



# Toastie Tatts Tittle Tattle

December 2008

The excitement of "contests" from the previous quarter is in the past. Keith Andersons shares with us a brief report of the 2008 Semi-Annual Conference, "Today's Toastmaster Tomorrow" held the weekend of 17th – 18th October at the Campbelltown Catholic Club.

A new element of excitement has been introduced to the club this quarter spanning from October to December. What is this "new element" all about? Where do I begin? The executives of the club continue to change the meetings structure and role expectations. The club continues to enjoy the active participation of its members. We have heard many interesting toasts, current affairs, challenging table topics and prepared speeches. We were reminded of Bob Dylan's music by Mark Cowan Aston, How Blueberry Pancakes May Save Your Life? was answered by Joe Ruggero and Champagne received a mention from Pieter Peeters. Volunteer's day (5<sup>th</sup> December 2008) did not pass us without a mention and a toast. Phillipa Duflou asked us to raise our classes to toast Volunteers. To add to the clubs excitement many new members have promised to commit themselves to the educational program Toastmasters offers. A warm welcome to our new members: Andrew Bishop, Ludger Lessing, Gloria Han, Ian Murray, Ilona Renner, Tobias Thierer, Jackie Thompson, Katie Dobbins, Keith Stead, Jeremy Hyman, Tony Zammit and Ross Yiasemides. An educational session just in time, "How to conquer the fear of public speaking", was presented by Karen Stacey. The club's Christmas Party is being held next week, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008; reservations must be confirmed prior to the evening.

Over the Christmas season, trained speakers should keep those notepads handy. The holiday season is a perfect time to prepare that award winning inspirational International Speech (members must have completed six projects from the Competent Communicator Manual to compete). This message still holds for the exceptional critic – the evaluations contest is only around the corner! The Club International and Evaluation Contest will be held February 2009. Winners will represent the club at the Area Contest to be held in March.

A few words to remember: **Reciprocate** – to give and take mutually, to return in kind or degree, presented by Pieter Peeters; **Profligacy** - abundance, great reckless extravagance presented by Amr Bakry; and **Ebullient** – liveliness, enthusiasm and exuberance presented by Ilona Renner.

## **A Toastmaster's Experience: TONY ZAMMIT**

Tony Zammit heard about Toastmasters four years before he joined. He joined the Illawarra Sunday Morning Club in 1985. He has been a member of and started many clubs throughout these twenty-three years.

**What motivated you to join?** Tony explained, tongue firmly planted in cheek, that he was a very shy person with a squeaky voice before he became a Toastmaster. His career progressed from engineering to becoming a financial planner. As a financial planner he needed to learn to express himself in a different manner. Toastmasters provided this tuition. His motivation remained strong over the twenty- three years because of the positive changes it had made to his life; his business, family and amongst his friends.

**Have you achieved what you set out to achieve?** Tony is a DTM, Distinguished Toastmaster, that is, he has completed the full series of educational projects Toastmasters International offers to its members. As a leader he has served as a District Governor and in 2002 he stood as a candidate for Toastmasters International Board of Directors, although unsuccessfully he said he cherished the opportunity afforded to him by this great organisation. He is now a member of two clubs and acts as a mentor for both clubs. Tony in partnership with another member DTM Karen Stacey conducts Corporate Speechcraft Courses throughout the year, he says that he and Karen find it very rewarding seeing participants grow from fearful to fearless (almost) in just six weeks, which is the duration of the course.

**What do you recommend/advise fellow Toastmasters?**

Attempt to be different and develop your own style says Tony. He also continued to quote, "Opportunity is a haughty goddess which wastes no time with the unprepared." Tony owns a little ornament of a crocodile that is standing at a lectern and proceeds to advise us, "to snap up the opportunity!" He also reminds us all that the ability to express yourself is NOT god-gifted and that we should strive to learn this art through the Toastmasters program.

**Keith Anderson shares with us a brief report of the 2008 Semi-Annual Conference, "Today's Toastmaster Tomorrow" held the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October at the Campbelltown Catholic Club.**

1. **TABLE TOPICS CONTEST** – The table topic for the contest was: "Attitude is generally shaped by....". The winner of the contest was Pat Colquhoun representing Central Division.
2. **AWARDS LUNCHEON** – City Tattersalls acknowledged as Select Distinguished Club 2007/2008 was recently confirmed with the receipt of a ribbon from Toastmasters International commemorating this achievement, which has since being sewn to our banner by Sergeant at Arms, Pieter Peeters.
3. **EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS** – Four were given on the Saturday afternoon, including "First Aid for Clubs", presented by club member Karen Stacey DTM and was helped in the presentation by fellow club members, Richard Stacey and Tony Zammit. This was a series of role plays highlighting the assistance that could be given to four different struggling clubs.
4. **HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST** – (held prior to Gala Dinner), Winner: James Baker of the Southern Division (Helensburg District) with his speech "I am a judge". Central Divisions representative was Bevan Ting for PWC who was unplaced.

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**A FEW POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU ARE AT THE LECTURN -**

**Richard Stacey**

- Never bring a pen to the lectern
- Never stand with your back to the audience
- Never apologize
- Never say "without further ado"
- Never mention death, politics or religion
- Never use bad language

Imagine you are speaking to a crowd of elderly people and then start speaking.

**Non-discrimination**

One of the advantages of joining Toastmasters is the opportunity to meet people from various cultures, ethnicities and parts of the world. In order to make the most of this, we ask that you abide by Toastmasters' nondiscrimination policy.

**Toastmasters is for all people 18 years or older who want to improve their communication and leadership skills. Toastmasters International is a non-discriminating organization. No person shall be excluded from membership in a Toastmasters club, and no member shall be deliberately discriminated against, in the conduct of Toastmasters programs, because of the following: age, race, color, creed, gender national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability. Each club member, through his or her own efforts, must be able to participate in the program**

Distinguished Club Plan - Mid year report of progress to date:

The club is awarded points towards a 'Distinguished Club' status. At a club level when a member presents a project the whole team is achieving and as a team we eventually are rewarded for our efforts. We are awarded according to the Distinguished Club Plan as listed below.

1. CCs	Ting Yu (TBC), Tobias Thierer	2. Additional CCs	Ludger Lessing
3. ACs	Julia Sztaba	4. Additional ACs	-
5. CL, AL or DTMs	Peter Peters	6. Additional CLs, ALs, or DTMs	Keith Anderson
7. New members	4 achieved	8. Additional new members	4 achieved
9. Officers trained	4 need to attend training in Feb 09	10. Submit report on time	achieved

The club is aiming to achieve 7/10 point score to receive the Select Distinguished Club Ribbon for the year ending 2008/09.

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*Dates For Your Diary*

**Club Events** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - Christmas Party Esparante Dining Room, 13<sup>th</sup> January - Annual Speech-a-thon, February 2009 - International and Evaluation Contest , **Area Events** March 2008, International and Evaluations Contest

**Division Events:** March 2008, International and Evaluations Contest **District Events:** - March – April Annual Conference. Visit: [www.d70toastmasters.org](http://www.d70toastmasters.org) to register online.

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