

SOUTHERN CROSS

December 2005
Edition 17

Newsletter of Toastmasters International, District 73
Published monthly

DTM Dinner

The stirring of an idea grew and grew and lead to a dream that was fulfilled with the DTM Dinner held on 3 December 2005.

The evening began with over 70 people coming together to recognise and congratulate those who have reached the highest level in the Toastmaster Awards, namely that of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM).

Thirteen DTMs were recognised, some through a roast and others by an interview. All had given major efforts to reach this level.

It was a night with many varied highlights. Starting with the diverse stories of reaching DTM level. Many showed their dedication to the ideals of Toastmasters and wanting to assist others in the Toastmaster tradition.

The guest speaker for the evening was Peter Ward, a leading Melbourne lawyer, whose talk about criminal law challenged those present. Peter stated that Australian law is based on British jurisprudence, being adversarial and

based on the accused is innocent until proven guilty.

Peter provided guests with a very informative and thought provoking talk, which was designed to have people thinking and to be averse to jumping to a conclusion after reports by the media. Essentially it is the legal system which decides the guilt or innocence of the accused, not the media.



From a social perspective it was an enjoyable evening together with friends that will be remembered for a long time to come.

It is hoped that a tradition has been started that will be continued so that others can be recognised as they reach the level of Distinguished Toastmaster and then inspire others to follow in the foot steps of these DTMs that have gone before them.

*Bernard Marmion,
Eastern Division Governor*

Inside this issue:

Editorial Comment	2
From hot February to DTM	2
Word of Mouth leads to DTM	3
Education Achievements	3
D73 Convention Update	4
New to Toastmasters	6
Club Officer Lists	6
Celebrations and Changes	6
District 73 Council Meeting	7
History of Box Hill Toastmasters	8
Area Governor Reports	9
An Inside View of Clubs that Move	10
Koori Toastmasters Club	11

Season's
Greetings



Another calendar year is closing whether it be as an individual a celebrate Christmas and for those and it only seems like last week that family, or Toastmaster fulfillment. that don't, all are wished a safe and we were celebrating New happy festive season. Year. We are about to start the sixth year of the millennium and no doubt we have plans for 2006. May those plans come to a joyful fruition,

Editorial Comment

There is a great deal of diversity in Toastmasters and for those who

I thank those who have contributed during the last 3 months and I look forward to your contributions in 2006.

Phil White ATM-B, CL, Editor

From hot February to DTM

On a hot February evening in 1997, I went for the first time to Whitehorse Toastmasters. I was a mouse. A nervous little mouse. I looked at the head table and wondered how they could sit there, exposed to everyone and not fall apart with self-conscious terror. The Table Topics Master gave me a topic. I lasted more than 30 seconds and I was amazed to find that the world did not end. The audience even applauded when I sat down. I got a huge high, about 7.8 on the Richter Scale and I could tell that Toastmasters was the medicine I needed.

Two years earlier, I was doing a series of presentations to teachers. I used to get really nervous. My tongue would stick to the roof of my mouth. One time I stopped to sip some water but I shook so much that the water danced out of the glass. It was lucky I found out about Toastmasters!

In July 1997, I became Sergeant at Arms. It was great. I had a reason to say "hello" to members as they arrived and I could choose the biscuits for supper. I became an expert on chocolate biscuits. My table topics were reaching 90 seconds.

Members started saying I should be the next club president. It seemed like a crazy idea because I had no sense of leadership and I still felt like a novice. However, after the eighth person suggested it, I felt there was an opportunity which I'd be mad to pass up.

In July 1998, I became Club President. I received support from many people. I studied meeting procedure. I looked at other clubs. I learnt about Area, Division and District.

Norman Lingwood taught me how to do Speechcraft. I became addicted to Toastmaster Conventions.

A year after being Club President, I became Area Governor. This is the best role in Toastmasters. I found that our Area is like a family. I made several more friends and clubs treated me like royalty. By this stage I achieved Advanced Toastmaster bronze and Competent Leader. I could see that I needed to be a club mentor if I was to achieve Advanced Leader.



In July 2000, with the help of Jim Dinan, I became a club mentor for the newly forming Carrington Central Toastmasters Club. It had been sponsored by George Liew and it chartered on 20 July.

Over the next 3 years I completed ATM Silver at Carrington Central and ATM Gold at Whitehorse.

In 2004-5, Bernard Marmion (currently Eastern Division Governor) gave me the push that I needed to get my HPLP (High Performance Leadership Program) and that was my final hurdle leading to DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster). DTM! Current Carrington Central President, Jaz

Calais calls it my "Dr of TM". It has taken me 8 years and 9 months since that hot February evening when I first walked in to Whitehorse Toastmasters. It has changed me in to a more confident person.

Now I can speak without falling apart and I'm working on my HTSS (How to stop speaking).

Andrew Weatherald, DTM

Word of Mouth leads to DTM

As part of my business, it's my job to bring influential dentists and orthodontists from overseas to give lectures to dentists here in Australia. I was also given the job of introducing them, which filled me with dread. After one such introduction, a ten-second effort, the speaker from Scotland spoke to me at break time and suggested I join Toastmasters so I could improve my efforts.

Some months later, I turned up at Knox to observe a meeting. I attended six meetings as a guest, always refusing invitations to speak or join in at all. Eventually after asking myself why I was coming at all, I jumped in and "gave it a go".

The club members were very supportive and gave me the encouragement to continue.

After about 18 months in Toastmasters, a dentist in Singapore suggested to me that I could lecture in Singapore at his invitation. I decided to give it a go, figuring if I messed it up, no one knows me anyway and I'll just disappear. It went so well that things just snowballed from that one lecture. I now present about 50 lectures a year

"I now present about 50 lectures a year ... lectured for 600 dentists ... left with all expenses paid and a nice cheque".

around the world and get paid to do it. I have lectured for 600 dentists at big meetings in USA and left with all expenses paid AND a nice cheque.

I've been in Toastmasters for 10 years and have taken my time achieving my DTM, I've enjoyed every step along the way.

Toastmasters has given me the know how and the confidence to do this, has helped me in many areas of my personal and professional life and I'm glad I took the step that night to stand up and introduce myself to the Knox members.

Graham Manley, DTM

Education Achievements

Believe it or not the Toastmasters year is almost half over! The 'maturity' of our District (meaning we have a large number of members who stay in the organisation beyond their CTM) means that our goal for ATMs is well on the way to being reached. In contrast, CTMs are moving slightly more slowly with 34% of the goal reached so far. For those interested in a Division by Division breakdown of awards registered, this table shows our progress so far (including where we were this time last month):

Lisa Cluett DTM, Lt Gov Education and Training

Award	Central	Eastern	Metro	Northern	Southern	Western	District Total	District goal
CTM	5	14	5	8	20	15	67 (34%)	198
ATM	2	9	5	5	3	17	41 (72%)	57
CL	-	1	2	2	2	4	11	-
AL	1	2	-	-	2	2	7	-
DTM	1	3	-	1	2	1	8	-
Current Total	9	29	12	16	29	37	132	-
Total at end Oct	7	21	8	11	25	35	107	-

**Tasmanian Toastmasters Invites You to
Annual D73 Convention
19-21 May 2006
at the Country Club Resort Launceston, Tasmania
Early Bird Registration \$190 Full Registration \$220**

When This Town Talks ...

Convention Website: <http://www.d73.toastmasters.org.au/convention2006/>

I have been involved with Toastmasters for only a couple of months but have found so many avenues and possibilities for future success. I will report the experiences I've had as a newcomer to Toastmasters, the introduction and expectations of the convention, and the surprises that await you not only at the Tasmanian Convention but all that this beautiful Island has to offer and entice you.

Firstly I feel compelled to explain the circumstances which brought me to Toastmasters. About two years ago at the age of 22 I experienced a life altering event which was totally out of my control, it was this event that led me to question who I was, who I wanted to be and most importantly where I wanted to go in life. After a deal of soul searching I was given some great advice from a mentor who helped me realise which direction I wanted to take in life. I had always been passionate about writing since an early age and had been involved in media studies throughout my school years, however it was only at this stage in my life that it finally dawned on me; I wanted to be a Journalist / Media Presenter. I finally had an ambition which I was determined to reach.

After many set backs trying to find employment in this field my mentor suggested I try Toastmasters as an avenue to success. I first contacted Toastmasters a couple of months ago to enquire when their next meeting was and how I could become involved. The hours before my first meeting were very daunting; I'd painted a picture in my head similar to that of a common school room speech. I am sure most Toastmasters are familiar or have experienced walking to the front of a room or boardroom with expectations of having to speak to your peers. Your heart is pounding, it feels as

though the temperature of the room has risen, your mind shuts down and won't let you think of what to say, then when you make it to the front of the room you stand there peering out at your audience as all eyes are on you in anticipation. Finally, you start to speak. The first words are calm, but then you just try and get the speech over and done with in as little time as possible so you can sit down, sinking into your seat to hide from the embarrassment. This was my previous experience of public speaking ... that was until I became a member of Toastmasters!

I was very relieved when I arrived at my first meeting to realise that Toastmasters has a very different atmosphere to the one that I had imagined. The entire group welcomed me happily, and even though my heart still pounded as I introduced myself, the group's warm smiling faces encouraged me to continue. It was their encouragement that gave me the confidence to have a go at table topics. I only made it to 50 seconds before I went completely blank, however, the warm applause from the group and the fact that I was able to give it a go gave me a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

From that first meeting I knew Toastmasters was going to be an important part of my life and a stepping stone to future success.

Through this newsletter I hope to introduce all newcomers to the experiences and opportunities available from Toastmasters, while perhaps jogging some of the experienced members' minds what they felt when they were first introduced to Toastmasters. So, until my next issue I'd like to leave you with a motto which Toastmasters means to me... **FUTURE SUCCESS.**

*Natalie Edwards, Convention Reporter
Damian Chong, Convention Chairman*





Country Club Resort, Launceston

Provisional Convention Program

Pre-Convention Optional Programs for Friday (around \$55 per person)

- # Guided Bus Tour of Launceston (Pick up from Country Club Resort)
- # Tamar River boat trip to view the Gorge and surrounding valley
- # Boags Brewery Tour (Winner of Australia's Best Beer - many times)

=====

Friday 19 May 2006	5:00 p.m.	Registration
	6:00 p.m.	Welcome BBQ Grand Opening Humorous Speech Contest
Saturday 20 May 2006	8.30 a.m.	Registration
	9.00 a.m.	Workshops 1 & 2 Morning Tea Poster & Sponsors Display Evaluation Speech Contest Workshop 2 & 3 LUNCH Workshop 1 & 3 Afternoon Tea District 73 Council Meeting
	6.00 p.m.	Pre-Contest Nibbles
	6.30 p.m.	International Speech Contest
	8.00 p.m.	Dinner Dance
Sunday 21 May 2006	9.00 a.m.	Registration District Committee Open Forum Morning Tea Table Topics Speech Contest Luncheon Closing Ceremony

Convention Website: <http://www.d73.toastmasters.org.au/convention2006/>

New to Toastmasters

Club	Name	Club	Name	Club	Name
ANZ Talk of the Town	Kerry Santamaria	Gourmet	Judith Anderson	Rising Stars	Kutty Veluthakkal
ANZ Talk of the Town	Vani Halapeti	Gourmet	Allan Crompton	Rising Stars	Candice Parsons
ANZ Talk of the Town	Simon Brink	Justalk	Avril Andrew	Rising Stars	Robert Grahame
BHP Billiton	Gina Kriketos	Kingston	Mark West	Rising Stars Melbourne	Catherine Fenwick South Sarah James
Bunbury	Joe Patane	Launceston	Sara M Johns	Speakers on the Terrace	Franca La Bella
Bunbury	Darryn Rennie	Launceston	Denise M Wilson	Speakers on the Terrace	Carlo La Bella
Bunbury	Rose Hopwood	Monash	Anura Amarasena	Speakers on the Terrace	Peter Harris
Carrington Central	Wesley Nation	Moonee Ponds	Anna Boland	Speakers on the Terrace	Lorraine Harris
Carrington Central	Edward Ho	More Than Words	Richard Busulwa	Speakers on the Terrace	Claude Silvestri
Chesterville Chatterers	Brandon Delaney	Morning Star	Vicky Clarke	Speakers on the Terrace	Amy Richards
City of Perth	Kwan Tan	Morning Star	Martin Lindsay	Speakers on the Terrace	Tom Blackford
Cranbourne	Emina Hamzic	Nine-90	Michael L Anstis	Synergy	Julie Turner
Doncaster	Phil Schibeci	Northbridge	Brenda Higham	Tea Tree Gully	Michael Norman
Esanda	Leanne Browne	Postmasters	Yung Ling Shanny Chen	Tea Tree Gully	Wendy Norman
Essendon	Mark Roper	Power Talk	Callum Ginks	Telstra Exhibition Terrace	Cameron Pritchard Sarah Finlay
Essendon	Brendan Nicholls	Power Talk	Simon Ginks		
Glen Waverley	Alexandra Anastasoglou	Rising Stars	Lee-ann Middleton		

Judy Murphy DTM, New Membership Coordinator

Club Officer Lists

District 73 has a handful of clubs that meet weekly. These clubs are required to hold elections for club officers twice each Toastmaster year and to submit the results of those elections to TMI.

Club Presidents can do this via the Club Business page on the TMI website. Don't forget to do this by the deadline - 31 December!!

Lisa Cluett DTM Lt Gov Education and Training

Celebrations and Changes

Happy Birthday Celebrations

The following clubs celebrated the anniversary of their charter in **November:**

- Northern Stars: 1 Nov was 9.
- Adelaide: 5 Nov was 32.
- Northbridge: 6 Nov was 13.
- City of Perth: 10 Nov was 19.
- Kingston: 19 Nov was 13.
- Moorabbin Saints: 20 Nov was 18.
- City Centre: 27 Nov was 21.
- Mornington Peninsula: 27 Nov was 24.
- Victoria Quay: 27 Nov was 10.
- Ballarat: 28 Nov was 27.
- Techno Speakers: 30 Nov was 12.

The following clubs will be celebrating the anniversary of their chartering in **December:**

- North Adelaide: 1 Dec was 29.
- Karratha: 1 Dec was 12.
- Talking Blue: 1 Dec was 6.
- Melbourne: 4 Dec was 43.
- Nillumbik: 5 Dec was 17.
- Frankston: 7 Dec was 32.
- Talkabout: 7 Dec was 29.
- Naracoorte: 8 Dec was 44.
- Box Hill: 12 Dec was 20.
- Bunbury: 17 Dec will be 3.
- Quintessence: 30 Dec will be 14.

Name Changes

- St James AMP – Box Hill
- Kodak – Northern Exposure
- St Kilda – South Melbourne
- Guide Dogs – Kew
- Clayton RSL – The Oaks
- BHP – BHP Billiton
- Burwood Unity – Boroondara

District 73 Council Meeting

From Building Strength On Diversity To Unification

A milestone was achieved on Saturday 12 November 2005, at The Palms Community Centre, Subiaco, Western Australia, when the first ever District 73 Semi Annual Council meeting was held in Perth!

Ian Pickens, coordinator, and Area Governor W20, welcomed and acknowledged the following guests among the 70 delegates.

latest news from TMI and the May 2006 District Convention to be held in Launceston. Jacqui spoke of the marketing opportunities open to all clubs.

Cliff Boer, World Championship speaker 2003, offered insights in his workshop "How to win the World Championship of Public Speaking" which was followed by Lance Miller's World Champion 2005 speech entitled "The Most Important Question".

being done by many members.

Betty reported that she is excited with the growth potential for her Division.

" ... the first ever District 73 Semi Annual Council meeting was held in Perth".

Andris invited discussion on the location of the District Annual Convention, 2007. Western Australia was proposed with Betty to submit a formal bid. This initiative, not surprisingly, was received with acclamation by the meeting!

Bernard reminded members of the first District DTM Dinner, (*see report page one, Ed*), recognising all DTMs for their commitment. There was general agreement that the idea of running a DTM Dinner as part of future conventions be considered.

Details of all the business proceedings have been posted to the District web site under *Members Information*

www.d73.toastmasters.org.au

A sausage sizzle, salads, and dessert washed down with cool Western Australian refreshments in the comfort of a perfect Perth day concluded a very successful afternoon. Interstate guests, Executive officers, members and District 73 were the clear winners in this milestone event.

Pascale Amberville-Colby
Western Division Marketing
Coordinator



District Governor - Andris Bilkens DTM and partner Chris Noble DTM; Lt. Governor Education and Training - Lisa Cluett DTM; Lt. Governor Marketing - Jacqueline Gullick DTM; Division Governors - David Reynolds ATMS (Metropolitan Div.); Bernard Marmion ATMB (Eastern Div.); and Betty Hart ATMS (Western Div.).

The Council Meeting was chaired by Andris Bilkens, who opened the meeting and recognised Western Division Distinguished Toastmasters with DTM medallions. Lisa Cluett presented the

Members have since been "validating and Ch-chinking regularly"! One highlight was Andrew Horabin's workshop on how to include humour in presentations. A natural comedian and talented public speaker he gave us valuable insights into the art of comedy.

Betty Hart gave the Invocation, highlighting the personal development opportunities offered by membership of Toastmasters.

Bernard Marmion, reported that his Division is very active with good work



Eastern Division will be conducting Club Officer training in the morning of 18 February at Whitehorse Council Chambers.

Three guest speakers will speak on Motivation, Improving memory and Personal development. There will be sessions on marketing your club, what is there after your CTM? And an open question and answer session. Members can speak with their Area Governors at an Area meeting.

The training is open to all members as well as club officers.

For more information contact Alicia on 0419 368 165 or Bernard on (03) 9877 4825.

History of Box Hill Toastmasters

In February 1971 a club was formed at the offices of AMP in Melbourne. The club took its name from the building that AMP had its offices. St. James Toastmasters was formed. Over the next 20 years the club stopped and started several times. On 15 December 1985 the club, now called St. James AMP Toastmasters, received its latest charter which it still has today. The club moved location when most of its members were not based where the club met. The new location was the AMP offices in Box Hill because most of the club's members now were based at Box Hill.

Early in 1992 St. James AMP Toastmasters was in trouble. With only three active members and a couple of others that occasionally attended, it was on the verge of being disbanded. At this time, the remaining members had lost their enthusiasm to continue. The then Eastern Division Governor Les Ager asked one of his Area Governors, Robert Davis, if there was anyway that he could help the club. Robert accepted the challenge, and with the help of fellow member of Knox Toastmasters, Howard Wills and Noel Edyvane for the City Tax Office club set about rebuilding the club.

A decision was made to change the club into a community club to be known as Box Hill Toastmasters and move to the Box Hill Library. Robert became President and the goals of achieving charter strength and being a Select Distinguished Club were set. These goals were both achieved in the first full year as a community club. Howard and Noel followed Robert as President in the following years. The club was a Select Distinguished Club and a Distinguished Club in each of those years.

Under the leadership of Bruce Dite in 1995-96, the club attained the No. 3 ranking out of 120 in District 73. Also achieved in this year were another of Select Distinguished Club award and a District Gold Elite award. In the following year the club was lead by Penelope Hajos, the club's first female President, followed by Roger Thompson and Dominic Varrasso. In these three years the club was a Select Distinguished Club each time.

The club lost a number of experienced members during the late 1990s. A young, highly enthusiastic group replaced these members. Adrian Lim became President and in the first year under the new Distinguished Club Program the club was recognised as a Distinguished Club.

A new broom was swept through the club when Sylvia Chuah took the reins as President. Her exceptional leadership skills had immediate results when the club was recognised by Toastmasters International under the Distinguished Club Program as a President's Distinguished Club. This award was achieved again in the next year when Andrew Stimson was President until December when he went interstate and VPE Andrew Breeden, took control of the club as Acting President.

Andrew became the President in the following year. The club had membership trouble this year. In July, long time club member and Distinguished Toastmaster Howard Wills retired from Toastmasters

and work commitments had taken away many members from the club, with the club's membership hitting single figures. Andrew saw this as a challenge and with assistance from his fellow club members undertook an intensive marketing campaign that saw membership climb back to 21 before the end of the Toastmasters year. The club was a President's Distinguished Club again, the third year in a row.

Long time club member Peter Rorke took the helm of the club in 2003-4. The club had a growing membership and a desire to achieve which saw the club reach Select Distinguished status. In the current year Andrew Breeden has again taken over as President and has the goal of being a President's Distinguished Club.

Box Hill members have conducted many corporate and community Speechcraft courses. They have also been instrumental in the establishment of numerous new Toastmasters Clubs, including Communicators 73, Nine Ninety, Ford, Balaclava, Rowville, Toasting on Swanston (RMIT) and HP Shakers and Breakers.

Three club members have achieved their DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster). They are Robert Davis, Howard Wills and Bruce Dite. Sylvia Chuah will also have achieved her DTM award in the near future.

Over the years, members have served the district in many positions outside the club. Some of these have been: Jim Morris: District Treasurer, Bruce Dite: Area and Division Governor, Penelope Hajos: Area Governor, Howard Wills: Area and Division Governor and District Youth Leadership Coordinator, Sylvia Chuah: Area and Division Governor and Andrew Breeden: Assistant Southern Cross Editor.

In 1998 club member John Spinella won the District International Speech Contest and represented the District in the World Championships of Public Speaking.

Andrew Breeden, Area Governor (E14)



Area Governor Reports

District 73 has performed well in meeting the deadline for submission of the first Area Governor (AG) report of the year. AGs are required to visit clubs at least twice a year and to complete a simple form on the club meetings, goals and challenges. The form needs to be submitted to TMI. The introduction of online submission has streamlined this process. (AGs used to post their forms to the District Governor who then mailed them to TMI by the deadline.) Most AGs in District 73 used this method to submit their reports.

Submission of the AG reports comprises one of the goals in the **Distinguished Area** program - something each AG works towards during their year in office. The goal states that AGs should submit 75 per cent of their reports by the deadline (30 November). If an Area has six clubs in it then four reports need to be received to reach the goal.

A breakdown of progress for the November round of visits appears below.

Area Governors who met the submission goal (75 per cent of Area reports)

C22 – Gaynor Quinn
S5 – Dennis Keay
S7 – John Goh
W16 – Paul Merrick
W20 – Ian Pickens
W28 – Eric Davies

Area Governors who submitted 100 per cent of Area reports (exceeded the goal!!)

C18 – Helen Kubenk
C27 – Graham Schliebs
E2 – Stephen Forrest
E14 – Andrew Breeden
E15 – Graham Keen
E17 – Len Moore
M4 – Sean Collins
M11 – Bruce Hill
M23 – Karen Carmichael
M24 – David Reynolds

M25 – Andrew Monaghan
N3 – Carrol Jones
N8 – Steven Walkington
N19 – Andy Dunwoodie
S12 – Dixon Kenney
W10 – Medhat Takla
W13 – Gil Alexander
W21 – David Nicholas

(Five Areas out of the 29 in the District have not quite met the goal – C9, N1, S6, S26, W29.)

Congratulations to Bernard Marmion and David Reynolds, respective Division Governors of Eastern and Metropolitan Divisions, whose teams managed to get 100 per cent of reports in for their whole Division, a great achievement. I hope all the AGs found the online submission forms easy to use – it certainly streamlines the process!! The second round of visit forms is due by the end of May 2006.

Lisa Cluett DTM
Lt Gov Education and Training

Metropolitan Division

Convention and Speech Contests

When: From 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Saturday 11 February 2006

Where: Council of Adult Education, 253 Flinders Lane, MELB.

Admission Free, Bring a Friend

PLUS - receive a Free Educational

See the best of the Metrop Crop compete at Division level in Table Topics, Evaluation, Humorous and International Speech contests.

D D D D D D D

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING

At least four Club Officers must attend to achieve Distinguished Club goals!

When: 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. 16 February 2006

Where: Aust Post HQ, Level 9, 321 Exhibition St MELB

Bookings: Contact David Reynolds on 0413 306 918 or send electronic mail to david_reynolds@iprimus.com.au

Central Division

Conference 2006

Day Session:

9.30 a.m. Registration
10.00 a.m. Evaluation Contest followed by morning tea
11.00 a.m. Impromptu Contest followed by lunch
1.30 p.m. Humorous Contest

Evening Session: "A Touch of Heaven"

Come dressed to impress with a "Touch of Heaven"

6.00 p.m. Registration
6.30 p.m. Drinks and Entrée in Courtyard
7.00 p.m. International Speech Contest
8.00 p.m. Dinner followed by Dessert ... Dancing till late

When - Saturday 25 March

Where - St Paul's Function Centre

cnr Pulteney and Flinders St Adelaide

An Inside View of Three Clubs that Moved

No. 1 – Berwick

Berwick Toastmasters Club chartered three years ago with 23 members at The Old Cheese Factory in Berwick, Victoria.

The Old Cheese Factory was a little out of the centre of Berwick proper. It is a historical site and we were using the old chapel. Old buildings do have their inadequacies, this one being extremely hot in summer and cold in winter. The facilities were also a bit sad with only an 'in cupboard kitchen' and the toilets and car park a little walk away. At night, and when raining it was a bit daunting.

Membership started to decline for a

number of reasons and so we started thinking about a change of venue.

The executive decided on a room at the Berwick R.S.L. where there is a workable kitchen, in house toilets and air

conditioning. We are meeting in a somewhat small room but, there is a larger one available should we grow much bigger. We are only one block from the main street and easily found.

Since changing venues we have had an upsurge in membership and visitors are

frequent. Our VPE has introduced some great ideas for growth too! We have recruited seven new members since

"The facilities were also a bit sad with only an 'in cupboard kitchen' and the toilets and car park a little walk away. At night, and when raining it was a bit daunting".

moving but that is not saying that the change of venue is the sole reason for our success, but a very important part of it nevertheless.

Doug Gullick

No. 2 – Mentone to Sandbelt

During the first half of 2004-5, Mentone, a club of 29 years was struggling with an official membership of twelve, but during March 2005 the membership situation was very tenuous and the club was about to fold. Although they had twelve members, only seven of these were active and attendance at meetings was only five or six.

George Randall and David John decided to pledge their support to the club and

to less than ideal venues. Firstly they were at Parkdale Yacht Club, then moved to Stella Maris Primary School which was an improvement but still not ideal. For example during the dark nights of winter visitors often found it difficult to find the venue, owing to its obscure location, lack of signage and its poorly lit street and car park.

When George and David started as club coaches they realised that a change of

venue was essential and possibly a new name.

After several months of searching they had

narrowed it down to two possibilities, being the Mentone RSL or the Beaumaris Community Centre, which was an excellent and much newer facility, but not near Mentone.

The Committee eventually decided on the Beaumaris venue because it was larger, an easier to find location, and with an adequate and a very well lit car

park. They were also aware that visitors could easily locate and enter the building because it was in the same building as the Community Library, providing an opportunity to recruit new members.

Since they were no longer meeting at Mentone, the Committee proposed a new name be given, and this was approved by the members.

On 23 November the new name was formally announced as **Sandbelt** Toastmasters Club, during the Area S6 Humorous and Table Topics Contests.

The existing six-member committee along with Coaches George and David are now under way with a recruitment drive in the club's new location and things are certainly promising. They now have nine active members with two visitors agreeing to join and another three at the beginning of the Toastmaster year. This will bring the membership to 14 before the actual recruitment drive starts.

George Randall

"The committee ... are now under way with a recruitment drive in the club's new location and things are certainly promising".

this lifted the spirits of the members immediately.

Around July they recruited another two members and a new committee was formed including the two new members who were keen and eager to move the club forward.

The club has a long history, and it recently suffered these difficulties due

An Inside View of Three Clubs that Moved

No. 3 – Speakers on The Terrace

This club chartered in March 2001. It was conceived and assisted by EDS (an IT outsourcing company). They required that each member attain at least CTM status to facilitate their requirement for leadership and speaking abilities.

New management in EDS were not supporting those previous ideals and membership started to reduce and the club ended up with just three members including myself. Another problem that affected us was the high security entry procedure that made it impossible to gain access if running late. The meeting's agenda had not changed but the people have! It was obvious that something had to happen.

It was the change of venue, meeting day and time!

With the then Central Division Governor Andris Bilkens'

local knowledge of the area the club soon had another venue. We obtained the help of some extra dedicated members to produce and deliver fliers to the surrounding areas, slowly

"The meeting's agenda had not changed but the people have! It was obvious that something had to happen".

membership grew. In June 2005 we had 12 members we now have 21 members with a few waiting to join in the New Year. This move has saved "Speakers on the Terrace" from a sure demise. If your club is struggling and you have tried everything then a change of venue might be the answer.

Anna Riggs DTM

Koori Toastmasters Club

The first Koori Toastmasters has been established at a special ceremony at Sydney's Redfern Community Centre. Koori Toastmasters was set up 18 months ago by members of the Wadangarri Aboriginal Corporation.

It's not a typical toastmasters club, in Table Topics, members have to incorporate a word from Indigenous languages.

The club is about giving the Indigenous community a comfortable environment to develop public speaking skills because Indigenous people are increasingly being called upon to speak on behalf of their community.

It's not an exclusive club. There are several non-Indigenous members as well as attendees from other toastmaster clubs. Just going to the club in Redfern is an experience for people. When they walk in the door and they see Kooris getting up and having a say, being confident, and practicing the skill of speaking in front of others immediately shoots all of those negative stereotypes of Aboriginal people.

Adapted from Interviews on ABC's AM program, 16 November, 2005.

See full interview at

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1507697.htm>



SOUTHERN CROSS

Newsletter of Toastmasters International, District 73

Published monthly.

The views expressed in *Southern Cross* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the District Executive, District 73 or Toastmasters International.

Editor:

Phil White ATM (B) CL
56 Coachwood Dr
Aberfoyle Park SA 5159
(ph): (08) 8270 2997
newsletter@d73.toastmasters.org.au

Publisher:

Andris Bilkens DTM
PO Box 262
Unley SA 5061
(ph): (08) 8242 2990
districtgovernor@d73.toastmasters.org.au

Contributions

Contributions for *Southern Cross* can be made by e-mailing them to the editor.

Contributions should be received by the last day of the month before publication.

Next Edition

January 2006 – Edition 18.

Available on 16 January 2006.

Central Division
Club Officer training
4 February 2006
Education Development Centre,
Milner St. HINDMARSH
12:45 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. start



District 73 Annual Convention 19 - 21 May 2006

When This Town Talks ...

Country Club Casino/Resort Launceston, TASMANIA

REGISTRATION BY POST/FAX: One form per person please. Registration confirmed upon receipt of payment.			
Send to: Vicki Travers C/- Mersey Pharmacy 17-21 Murray St East Devonport TAS 7310 FAX: 03 6427 0585		Enquiries: Vicki Travers Phone: (03) 6427 7912 Mobile: 0408 188 676 Email: vickitravers40@hotmail.com	
SURNAME:		FIRST NAME:	
POSTAL ADDRESS	No./Street:		
	Suburb:		
	City:	State:	Postcode:
PHONE:	Wk:	A/H:	FAX:
MOBILE:	EMAIL:		
CLUB:	Will this be your FIRST Toastmaster's Conference? YES /NO		
Any special meal requirements?			
PACKAGES	Early Bird Closes 19 March	Full Payment	Sub total
Convention package from Friday 5 PM through to Sunday	\$ 190	\$ 220	\$
Convention package including "Launceston Talks" Friday Day Tour	\$ 245	\$ 275	\$
FRIDAY DAY TOUR Optional Social Day "Launceston Talks" Tour Light Lunch Included.	\$ 55		\$
FRIDAY EVENING Opening, BBQ & Humorous Contest	\$ 50		\$
SATURDAY DAY Workshops & Evaluation Contest	\$ 75		\$
SATURDAY EVENING Dinner & International Contest	\$ 85		\$
SUNDAY DAY Keynote address, Table Topics Contest & Lunch	\$ 60		\$
TOTAL: Paying for more than one registration? Please attach & send all documents together.			\$
PAYMENT DETAILS			
Direct Debit Payable through Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 A/C: 126577923 Ref: D73Con2006 "your name(s)"			
Cheque/Money Order Please make payable to: Toastmasters International District 73 2006 Convention			
Credit Card Credited through 'Mersey Pharmacy'	Name on Card:		
Amount: \$	Visa	MasterCard	AMEX
Credit Card #	/	/	/
			Exp Date:
Signature:	No refund will be given for cancellations that occur less than 48 hours before 19th May 2006		