toastmasters meeting, The Rules Club Wagga Wagga (6.50 pm)

Colleen Moyes

Project 5 Planning and Implementation Time to complete: 3 meetings

Requirements: Serve in any 3 of the 4 roles

- Roles:**
1. Speaker
 2. General evaluator
 3. Toastmaster
 4. Table Topics Master

Project 6 Organising and Delegating Time to complete: Non specific

Requirements: Serve in any 1 of the 6 roles

- Roles:**
1. Help organize a club speech contest
 2. Help organize a club special event
 3. help organize a club membership campaign or contest
 4. Help organize a public relations campaign
 5. Help produce the club newsletter
 6. Assist the club's Webmaster

Project 7 Developing Your Facilitation Skills Time to complete: 2 meetings

Requirements: Serve in any 2 of the 4 roles

- Roles:**
1. Toastmaster
 2. General evaluator
 3. Table Topics Master
 4. Befriend a guest at a club meeting

Project 8 Motivating People **Time to complete:** 2 meetings+Project

Requirements: Serve in 3 of the roles listed below, at least one of which must be chairman of a club membership campaign or contest or chairman of a club public relations campaign.

- Roles:**
1. Membership Campaign or Contest Chairman
 2. Public Relations Campaign Chairman
 3. Toastmaster
 4. Evaluator
 5. General evaluator

Project 9 Mentoring **Time to complete:** Project - non-specified period

Requirements: Serve in any 1 of the 3 roles

- Roles:**
1. Mentor a new member
 2. Mentor an existing member
 3. Guidance committee member for HPL project

Project 10 Team Building **Time to complete:** Roles 1&2: 2 meetings

Roles 3-8: non-specific period

Requirements: Serve in both roles 1 and 2 or serve in one of roles 3 - 8.

- Roles:**
1. Toastmaster
 2. General evaluator
 3. Club Membership Campaign or Contest Chairman
 4. Club Public Relations Campaign Chairman
 5. Club Speech Contest Chairman
 6. Club Special Event Chairman
 7. Club Newsletter Editor
 8. Club Webmaster
-