

Thirroul Toastmasters Times

President's Report



Hello Toasties,

How good a speaker is Robert Ollis? Every time he delivers a speech I'm blown away. I find myself rethinking what was said for months. He is always polished, well researched and has that elusive quality of 'listenability'. I have used his speeches as goalposts for my own and I know he has inspired others in the same way. When Robert announced that he was leaving Toasties, a void was created that will be very hard to fill. You will be missed Robert.

Our challenge as a club is to have the depth to recover from the loss of key members. Thirroul Toastmasters has been well tested in this, and I am pleased to say that the club is as robust as ever. A brand new venue, a fresh and

energetic executive, lots of new great members, these auger well for the clubs future.

This being my last presidential address, i would like to take the opportunity to thank the current executive for carrying me though my tenure and wish the new team well for the year ahead.

In the words of Harley (our last president) " The ship's running straight, the larder's well stocked - Full steam ahead".

Luke Yewen

Diary Dates

Monday 7 July club meeting at Thirroul Library - Red Cedar room

Monday 21 July club meeting at Thirroul Library - Red Cedar room

Note that all club meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

May Meetings

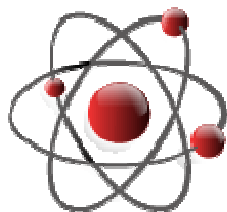
11 May

A well attended meeting with 8 members and 2 visitors, Greg Stewart and Ian Dally. The Table Topics Master was Janis Gale with some searching topics on participant's hobbies and past times. The night also saw a return to the Point of View Session, where Jim Ollis argued that the problem with modern society was that the man in the house no longer had the remote control.

There were 2 speakers for the night. Iain McDonald spoke from the Research a Topic speech from the Competent Communicator manual with "The Dreaming". He spoke about the Wadi Wadi people and gave members a fascinating insight into Aboriginal history with a well researched speech.



David Abernethy spoke from the Specialty Speeches manual, Speak Off the Cuff and was given a speech titled "The Mother of the Nuclear Age", about the career of Lise Meitner.



25 May

Another enjoyable meeting with 8 members and 2 visitors, Antoine Larchez and a familiar face to some of the longer members of the club, Michelle Deroubaix.

The Table Topics Master was Sabine Mascarenhas, with the theme of "How to Become a Better Speaker". Unfortunately the standard response seemed to revolve around "Just waffle, because nobody listens to what you are saying". A great idea for table topics and a real tragedy about the lack of content from some of the more senior club members.

There were 4 speakers on the night, Robert Ollis "Words", David Abernethy "What I Talk About When I Talk About Running" (Competent Communicator manual Speech 3 Get to The Point). There were then 2 speeches from the Competent Communicator manual Organise Your Speech) Janis Gale "A Mystery" and Catherine McGrath "What Did I Come Here For". Janis spoke about experiences as a mystery shopper and had some helpful tips for shopping, particularly for the male members present.



Catherine tackled the subject of dementia, causing concern with some members after the test for sufferers.

English Language

The European Commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government has conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).

In the first year "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly sivil servants will reseive this news with joy. Also the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"s in the language is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by "z" and "w" by "v". During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords containing "ou", and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

Quotes to Consider

"The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes."

Winston Churchill



"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something."

Plato (Ancient Greek philosopher)

