

# Toastie Tatts Tittle Tattle

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## Letter from the Editor-

An exciting start to The New Toastmasters Year beginning with the Tall Tales Contest, followed by the Table Topics Contest. We will be holding our yearly Humorous Speech Contest 24<sup>th</sup> September so bring that famous story with you and register as a humorous contest participant. A newly appointed executive committee is promising many surprises throughout the year. Stay tuned and most importantly we would like to see you all at our fortnightly meetings. Please enjoy reading this newsletter! Any suggestions, questions and contributions welcome – and only an email away: [vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au](mailto:vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au) Julia Sztaba.

## Tall Tales Contest held 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Four great tales but only one winner.

Congratulations to Dennis Szabo in presenting the Modern Version of “Three Bears and Goldilocks”.

In this version the three bears lived in a mansion of a house. The backyard led to a golf course designed by Gerg Norman and developed by Macquarie Bank. A story that prompted many laughs from us all!

Keith Anderson kindly shared with us the history of the Tall Tales Trophy. “We indeed have perpetual trophy that dates back to 1992 and it is called the Marjorie Seddon Tall Tales Trophy. In 1992 the committee decided to hold a trophy in her name. Marjorie was one of the members who formed this club back in 1985 and has stopped attending meetings in only recent years. The tall tales contest gives members experience in competing as well as in judging.”



**Table Topics Contest RESULTS** CONGRATULATIONS TO: Jean-Marc Schwob in being awarded First Place and Keith Anderson who followed in Second Place.



A Table Topics Session or Contest is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to “think on your feet”. There is little to no time for preparation when presented with the question to answer. All contestants were required to present a 1-2 minute impromptu speech to a challenging question about grocery shopping habits. The question: “Do you wish to shop at Woolworths or Coles?” Congratulations to all participants: Tania Peterson, William Onishi, Luke Liria, Jean-Marc Schwob and Keith Anderson.

## Coming up Next: HUMOROUS CONTEST – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007

We have all shared numerous stories with family, friends and work colleagues. Most often these stories are quite humorous and entertaining. The Humorous Speech contest is a great opportunity to tell one of your famous stories and make the audience laugh. Contact Simon McGregor McDonald our VP of Education to register as a participant.

*A contest cannot be held without: a Chairman/ Toastmaster, contestants, timers, counters, judges, a chief judge and the audience. Congratulations to all members who contributed by actively participating.*

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# What is NEW?

## Table Topics Unlimited

Dennis Szabo our president has suggested that our table topics sessions be spiced up and has accordingly presented to all members a table topics handout! Make this concept a reality and remember to incorporate those great ideas from the handout into our fortnightly meetings.

### Here are some examples:

- **Reading Aloud**
- **Telephone Topics**
- **"Man in the Street" Interviews**
- **Ceremonial Occasions (ie mock weddings)**
- **Defining weird words**
- **... and many more**

The handout can be found in the 'Tatts Tips' section of our website:

<http://www.citytattersallstm.org.au/tips.htm>

## VIDEO PRODUCTIONS!



Dennis Szabo has kindly offered to video prepared speech presentations of members who would like a copy for future reference.

**Aim:** To enable members to review their speeches and track progress over time

**Review:** Ideally review should entail replaying the presentations:

a) Double the speed - to isolate and review repetitive movements

b) Normal speed but no sound - to isolate body movement and expression

c) With sound but no vision: to isolate voice and vocal variety and pauses

d) Normal Speed: for overall evaluation for other aspects like structure, message, pauses and effectiveness

**Congratulations!** to Rohan Jarvis who is the first to participate in our new Video Production Service.

- **Spicing up Table Topics**
- **Video Tape Recordings of your presentations**
- **Your questions answered**

## YOUR ???'S AnSwErEd!

### HOW TO WRITE STRONG CONCLUSIONS:

*By Mike Kano*

**Keep it simple (KIS). Reiterate the main points as headings, and with power.**

Begin the speech with a simple powerful start, finish the same way. Limit a conclusion to no more than 30 seconds in a 5-7 minute speech. Lets take an example;

A speech on the value of foster families; title - "Children matter".

Opening point - abandoned child, new hope in a foster family. 30 secs.

Main point 1 - impact of abandoned/homelessness on children. 2 mins.

Main point 2 - key services - foster families. 2 mins.

Main point 3 - results - personal story, turns speech to also show it is personal experience not just statistic. 2 mins.

**Then the conclusion: - KIS - 30 secs.**

"I was lost and abandoned as a child (reiterates opening point), [pause]

I was hungry, homeless and slipping into drugs (re-iterates first main point), [further pause]

My foster family found a place in their hearts to create a new family for me (re-iterates second main point from a personal angle with power) [pause].

I have a new mother and father and hope burning bright (re-iterates final point and closes powerfully) [possibly have photo/picture of new family as closing].

**KIS, under 30 seconds, re-iterate the main points only as headings.**

Feel free to use the same concepts for your intro/ opening too!

Would you like your questions answered? Post your question to the editor:

[vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au](mailto:vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au)

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## A Toastmaster Experience:

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#### Dennis Szabo

##### HOW DID YOU HEAR OF TOASTMASTERS?

I attended a couple of Toastmasters meetings when I was attending high school. Since then joining a Toastmasters Club was always at the back of my mind.

##### WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO JOIN A CLUB?

I needed to do more and more presentations as part of my work.

##### WHY DID YOU EVENTUALLY JOIN A TOASTMASTERS CLUB?

It would limit my career prospects and personal growth if I continued to postpone. I joined City Tattersalls Club in December 2005.

##### DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED, ACCOMPLISHED OR OVERCOME...?

Yes, we all achieve from week to week. I have seen good progress over the last two years but there a lot more challenges to face, it is really only the start of the journey.

##### WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT TOASTMASTERS?

People, personal challenges, stories and personal growth as a result. I feel happy to be at each meeting.

##### WHAT IS THE TITLE OF YOUR NEXT SPEECH?

I plan a speech one week before the meeting. The title, content change immensely throughout the week.

##### WHAT COULD YOU SUGGEST TO CURRENT MEMBERS?

To continue to attend meetings and become involved.

##### HAVE YOU SERVED THE CLUB AS AN OFFICER?

I am on my second rotation. I served the club as VP Education and this year I will be serving the club as President.

##### WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM TOASTMASTERS?

Confidence and Technical Knowledge.

*Dennis Szabo served the club as a club officer taking on the role of vp Education last year and now is serving the club as President.*

##### THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLUB PRESIDENT ARE:

- General supervision and operation of the club
- Oversee the club's plan to achieve Distinguished Club status
- In co-operation with other club officers, the president establishes long-term and short-term goals for the club
- Chair bi-monthly executive committee meetings
- Attend district-sponsored club officer training

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- Maintain relationship with district and Toastmasters International
- Direct the club in meeting the members' needs for educational growth and leadership

Would you like to share your experiences at Toastmasters, your first speech or the tenth? Contact the Editor at [vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au](mailto:vppr@citytattersallstm.org.au)

## MEETING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### MEETING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are numerous roles to be filled at a club meeting. Here I would like to present a few tips for the roles of: Table Topics Master and Table Topics Evaluators.

#### *Table Topics Master:*

The purpose of this period is to have members **“think on their feet”** and speak for a minute and to give everyone in the room an opportunity to speak – especially those who are not on the program.

Prior to the meeting choose a wide selection of topics and design your questions. Phrase the questions clearly so that the speaker will know what you want them to talk about.

At the beginning of the meeting list the members you will call on to answer your questions.

When introduced: state briefly the purpose of the table topics session and timing. State the question briefly and call upon a respondent. Then introduce the Table Topics evaluators to present odds and evens evaluations . Most importantly:

Dennis Szabo our president has suggested that our table topic sessions be spiced up and has accordingly presented to all members a table topics handout! Make this concept a reality and remember to incorporate those great ideas from the handout into our fortnightly meetings.

#### *Table Topics Evaluators:*

The pressure is on! You have been called upon to present an evaluation of not just one member but several with a time frame of only three minutes. You may be required to present a brief evaluation of up to six table topic participants. This means that you have only thirty seconds to state the name of the person you are evaluating, mention a point of praise, point for improvement and a point of praise. Points of praise and improvement suggestions:

Structure: comment about the introduction, body and or conclusion – Table Topics **are** mini-speeches!

Vocal Presentation: Vocal variety (voice projection, pitch and pace, use of pauses, etc)

Body Gestures: Eye contact, facial expressions, arm gestures, general body movement.

Most importantly promote self-esteem and confidence.

Hand-out work sheets are available for table topic evaluators.

# Toastie Tatts Tittle Tattle



Congratulations to **Luke Liria** for completing the fifth project of the Competent Communicator Manual. There was definitely a lesson for us all to learn from Luke's fifth speech titled, "Managing your Time".

**Some of Luke's famous quotes:**

*Time is quite important*

*Don't squander time.*

*Planning is crucial.*

*Prioritise or the day will drive you.*

*Do it, build ability to delegate.*

*Build confidence.*

*In the end you wont get much done.*

*Life is Time.*

*Schedule.*

*Discipline yourself.*

*If you have wasted your time you have wasted your life.*

*Master time and be the master your life.*

Luke Liria also recently completed a speech craft course. The course Luke attended extended over a six week period, where participants meet once a week to learn, develop and practice new skills. The intensity of the course equips participants with skills that they are able to utilize and continue to hone in a Toastmasters program. Interested? Refer to; [http://www.d70toastmasters.org/short\\_courses.htm](http://www.d70toastmasters.org/short_courses.htm) for further information .

## A WARM WELCOME TO:



A warm welcome from City Tattersalls Toastmasters to **Julie Meissner** who joined as a new member, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007. On that same night, Julie took on the role of timer and Peter Anderson praised her professional approach and precise presentation of the Timers Report.

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# Dates For Your Diary

## Club Events

**25th September:**

Humorous Contest

## Area Events

**10th October:**

Area One Table Topics and Humorous Contest.

## Division Events:

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2007:**

Central Division Table Topics and Humour Contest.

## District Events

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2007:**

**Sunday Seminar**

"Speech Contest Judging", at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown, 1pm start.

Also on the same day and place;

Speakers Forum 10am – John Taylor, 9683403

### Further Sunday Seminars:

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2008.**

### Semi Annual District 70 Conference

Novotel, Olympic Park:

**16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

[www.d70toastmasters.org](http://www.d70toastmasters.org)

## Words to Ponder On:

**UNASSAILABLE** (adjective) – impossible to challenge. 'He has an unassailable lead'.

Presented by George Endacott.

**PERTINENT** (adjective) – relating to the matter at hand, fit, suitable. 'A pertinent comment'.

**IMPUDENT** (adjective) – shameless, unblushing. 'An impudent behaviour'. 'I'm afraid I used impudent language at last year's Christmas Party'.

