



December 2015

LECTERN NOTES

WESTERN LECTERN TOASTMASTERS CLUB
REGION XII, DISTRICT 90, MACQUARIE DIVISION,
AREA M2, CLUB 5069

A Message from our President

Here is our second quarterly newsletter brought to you by our wonderful Vice President of Public Relations Po Chen.

With the lead up to Christmas we are almost half way through as the new 2015/2016 executive. In this time we have so far achieved 5 out of our 10 club goals in the Distinguished Club Program which is definitely something to be proud of!

So thank you to all our members and guests for making our meetings fabulously fun and educational. I look forward to the next six months and seeing many of you continue to shine through your speeches, presentations and leadership roles. Western Lectern has a reputation for being a fun and friendly club and I am so excited and very much looking forward to seeing what the next six months has in store. I hope you will all continue on this journey with me of self discovery.

Louise Freeland CC, CCL

President, Western Lectern Toastmasters Club 5069



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page

Club Status Report.....	2
Journalist Report 7 October	3
Journalist Report 21 October	3
Journalist Report 4 November	4
Journalist Report 18 November	4
Journalist Report 2 December	4

Announcements & Anniversaries	6
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For Your Diary

20 Jan- Happy New Year

Western Lectern Toastmasters Club meets at: The Hills District Bowling Club, Jenner Street Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start

Further information on Western Lectern Toastmasters can be found on our website: <http://westernlectern.toastmastersclubs.org/> or

Phone: Lynne Harris on 9639 5509 Email: westernlectern@gmail.com

Car parking is available on the bowling club grounds

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members, for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for

Western Lectern Distinguished Club Program – Club Status To Date

Goals to Achieve	Goal	To Date	Status
1 Competent Communicator (CC) awards	2	2	✓
2 More Competent Communicator (CC) awards	2	0	2 CCs needed
3 Advanced Communicator (ACB, ACS, ACG) awards	1	0	1 AC needed
4 More Advanced Communicator (ACB, ACS, ACG) awards	1	0	1 AC needed
5 Leadership Awards (CL, ALB, ALS) or Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award	1	1	✓
6 More CL, ALB, ALS, or DTM award	1	1	✓
7 New members	4	4	✓
8 More new members	4	2	2 New Members needed
9 Club officers trained June-August	4	6	First Training Period Achieved
Club officers trained December-February	4	0	Second Training Period 4 needed
10 Membership-renewal dues on time	Y	1	✓
Club officer list on time	Y	1	



Journalist Report 7 October

"What's Cooking?"

Reported by Mark Jackson

The theme for this meeting was 'What's Cooking?'

Louise Freeland (club president) updated the club about the Area Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest which was held at our venue the previous night and reminded members to prepare for the club's upcoming Evaluation contest. It is contests galore!!!! She also advised that Bryce Watson (our visitor) will be joining the club.

16 members were present and we had 3 visitors.

Brad Fossey was the assigned Grammarian for the night and he picked the word 'Munificent'. Members needed to use this word where possible in their various speech tasks during the night. Brad did this role at short notice.

Amanda Tuckerman was the Table Topics Master, and asked impromptu questions of the audience. Some of the question made our members think very hard.....

Brad Fossey also did the Read/Recite role. Brad read an extract from 'Grown Ups – Dad joke' which resonated with the dads in the audience.

Toast of the evening was done by our new member Stephen Currey. The toast was made to the first responders at the recent shootings in Parramatta. Our visitor Bryce Watson appreciated the Toast as he works with the NSW Police Force.

Gloriana Amarasingham provided feedback as the General Evaluator at the end of the first half of the meeting. Aran is a highly skilled speaker and his feedback is always valuable.

There were 4 prepared speeches given on this night. These were done by:

Andrew Savage (Competent Communicator #1 speech)

Kathy Stenning-Hall (Competent Communicator # 7 speech)

Mark Jackson (Advanced Communicator #2 speech)

Lynne Harris (Advanced Communicator Bronze #4 speech)

Andrew Savage did his first speech – also known as the Icebreaker. Well done Andrew.

Stephen Currey also did the Listening Post role and added some fun to the end of the evening. Stephen asked 6 questions to test the audience's listening skills during the night.

The club's Evaluation contest is occurring in November – so be prepared!!!!!!



Journalist Report 21 October

"Pets on Parade"

Reported by Mark Jackson

The theme for this meeting was 'Pets on Parade'.

Louise Freeland (club president) did the welcome and reminded the club about the upcoming club Evaluation Contest that is occurring on 18th November.

Andrew Savage did a Toast to 'Positive Puppies' - then added at the end of the toast that he did not own a puppy!!

Even though there were 15 member apologies due to illnesses and work commitments, it was still a productive night. We had a long term non-active member come back (Bill Stuth) who provided valuable support during the night which included doing table topics evaluations.

Amanda Tuckerman was the assigned Grammarian for the night and she picked an unusual word – 'Impugne'. Members were asked to use this word where possible in their various speech tasks during the night.

Our experienced member Brad Fossey (sometimes called Brad 'Foley' in error by various members including the Vice President Education) was the Table Topics Master, and used a challenging method to ask 6 members 'on the spot' questions.

The club conducted its business session for the benefit of the members. While not overly exciting – it is a vital task that needs to be done at regular intervals so members know how the club is performing. Aran Nagendra did a good job of chairing this session.

There were 3 prepared speeches given on this night. These were done by:

Stephen Currey (Competent Communicator #1 speech), title was "A Quick Look at Stephen Currey"
Ali Naeimi (Competent Communicator # 2 speech), title was "Let Me Talk About My Mother Country"
Kathy Stenning-Hall (Competent Communicator # 8 speech), title was "Risk Free Environment"
Kathy Stenning-Hall earned her Competent Communicator (CC) Award as she has just completed 10 prepared speeches in her manual (although her CC8 was done this evening – the speeches were not done in order). Well done Kathy! Apart from Kathy earning a badge and certificate from Toastmasters International – the club also earns valuable points towards a Distinguished Club Award in its financial year.

2 new members were inducted into the club – Brent Thompson and Bryce Watson.

Our new member Bryce Watson did the Listening Post role and added some fun to the end of the evening. Bryce asked 6 questions to test the audience's listening skills (and attention) during the night.



Journalist Report 4 November

"History Unlocked"

Reported by Louise Freeland

Our colourful S@A Bernard Jones opened the meeting and welcomed our two visitors - Susan Xu and Prasana Subramaniam and went on to explain that our theme for the night was 'History Unlocked'! Our President Louise Freeland thanked the executive committee in her opening remarks for their amazing support with the Area Contest and confirmed that the club made a \$340 excess as host as a result of the raffle at the contest.

Our Grammarian for the evening was none other than the quick witted Stephen Currey with the word 'ameliorate' which means to make better or improve and he certainly improved the meeting by asking us to include this as part of our vocabulary during the meeting...phew!

Our President Louise Freeland jumped in at the last minute to fill the role of 'Read or Recite' with an interesting story about Abraham Lincoln's wife Mary Todd. As is the saying – behind every great man is an even greater woman!

New member Bryce Watson charged our glasses with a heart warming toast to the 'The world champions – the Kiwis' and Ali Naeimi challenged us all to questions relating to the 'Melbourne Cup' in the Table Topics segment to which Anne Rorke raced in and won the ribbon for Best Table Topic.

After a short interval and delicious supper provided by Bernard Jones our President jumped in again to fill the role of Speech Toastmaster and introduced our speakers and their speeches:

Brent Thompson' CC1 - 'A bit about me'

Amanda Tuckerman CC3 – 'Daring Greatly'

Aran Nagendra CC6 – 'India: Get that in 'd 'ya'

Our speakers were expertly evaluated by Bernard's Jones, Neil Perrau and Anne Rorke and once votes were in the winning ribbons went to:

Brent Thompson for his Ice Breaker Speech

Amanda Tuckerman for Best Speech

Anne Rorke for Best Evaluation

The winner for Best Other Assignment went to Stephen Currey for his role as Grammarian. Well done everyone for your outstanding efforts.

At the end of the evening, our President Louise Freeland reminded the members that the Club Christmas Party will be on 16th December in our normal meeting room and will include a dinner and dessert with speech and other assignments available.



Journalist Report 18 November

"Evaluation Contest"

Reported by Marina Hart

Mark scared off a blood donor and Andrews' get rich quick lotto plan failed, while Brian admitted he had all rubbish removed from his brain, and no this was not a play on words on his name, although he says it often happens as people write his name as 'brain').

Louise opened another contest, this time the Evaluators were evaluated in a low pressure contest between the oldest and the youngest and all in

between, by membership tenure that is (I know what you were thinking 😊).

Ali toasted to the 'Go home on time day' which majority of us admitted we missed. 😊

Kathy inducted Presana to the club, and the members sworn to secrecy, I meant pledged to support her in her development as a public speaker, with Dilshara being her chosen mentor.

Contestants for the Evaluation contest were:

1. Lynne
2. Amanda
3. Cathy
4. Bernard

Brian Jones explained the roles and was in the club on time although he also missed the Memo on going home on time day!

Shiv joined us from Kings Langley toastmasters as a test speaker and he educated us about customer service, from both personal experiences in that role as well as a customer who waited 25 minutes just not to be listened to! Shiv shared with us the 5 simple ways to keep the customer happy:

1. Be patient
2. Listen
3. Show you care
4. Be mindful of the time
5. Provide solution

In the interview with Shiv conducted by the Contest Toastmaster Neil, we found out that he only joined the Toastmasters 4 months ago and had already completed 6 speeches! Well done to Shiv! We also found out that he works as a Business Analyst for CISCO where he has to make sure his customers are happy. In his spare time he play badminton and officiates international contests and he loves the DIY stuff.

Contestants' Evaluations

While Lynne gave a very encouraging evaluation, Amanda kept it factual, Bernard enjoyed some throw away lines and Kathy moved through her evaluation swiftly, all of which were very constructive and provided both the test speaker Shiv and the contest

judges with some great material for both feedback and evaluation (of evaluators)!

While judges were tallying up their scores, Neil's interview with contestants uncovered that:

1. Lynne has fun living above M2 and will spend years unpacking
2. Therma-mix has 10 or 12 machines in one and the new one has better recipes (info courtesy of Amanda)
3. Kathy is a teacher as there are no jobs in psychology after "only" three years of study (she'd have to have done 6 years of study for that) and the YouTube has all DIY info for shower building enthusiasts!
4. If you call into Bernard's place for his home made beer brew it will not be his best premium which he keeps for himself, but the mainstream tap for guests

Other speeches

Alan got us all thinking about what we're thinking about in his speech on the 'Power of our thoughts' in a very enthusiastic presentation, which Lynn was as excited in evaluating, while Louise had us laughing with her garden adventures of 'Saving private sock', which Anne evaluated positively on suspense and demonstration of movement.

In conclusion

Mark's listening post hang on the power of not words but members, while Brian explained the many fold benefit of being a test speaker and evaluator. He also took us through Dundas hosting March international speech contest and Louise thanked Dale for being a great chairman.

Evening closed in great expectations for the end of year celebrations and contests looming at the start of the New Year.

Until next time, *au revoir*



Journalist Report 2 December

"It's Summer"

Reported by Mark Jackson

Hi members and visitors,

We had a fun packed meeting last Wednesday with 12 members and 2 visitors (1 new, 1 returning), which made 14. The theme of the meeting was **"It's Summer"**.

Nallan Reddy was our Chairman for the evening and ensured everything stayed on track and on time (or very close to being on time – what are a few nanoseconds here or there?)

Apart from being the Sergeant at Arms, **Bernard Jones** recited a poem at short notice for the Read/Recite role. The poem was "Tangmalangmaloo" written by John O'Brien (1878-1952).

Amanda Tuckerman as always could be relied upon to give us a role with little notice as well. She did the toast for the evening (and kept to the meeting theme) – "to Bindi's, flies and mosquitoes – thanks but no thanks".

Amanda also did a valuable role for the evening by being the Timer. Well done to Amanda for her multi-tasking skills.

Sumathi Pichai, a new Toastmaster in 2015 gave us the word of the night "PETRICHOR" with an excellent explanation and urged members and visitors to use this word where practical in the evening. This word had the desired effect – it caught us all off guard and made us think!!!

Lynne Harris - our experienced Toastmaster was the Table Topics Master and she employed a political theme. The base question was "Tell us what the government should be doing with the Daylight Savings tax" and the respondents had to play an assigned role while answering the question. 8 people (6 members, 2

visitors) were asked to play an assigned role from Lynne– which included The Queen, a TV reporter and a politician (Winston Churchill).

Andrew Savage did his Competent Communicator # 2 speech – titled "Traffic Jams and KFC" while I did my Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) #4 speech titled "Perfect Job". Both speeches had the desired effect of making the audience laugh.

Our newest member **Prasana Balasubramanian** reported on the number of Um's and Ah's that the various speakers used in the evening. As usual I was the worst offender when it came to using filler words when speaking!!

Before we end, our club's International Speech contest will be held on **20th January 2016**. I will give more information in the near future. Minimum requirement is that a member has 6 completed Competent Communicator (CC) speeches. To eligible members - you have time to prepare, you may opt to write a new speech or carefully recycle an old one and make the necessary adjustments to present it. There will be no formal club contest (i.e. no Chief Judges, Counters, Area Governor's etc.). The winner will be chosen by club vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- Toastmasters Magazine is now available on an increasing number of mobile devices. Check them out at <http://www.toastmasters.org/magazine>

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2015-16

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