



Something to C^{OW} About

Wagga Wagga Toastmasters

Club Number 6147, Area 43, Monaro Division, District 70
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'Campion' Toastmaster of the Year

Ian Campion has been named Wagga Wagga Toastmaster of the Year, a surprise which nearly made him speechless!



"I certainly didn't expect it," said Ian modestly of his award which was presented at the Wagga Wagga Toastmasters changeover dinner recently.

The 29 year old Baker has been a member of the Club for about 12 months, after moving to the region from Wollongong. He made the tree

change to be closer to Charles Sturt University where he is currently studying a Bachelor of Science (Food Technology) by distance education.

Ian was presented with a handmade gold bell from the Eureka Goldfields at Ballarat, a symbolic trophy which represents punctuality and timeliness.

"Time management is a important part of the development of our members hence the significance of the bell," explained past president Colin Davis.

"The mission of our Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth."

"Ian is very deserving of this award and has shown tremendous improvement in his public speaking ability since arriving 12 months ago," said Mr Davis. "His enthusiasm and attitude are admirable."

When asked what he thinks made him the winning candidate, Ian replies, "I think it came down to having a go at whatever role was offered to me... I took the opportunities to extend myself by taking on challenges, and fortunately Toastmasters never puts you in to a situation or gives you a challenge greater than you can achieve."

Ian says just one of the things he has learned is how to present himself.

"I've learned to cut out annoying words like 'um' and 'ah' from my presentations," he said. "It's such a great experience coming to the club meetings, it's a good opportunity to improve my speaking skills and you hear lots of interesting and entertaining stories from other people's speeches."

"Sometimes the best way to learn is to see people do it well and learn by their example," he added.

Ian says the best thing by far is the social aspect.

"It's just such an enjoyable evening, you meet interesting people and have the opportunity to improve your own education and self development. It sounds a bit cliché, but it's true!"

You can be Toastmaster of the Year

The Toastmaster of the Year award began at the Wagga Wagga club in 2004-05 when the inaugural winner was Alec Shortus.

Toastmaster of the Year is awarded to the member who accumulates the most points during the year. A member of the Executive scores the contributions made by members at each meeting. The previous year's Toastmaster of the Year is the coordinator of the award and maintains a cumulative score sheet for each member. The coordinator and President are ineligible for the award. Executive officers cannot score themselves.

To be eligible for a score, a member must be financial and be in attendance for part or all of the meeting.

Factors which executive officers take into account when determining scores include:

- The role performed by the member
- Whether the role was complex or demanding
- Whether the member undertook the role for the first time
- Whether the member volunteered at the meeting
- How well the member fulfilled the role

The more meetings you attend and the more you contribute to the meeting, the more points you can score.

The Toastmasters Mission

The mission of our Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.



A contingent of members will travel with Sean to Canberra to provide moral support!

Our Website

Go to www.waggatoastmasters.com.au and you will enjoy the work done by Setchen Brimson, our Vice-President Public Relations and Webmaster. It is a Toastmasters website to be proud of, a fact that was recognised recently by a Sydney Toastmaster who is establishing a website for an internal Commonwealth Bank Toastmasters Club.

It is the infectious enthusiasm of members like Setchen that makes the difference!

Christmas Party

Toastmasters Christmas Parties are unique events where speaking talents, food and entertainment dovetail perfectly. This year's Christmas Party will be no exception. The hosts will be Geoff and Robyn Gardner who live at 4 Bursaria Place, Wagga Wagga.

The date will be Tuesday 11th December from 5 pm onwards.

FROM THE OVAL OFFICE (PRESIDENTS REPORT...)

Welcome to the first edition of our new format newsletter which will be published on a quarterly basis. This is your newsletter and we would welcome any contributions and feedback.

Young Turks Fire

Recent publicity in our local media has highlighted the fact that our younger members are shining in speaking competitions. Ian Champion was the Club's Toastmaster of the Year for the 2006/2007 year. He received his award at the July 2007 Changeover Dinner. More recently, the successful competitor in our September Table Topics Competition was Sean Byrnes who now goes on to represent Area 43 in Canberra on Saturday 13 October 2007.

Competent Leader

Your Executive wants to encourage you all to take advantage of the opportunity to be evaluated at each and every meeting for Competent Leadership purposes. Many of the tasks you all perform can count towards an advance in your membership status.

Peter Veerhuis CCB

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Looking for Ideas for Table Topics?

At the Club Training Day in July, District Governor Kaylene Ledger ATM-G gave some ideas for table topics. People can develop their descriptive skills by being asked to describe objects or smells (what can the person smell, where would you expect to find the scent). People could be given a prop and use it to inspire a speech.

Other suggestions included:

- A wedding scene – each speaker is assigned a role: father of the bride, mother of the bride, ex-boyfriend, etc
- A mystery – set the scene (eg the family jewels have been stolen) and each speaker has to say why they are not the thief. The evaluator identifies the thief, based on the strength of speakers' denials.
- A reading – give speakers the material at the beginning of the meeting so they have time to become familiar it. They then can use the reading to demonstrate their vocal variety and body language.

Other suggestions for table topics can be found on the Members Resources page of the District 70 web site www.d70toastmasters.org

Competent Leader Manuals

Don't forget to bring your Competent Leader Manuals with you to meetings. If you are on the agenda as

- Toastmaster
- Prepared speech evaluator
- Table Topics Master
- Grammarian
- Um/Ah Counter
- Timer
- Speaker
- General Evaluator

you can be evaluated for an assignment in the manual. Even if you're not on the agenda, you may be called on as a **table topics speaker** which is also an assignment to be completed for projects in the manual.

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Each project in the manual has a number of assignments. The beginning of each project's Evaluation Guide sets out how many of those assignments have to be completed to fulfil the project's requirements. For example, Project 1 (Listening and Leadership) lists four roles, but you only have to complete three of those roles.

Some roles can be evaluated for more than one project. However, as each project has a different focus, you can only be evaluated for one project at a time. For example, if you are giving a prepared speech, you can also be evaluated in the Competent Leader Manual for either project 4 or project 5. The focus for project 4 is time management, while project 5 deals with planning and implementation.

Table Topics Contest

Congratulations to Sean Byrnes who won the club's recent Table Topics Contest and to Christine Hill who was runner-up. The topic for the contest was: 'Popular name brands or generic store brands – which would you use and why?'

Judges for the contest included Monaro Division Governor, ATM-G, Kaylene Ledger and Immediate Past Monaro Division Governor, DTM, Cheryl White, both of whom travelled from Canberra for the meeting.

Sean will now represent Area 43 at the Division Table Topics Contest in Canberra on 13 October. GO SEAN!