

Chronicles of Ninety

July 2023



Dates to Note

- **Friday July 14th - 6:15pm** Motivational Moments (Details see page 7)
- **Sunday July 16th - 3pm** Club Leaders Training - Register Online
- **Tuesday July 25th - 7pm** Club Leaders Training - Register Online
- **Saturday July 29th** Leadership Forum (Details soon on the Whats On Page)
- **Monday July 31st - Last Day to Pay Semi-Annual Dues at Current Rate**
- **Saturday July 16th - 3pm** Club Leaders Training - Register Online

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- #IamaToastmasterDay
- 2022-23 Triple Crown Award
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- Ten Years of Tenterfield
- Up Up Toastmasters
- Happy Birthday to Sapphire City, Macquarie Park, Taree and Wallsend Toastmasters

For the Grammarians

Below are some paraproverbs, which are figures of speech in which the second part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

- 1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.*
- 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.*
- 3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*
- 4. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.*
- 5. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.*
- 6. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.*
- 7. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'DOCTOR'.*
- 8. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.*
- 9. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.*
- 10. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.*
- 11. You're never too old to learn something stupid.*
- 12. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.*

Welcome!

...to a new Toastmasters year. We, the whole District Leadership Team, hope that this is a year of achievement and excellence in meeting your individual goals as well as those of your Club and District.

Our monthly newsletter, Chronicles of Ninety, is designed to share and celebrate our Members and our Clubs. I invite you to contribute and share your stories, articles and photos with us.

Contributions should be submitted to our Newsletter editor, Alison, by the end of each month, ready for inclusion in the next edition. You will find each month's edition in you inbox on the 10th of each month. Email contributions to newsletter@d90toastmasters.org.au

Personally, I look forward to a year guided and inspired by service and excellence to you, our members, as we all strive to become better communicators and leaders.

We wish all members and clubs every possible success, and more, this year.

Yours in Toastmasters,

Geoff Pullen
District 90 Director



2023 District Contest Winners

The Last of the News, and Views



District 90 International Speech Contest

- 1st:** Andrew Deck, Sydney Water (C23)
- 2nd:** Peri Sabey, Gosford City Toastmasters (E21)
- 3rd:** Han Kim, Chatswood Early Risers (H6)

Toastmaster: Geoff Pullen

District 90 Humorous Contest

- 1st:** Tom McIlveen, Port Macquarie Toastmasters (O5)
- 2nd:** Miao Li, Bathurst Club (W14)
- 3rd:** Andrew Deck, Sydney Water (C23)

Toastmaster: Nellie Beggs



District 90: Evaluation Contest

- 1st:** Laura Fagan, Harbord Diggers (H22)
- 2nd:** Miao Li, Bathurst Club (W14)
- 3rd:** Jan Vecchio, Koala Communicators Online (N31)

Toastmaster: Udo Moerig

District 90 Table Topics Contest

- 1st:** Tom Wilde, Eastern Onliners (E24)
- 2nd:** Lynne Sheather, Tamworth Toastmasters (N1)
- 3rd:** Laura Fagan, Harbord Diggers (H22)

Toastmaster: Vicki Wilson



2023 Jazzer Smith Award Winner

Meet Margaret Payne DTM

Margaret has been a member of the Inverell Breakfast Toastmasters in 2003, and has served in numerous Club Officer Roles. She has served as a leader in both District 69 and District 90 as Area Governor 2009-10, Area Director 2016-2017 and Northern Division Director 2019-20 and 2020-21.

In Margaret is a Toastmaster with all the attributes of Jazzer Smith (see below for his story). Below you will find many reasons why Margaret was deemed a most worthy winner by the judging panel.



1. Courage: In 2022 Margaret was diagnosed with cancer requiring in major surgery and since then, Margaret has had a number of setbacks resulting in hospitalisation. At no time has she ever lost her positive attitude, continuing with her role as the VP Education for Inverell Breakfast. Despite her own issues she has always been there to support individual member especially with assistance with Pathways.

2. Overcoming Adversity: Not only has Margaret been extremely unwell but her husband has also suffered ill health at the same time. Yet, she just keeps on keeping on. If there are jobs at home or Toastmasters (or her other love, "RSPCA") she tackles them, devoting many hours into planning, participating (eg Youth Leadership) and maintaining relationships across a broad range of people.

3. Persistence and Perseverance: Since the introduction of Pathways Margaret has been the "go-to-person" for her club. She has supported every individual member, not only at the club, but has visited every member at home to help with the Pathways Program on their home computers.

Another example of Margaret's perseverance is her involvement in Youth Leadership. Just recently she co-ordinated a Youth Leadership Course at a local school despite the fact she had

recently had a health setback and corresponding bad news from her Doctor and was about to commence Radiotherapy.

4. Loyalty to, and Pride in Toastmasters: Margaret's mantra at Executive Meetings and Club Meetings is "Remember our Core Values".(The Club respectfully calls her "The Princess of Protocol"!) In the twenty years Margaret has been a member, Margaret has attended every meeting except when her health has prevented and even now she attends via zoom when she cannot attend in person.

Margaret would also have to be one of Toastmaster's proudest Ambassadors. She proudly promotes Toastmasters throughout the community with involvement with the local show, "Communicator of the Year", Youth Leadership and other organisations.

5. Friendliness and Cheerfulness: Always welcoming of new members and supportive of the older ones, Margaret's enthusiasm has been displayed continually. Members certainly appreciate her approachability and willingness to help and assist at all times.

6. Support for Other Members: There is not a member in her Club, Area or Division, who is not appreciative of Margaret's availability and willingness to assist.

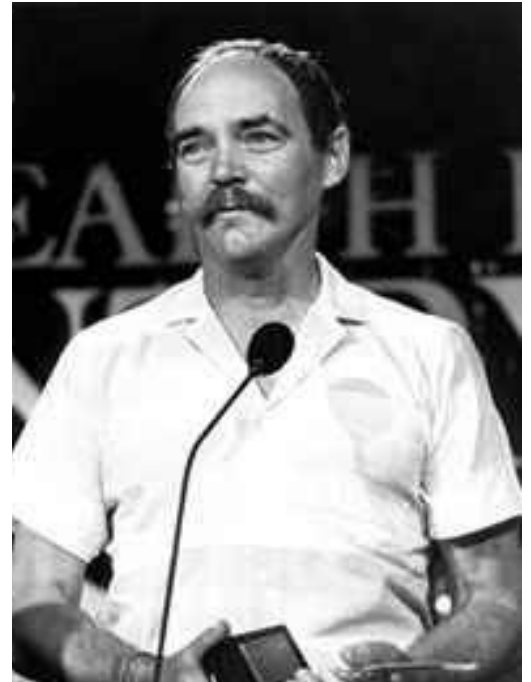
Who Was Jazzer Smith?

The Man who Inspired the Award

Jazzer Smith died in May, 1987, at the age of 47. During his short lifetime, he touched the life of countless people - and this is the story of a small part of that remarkable life.

James Russell (Kenneth) Smith was born on September 4, 1939, in Hobart. His father was called away to war and died when James was only two years old. His mother was left with five children and very little money, but a wealth of courage. By the time James had left school to begin an apprenticeship with a printer, there were two major loves in his life - music and people. While playing drums in a rock band he earned the nickname Jazzer (Jas. R.) and that name stuck for the rest of his life.

At the age of 30, Jazzer had a satisfying career in music, also a career in the media as a journalist, TV show compere and radio copy manager. His life was looking promising when he was given a death sentence. The doctors at Peter McCallum Cancer Institute in Hobart told Jazzer that he had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (a cancer of the lymph glands) and that it was terminal.



Somehow this seemed to strengthen Jazzer's concern to live life to the fullest and not waste one single minute. He went on with his search for success, for life, and left Hobart to establish himself in Melbourne. Jazzer became copy manager of Radio 3DB in Melbourne, then left to join the Musicians' Union as their Public Relations Officer. He later started 'Across Country', a country music newspaper and became editor of the Journal of Australian Music and Musicians (JAMM).

On the advice of his doctors, Jazzer came to a warmer climate - Tamworth, where he was editor of Capital News, which became Australia's only monthly country music newspaper. Because of his constant contact with people, conducting interviews, etc., Jazzer found that he wanted to improve his communication skills, so on the advice of a workmate, Bob Kirchner, Jazzer joined Tamworth Toastmasters.

During his life he was a self confessed "non club member" and had always strived to retain his individuality, so clubs were not on his list of priorities. But Toastmasters became the exception to the rule. As well as benefitting from the Club, he was still able to retain his uniqueness. He was talked into becoming President of the Club after being a member for only a few months. Jazzer believed the greatest thing about Toastmasters was the challenge it presented. He always said that the only person you competed with in Toastmasters was yourself - you challenge yourself constantly to achieve your next goal. That is what kept him so involved with the organisation, becoming Area Governor in 1985, and the first Northern Division Lieutenant Governor to come from the Tamworth area.

His many friends in Toastmasters will remember Jazzer with a smile as they recall listening to his humorous speeches; his more serious speeches about cancer and various aspects of life would cause others to reflect deeply on life and their attitude to it. Despite often the most difficult circumstances, Jazzer always gave 100 percent effort and was a tremendous fighter. To strive to emulate Jazzer is impossible. There will never be another James Russell (Jazzer) Smith.

2023 District Conference

A Few Thank-You's!



Above: Thanking the entire Toastmasters Team who made the conference happen



Left: Our MC Team of Dale and Alan Rees-Bevan.



Right: Our District Director Mark Walker and Region 12 Advisor Michael Said, celebrating the end of their year



From left to right: Monique Tonna (Western Division), Jan Coleman (Oxley Division), Sue Hereford Ashley (Northern Division), Kalinga Wijeyewardene (Hawksebury Division), Ron Marriot (Cumberland Division), Mark Walker (Immediate Past District Director), Dani Streets (Public Relations Manager), Ramani Warusevitane (Club Growth Director), Pieta Beggs (Program Quality Director), Geoff Pullen (District Director). Not Shown: Daniel Pascoe (Macquarie Division), Martin Beggs (Eastern Division), Lin Guo (Finance Manager).

#imatoastmasterday

In a Collection of Facebook Posts

I AM A TOASTMASTER DAY

On the 1st of June each year, Toastmasters members from around the world take a moment to celebrate "I am a Toastmaster Day".

The day offers a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our shared Toastmasters experience. It's a day for you to proudly wear your Toastmasters badge, pin, or other branded items in your day-to-day activities. Not only does this spark interest and conversations about Toastmasters, but it also strengthens our sense of community.

Maitland Toastmasters
1 June at 06:17 · 🌐

Happy I am a Toastmaster Day.
Have a look at what our members have achieved in and through Toastmasters
<https://maitlandnsw.toastmastersclubs.org/Member...>

MAKE THE BEST YOU

Whether you are aiming for:

- a promotion
- more confidence
- impromptu speaking skills
- leadership skills
- to meet people
- motivational strategies
- team building skills

Don't aim, come do.

I am a Toastmaster Day

Geoff Pullen
Admin · 1 June at 23:10 · 🌐

Nearly 10 years ago, I was told in a job interview that I needed to improve my impromptu speaking.
Toastmasters has seen me grow as a speaker and a leader since then. I am now honoured to be given the chance to lead such an amazing group of toastmasters, something I could not have dreamed of ten years ago.

#iamtoastmasterday #d50toastmasters #district90



Upcoming Workshops

District 90 Supplementary Training

Motivational Moments

CANVA ESSENTIALS
With D90 PRM Dani Streets

- Set up account for easy use
- Select a template
- Editing tips and tricks
- Create an image for social media
- Download and share with others

CLUB CENTRAL 101
With D90 PDD Phil Reed

- Add and manage members
- Submit education awards
- Update club contact details
- ...and more!

Login at 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start July 14th via Zoom

Register at WhatsOn:
<https://www.d90toastmasters.org.au/whatson.html>

TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS
— learning experience —

PATHWAYS TRAINING

Learning together!

Join your Pathways trainers live on Zoom as we come together in this monthly session of learning together!

Website: <https://www.d90toastmasters.org.au/whatson.html>

Congratulations Triple Crown Awardees 2022-2023

Just some of the more than 100 members who achieved a Triple Crown Award



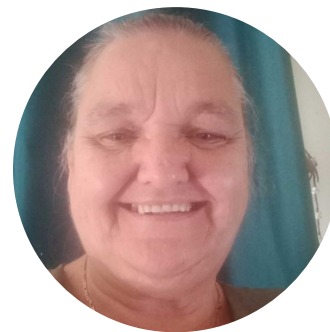
Scott Johnson



Dale Rees-Bevan



Jan Cummings



Dianne Brookes



Peter Champion



Emilia Leonetti



**Seema
Balasubramanian**



Sharon Dreise



Brendan Rogers



Carol Champion



Jan Coleman



Greg Dayhew



**Natasha
Thornton**



Phil Reed



**Ramani
Warusevitane**



Pam Price

Congratulations Triple Crown Awardees 2022-2023

Just some of the more than 100 members who achieved a Triple Crown Award



Sandra Tuinman



Nellie Beggs



Leah Edwards



**Christine
Bannigan**



**Sue
Hereford-Ashley**



Tuckey Cooley



Daniel Pascoe



Adam Johnston



Megan Pascoe



Tanya Wickham



Atit Charan



Gail Stone



Tom Wilde



Pieta Beggs



Dianne Sammut



Your 2023-24 Leadership Team

Meet the Team



District Director Geoff Pullen DTM

I joined Toastmasters in May 2015 after being recommended to do so in a job interview. I am an accountant by profession and have used skills gained in Toastmasters to great effect in my professional life. My Toastmasters journey has taken me through many leadership positions, both at the Club and at the District level. As District Director my role is to co-ordinate the operations of the district in order to best serve our clubs and our members. I support the top table, Division and Area Directors in providing a quality service to our members.

Program Quality Director Pieta Beggs DTM

We are all fortunate to have found an organisation that prides itself on the members developing confidence and leadership skills. After over 10 years as a Toastmaster, I am a firm believer that there is nothing that even comes close!

As Program Quality Director my main focus is to support the education and training of our members and leaders. This is not a one person role, I have put together a highly experienced team to ensure that Club Leadership Training, Motivational Moments, Pathways and Contests are well supported.

I believe that it is an honour to serve the members of District and I am excited for the year ahead.



Club Growth Director Ramani Warusevitane DTM

I joined Toastmasters in 2017 having attended a Speechcraft course. I am passionate about learning and members achieve the best possible experience TM can provide. I have been a Club Coach, Sponsor, Speechcraft Coordinator, President, VP Education, VP Public Relations.

In District 90, I have served as an Area Director & a Division Director. Professionally I am employed as a Solicitor.

As the incoming Club Growth Director, I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to support our clubs by providing the necessary resources to build membership and member satisfaction and build new clubs where necessary to ensure Toastmasters Program is accessible to everyone in the wider community.



Public Relations Manager Dani Streets DTM

My Toastmasters journey started in 2017, and I'm incredibly grateful for the personal growth opportunities received through this organisation at the member, club, district and region levels.

As PRM, I'll be bringing my education, training, experience, and unbridled enthusiasm to the table in the pursuit of a fabulous year for District 90 Toastmasters.

I'm thrilled to be working with our members and leaders at all levels to embrace celebrating your voice as we seize the opportunity to share our stories with others, so they too may be inspired to join and gain the unbelievable advantages we enjoy as Toastmasters.



Your 2023-24 Leadership Team

Meet the Team continued



Finance Manager Lin Guo

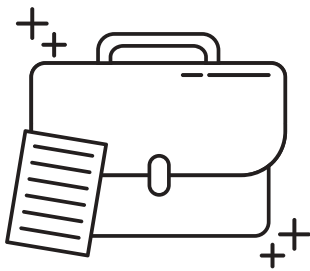
Lin joined toastmaster 8 years ago and is currently from Thornleigh Toastmaster Club. She is passionate about personal development and environmental protection. She is an active committee member of various organizations in education, environment and networking forums. Her professional background is infrastructure finance. She is excited to apply her knowledge and skills to promote and support district 90 clubs.

Immediate Past District Director Mark Walker DTM

After spending the last three years serving on the Trio, this year see me take on the important role of IPDD. The role seeks to support and being a mentor to the incoming Trio as they take on their new roles.

This year I have asked by District Director Pullen, to serve as the Chair of the District Leadership Committee. This is the committee that helps assess and review the potential Leadership nominations for the 2024/25 Toastmaster year.

I will also Chair the Past District Director Committee. This body helps review policy at the discretion of District Director Pullen.



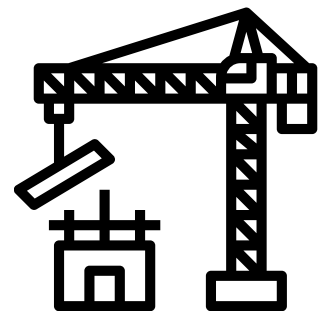
Position Vacant - Administration Manager

As the administration manager, you are responsible for maintaining the historical records of the district, recording and distributing meeting minutes and otherwise maintaining accurate, timely records of district business.

The administration manager may be elected or appointed at the will of the district director, subject to the approval of the district executive committee and confirmation by the district council. You are eligible for re-election or re-appointment for one succeeding term only.

Position Vacant - Logistics Manager

The logistics manager selects meeting locations and organizes the room, ensuring the atmosphere is conducive to successful events, such as business meetings, speech contests, and training. The logistics manager sets up the necessary equipment, assists district leaders with meeting arrangements, distributes program materials, keeps track of district property and addresses disruptions during events. Proven abilities in organization and diplomacy are a must for this role.



Program Quality Team

PQD Pieta Beggs

Notes from Pieta



Congratulations to all the members of District 90 Toastmasters for their achievements in the last Toastmaster year! It's fantastic to see that over 850 levels were submitted, and 100 triple crowns awarded. Achieving a triple crown is no small feat (three Pathways level submitted in the Toastmaster year) and it demonstrates a high level of commitment to growth and excellence in communication and leadership skills. I am looking forward to seeing what members will achieve this year.

There are several important elements that contribute to the success of Toastmasters clubs and members:

- Contests provide a platform for members to showcase their growth and development. The contest rule book has been released with only one change indicated by a diamond on the left side of the page. Click here to download [the rule book](#).
- Motivational moments can inspire and uplift members, creating a positive and supportive environment within clubs.
- Club leadership training is essential for equipping club officers with the necessary skills to effectively lead and manage their clubs.
- Pathways training is especially valuable, as it provides club members and base camp managers, with the tools and resources they need to navigate their educational paths effectively

The high standard set in previous years for training and education will continue this year. District 90 is known for its approach to providing quality sessions of Club Leadership Training, Pathways and Motivational Moments.

The Program Quality Team promises to bring many exciting opportunities for members to develop and grow as communicators and leaders.

Pathways

Your Toastmasters journey includes Pathways, the Toastmasters education program.

Whether you are a brand new member or a Base Camp Manager needing help to better understand Pathways, District 90 provides online training sessions on the last Friday of each month. Just register on the [What's On page](#) on the District website and you will be emailed a Zoom link.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our Pathways training sessions.

Pathways Chair

Tom Wilde DTM

Motivational Moments

Our first session will be on Friday 14th July, 2023, covering off Canva Essentials. Canva is a superb program for professional looking presentations including flyers, agendas and social media tiles for your club. You can [register here](#) or on the What's On page.

We have further sessions planned, with the next two being August 11th and September 22nd.

Hope to see you on 14th with Facilitators Past District Director Phil Reed sharing insights on navigating Club Central, and Dani Streets our Public Relations Manager on the essentials of Canva (who better to design our flyer?).

Margaret Payne DTM

***District 90 Supplementary Training Officer
Motivational Moments***

Program Quality Team

PQD Pieta Beggs

Domain Names

Some years ago, the Australian Domain Authority, auDA, changed the rules on website domain names. In particular, the .org.au domain was to be restricted to registered charities.

In recent months the auDA has got active and started issuing cancellation notices to Toastmasters clubs and districts who had continued to use a .org.au domain, giving just 14 days' notice of a domain cancellation.

Several clubs and districts have been contacted by the auDA recently and forced to make a quick change to their domain names. Since then District 90 and some clubs have taken a pro-active approach by registering new domains, cloning their websites and setting up a redirect on their old domains until they are canceled by the Authority.

The best option for a new domain name is the newly introduced Australian domain of .au. This is easy for everyone to remember, especially if emails are involved to the club domain. The association abbreviation of .asn.au is another option.

Changes made by District last month are:

- Toastmasters Australia is now ***toastmasters.asn.au*** instead of toastmasters.org.au
- Toastmasters NSW is now ***toastmastersnsw.au*** instead of toastmastersnsw.org.au
- Toastmasters Supplies Australia is now ***toastmasters-supplies.au*** instead of toastmasters-supplies.org.au

All these changes have been picked up by search engines to maintain their ranking status, a key advantage of having .au at the end of a domain name.

Clubs having websites hosted by Hostfive will get good support from them in the upgrading process, several clubs having changed as well in June.

Gary Wilson
District 90 Web Support Officer

Club Leadership Training Round 1

Eight sessions are scheduled, and we hope that there is a time to suit everyone. The format for this round is broken into 3 parts, with the first covering Core Values, the Distinguished Club Program, and the Club Success Plan.

The second is facilitated by a dedicated team of trainers and support trainers, and explores the Officer Roles in depth.

After a 10-minute break, the final session is an elective one, with attendees being able to choose what they would like to do. The options are:

1. **Beyond Your Club:** for Club Officers who are relatively new to Toastmasters or those who have not ventured outside their own club meetings.
2. **Marketing your Club:** not just for the VP Public Relations but anyone in the club who would like to see the club grow.
3. **Conflict Resolution:** any who would like some tools to help create a more congruous and harmonious club while still valuing differences.
4. **Running Contests:** A practical elective for the incoming VPE and those interested in successful contests within the club. Make connections from others outside your club to assist in your club contests.

Unable to decide which elective you would rather do, why not register for a second elective once you have completed Club Leadership Training? Or discuss the options with your executive and have all the electives covered off by having your executive attend different electives.

I would like to thank the trainers and support trainers for assisting with Club Leadership Training. Having just recently stepped into the role of CLT Chair I could not have done this without the stellar guidance of Program Quality Director Pieta Beggs DTM, and past CLT Chair Dianne Sammut DTM.

Megan Pascoe
Toastmasters Leadership Institute Chairman

Club Growth Director

An Update on the Portfolio

Notes from Ramani



I am looking forward to a year where my team and I can support and strengthen our existing Clubs, grow Membership, and when opportunities become available, to create new clubs.

There is no I in team, and the Club Growth Team has the following Toastmasters ready to assist you and your Club:

- Nellie Beggs DTM - Sponsor Mentor & Coaching (SMAC) Chair
- Roshan Tillekeratne – Club Extension Chair
- Ramzi Kattan - Speechcraft Chair
- Natasha Thornton - Youth Leadership/Gavel Club Chair
- Bradley Silk - Youth Leadership/Gavel Club Coordinator

Thank you for electing me as your Club Growth Director. I also take this opportunity to thank Pieta Beggs DTM for the stellar work done as the immediate past Club Growth Director and for her guidance to me as the incoming Club Growth Director. Thank you, Pieta.

Sponsor Mentor & Coaching Chairman

This year our focus is to support and strengthen our existing clubs. We are here to listen, analyse and support. Support can be way of providing your club with a Mentor or Coach. Even with assistance in promoting your club. In 2022/23 year, Nellie successfully helped to charter our District's only new club and helped strengthen a number of clubs. Please contact Nellie on smac@d90toastmasters.org.au

Club Extension Chairman

Roshan successfully served as a club Mentor to Foxtel Toastmasters. Roshan will manage new club leads, recruit sponsors, and guide the new clubs through the charter process. Our aim is to provide all new clubs with a great experience from the start, arming clubs with the resources and support required to successfully charter and maintain strong clubs. Roshan can be contacted on clubextension@d90toastmasters.org.au

Speechcraft Chairman

Speechcraft is Toastmasters in a nutshell, and is a great tool for bringing new members to join your clubs.

This year our District's Speechcraft program will have two Speechcraft Coordinators for each Division. They will liaise with Ramzi and their respective Division Director. You be provided with training and then you can help the Clubs in your Division with Speechcraft. Ramzi can be contacted on speechcraft@d90toastmasters.org.au

If you are interested in being your Division's Speechcraft Coordinator, please email your Division Director and the CGD Ramani.

Youth Leadership/Gavel Clubs

Gavel clubs are a way of providing the Toastmasters experience to groups who may be ineligible for regular membership due to age, or other circumstances. Natasha Thornton will continue to lead the program, with Bradley Silk assisting in a co-ordination role.

Our District's newest Gavel Club is the Cumberland Gavel Club, which holds its meetings at the Toongabbie Centre. Cumberland Gavel Club has 15 members and if you know of a young person who may benefit from the Gavel Club experience, please contact Natasha on YL@d90toastmasters.org.au or Bradley on ylsupport@d90toastmasters.org.au

We also hope to charter a new Gavel Club in Baulkham Hills.

Chartering FOXTEL Toastmasters

By *Nellie Beggs DTM (SMAC Chairman)*



On Tuesday, June 13 I was invited to participate in the formal chartering of FOXTEL. It was a Hybrid meeting, meaning District Director Mark Walker DTM and CGD Pieta Beggs DTM graced us with their presence.

Normally I, too, attend the meetings from the comfort of my home, but for this momentous event I attended in person. It was wonderful to share this occasion with the club sponsors and mentors, who all achieved their award.

FOXTEL senior executives Lynette Ireland and Stuart Hutton both gave a presentation on the importance of having good speaking skills. They were there as the Club Banner and Charter Certificates were presented. After the official opening followed a club meeting.

FOXTEL Club was the only club to charter in District 90, 2022/23 year.

Congratulations to Ramani, Geoff, Kalinga and Roshan on successfully assisting this club to be the vibrant club it is today. Members of FOXTEL Toastmasters are very excited to join in on the competitive Contests that will be run in 2023/24.

Club Sponsors



PQD Geoff Pullen



**MDiv Director,
Ramani
Warusevitane**

Club Mentors



**A33D Kalinga
Wijewardene**



**A16D Roshan
Tillakaratne**

Reflecting on Ten Years of Tenterfield Toastmasters

By Peter van Schaik DTM

In the Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Banquet Hall, Henry Parkes and his supporters turned the then six Independent Colonies into one Nation on 24th of October 1889. For many reasons I feel an affinity to Henry Parkes, because our sponsors and mentors took a diverse cross section of our community and brought them together to form a Toastmasters club. The Charter meeting of Tenterfield Toastmasters took place September 21, 2013, about ten years ago, also in the Banquet Hall.

Not long after I joined Stanthorpe Toastmasters in 2006, I questioned why there was no club in Tenterfield. Well, there used to be a club, but not anymore. At the time I didn't feel I had the knowledge, the skills or the ambition to re-form a club here, but I did start to meet Toastmasters with other ideas. People like Tony Hassall, Julia Hassall, Graham Miller, Bruce George, Rose Chant and Marilyn Freeman. These people served as role models for me, and I began to see the possibilities. There were potential members for a new club in Tenterfield who didn't want to travel to Stanthorpe for a Toastmasters meeting – especially at night.

The words that galvanised me into action came from my partner Susan one morning while we were having breakfast: “If you want to start a new club here, why don't you just do it?” Easier said than done but I was not alone. Susan was a supportive partner, encouraging, enthusiastic and practical. More support came from clubs to the south, first to help run a workshop and then our first meeting on May 1st. Much to my surprise we chartered on June 20 2013, only eight weeks after that first meeting. Through those experiences I completed my High Performance Leadership award and set my sights on scoring five points in the Distinguished Club Program by June 2014.

After chartering, we achieved kicked some more goals for our newly formed club. All seven executives travelled to Inverell to attend club officer training in our first full year of existence. Only two years after chartering we organised and ran the 2015 Area 25 Speech Contest, when Carol South was Area Director. The following year we ran another contest and Club Leadership Training. In our heyday we held two hour meetings with supper and had members vote for best speaker, Table Topic, Evaluator and leader. In 2017-18 we scored a Select Distinguished Award and two years later President's Distinguished.

Through a redistribution, the club lost affiliation with District 69, which is based mostly in Queensland. Now, we are part of District 90 which runs from the Queensland border south to the Parramatta River, in Sydney. One hurdle we have faced was the loss of many of our charter members. Their favourite reason? “I didn't realise how much I would need to do as a member”. There were club meetings – and an executive – with only three members for a while. Then came Covid and even modest goals became unattainable.

Barely a year ago Alison Edwards became Northern Division Director, and our club was in her area of responsibility. In her position, and with her enthusiasm, she energised the club members. By equally good fortune Megan Pascoe became a member and injected the club with fresh energy and ideas from her previous TM experience. We have seen our club membership slowly increase to ten.

If I had my way every one living in Tenterfield would be a TM member. I have witnessed how a diversity of members joining together in the common goal of self-improvement, could make a contribution to the whole community, of better thinkers, leaders and oral communicators. The whole community can benefit in achieving greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Up Up Toastmasters Club ...

By Margaret Kravchenko DTM

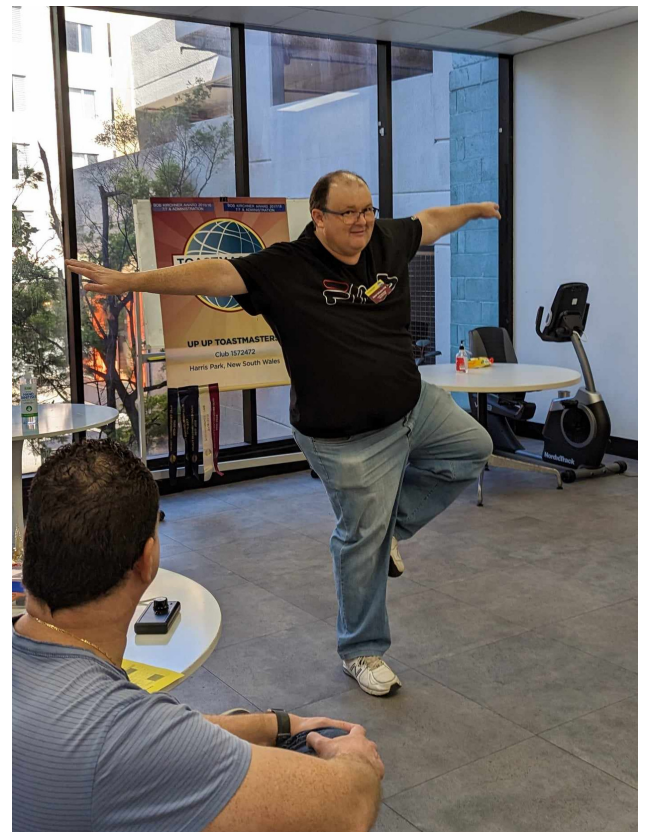


Up UP Toastmasters take having fun seriously...12 years after chartering under the auspices of the NSW Downs Syndrome Association, the club still has 5 of it's charter members. With 8/10 points gained in the 2022-23 term the members voted themselves DCP (Determined Confident & Practical) Toastmasters. Meeting face to face on the first Saturday of each month at 11 Albion St Harris Park, the club has a fully integrated and compassionate membership who share lots of laughs whilst learning together. Still meeting via zoom on the third Saturday of each month, the club invites you to visit us - contact Margaret 0425238021 or message us via Facebook.



ABOVE: At our Christmas meeting members elected to donate to a hamper for a family doing it tough rather than to give gifts to each other.

ABOVE: A very "balanced" speech on agility!



Club News

Some News From Clubs Across District 90

Happy 30th Birthday Sapphire City Toastmasters!



Members - past and present - of Sapphire City Toastmasters as well as guests from Moree, Glen Innes and Inverell Breakfast came together at the Inverell Salvation Army Hall on June 19th to celebrate their 30th Anniversary as well as their Changeover. President Kate, added a little bit of history with a PowerPoint presentation of many of the clubs fun times, and achievements.

Members who have been with the club over a number of years were acknowledged, including Bruce George, a past D69 Governor and past D90 Northern Division Director, also celebrated 30 years with the club, being one of the charter members.

The Club's two annual awards - the Encouragement Award (the Most Improved Toastmaster as voted by the members) and the Toastmaster of the Year - were presented by Kate. The Encouragement Award went to Helen Tickle, and the Toastmaster of the Year went to Neurelle Lyon.

The incredible Delvene Delany (aka Hollie) dropped in with Tony Barber (aka Nuerelle) to game show Table Topics Questions (with banned words to cause even the most seasoned Toastmaster a moment to think) that the audience had to guess what the question was and what the banned words were.

Area 18 Director Heidi Adams installed the new Club Officers, with incoming Area 18 Director Jono Gaukroger stepping in for the absent President. Then it was time for cake and tea!



Happy 10th Birthday Macquarie Park Toastmasters!



Macquarie Park Toastmasters celebrated its 10-year anniversary on 18th of June at the Marsfield Community Centre by holding a party which included a delicious meal, speeches and games. About 40 people attended including founding members, past members, current members and guests who had attended some meetings previously. All these people helped to paint a picture of the history of our club. As well as visitors from neighbouring clubs, we were honoured to welcome REgion 12 Advisor Michael Said DTM, and incoming District Director Geoff Pullen DTM and incoming District Public Relations Manager Dani Streets DTM.

Macquarie Park Toastmasters was chartered on 26th June 2013 at the Schneider Electric office when a group of company staff saw a need for better communications training within the company and banded together to form an open club. Throughout the years the club has survived through ups and downs with venue changes and the challenges of meeting virtually due to COVID to where the club is at in the present day of weekly Zoom meetings each Tuesday from 1-2pm. Visitors and guests always welcome.

We look forward to our 20th year celebration next and more to come!



Happy Birthday to...

Wallsend Toastmasters for 20 years

Taree Toastmasters for 55 years