



# THE FLYING TOASTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

Newsletter Date August 2009

**CHATSWOOD COMMUNICATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB**

## Winners!

On 26th August 2009, we held our Club Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest.

With 6 entrants in the humorous speech contest ranging from newer members to old hats, it was going to be fun!

Peter McCarthy led off with light hearted look at growing old with his speech, "It's not funny."

Naomi Rosenthal then regaled the audience with a tale about taking her boyfriend shopping.

Megan Ash was determined to not be a "loser" and made us laugh out loud with "Whatever it takes."

Ian Meulman outlined his step by step guide to attending conferences to which anyone

who has ever been to a work conference would have well related.

Chris Daly, tongue in cheek as always, was sure that "you won't believe me" as he described his plane journey to Europe.

Finally, David Williams, not one to "Point the Finger" gave us reasons why it's easy to find ways to laugh and smile.

With a few visitors from Chatswood Early Risers and our Area 34 Governor Adrienne McLean helping out, the judging was professional and of a high standard.

Megan Ash was the clear winner in the humorous speech contest. Congratulations!



Megan Ash and Terri Nixon proudly holding their winners trophies.

Naomi Rosenthal placed 2nd. (I'm sure only by default, as there were 3 disqualifications for going over time!)

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By Naomi Rosenthal, VPPR

## Mark Hunter wins 2009 Toastmasters world championship

In 2008, Mark was a keynote speaker at the District 70 Conference held at Penrith Panthers. I had the pleasure of listening to him speak and participate in a workshop he conducted.

Mark Hunter is proof

positive of what can be achieved with a liberal dose of self-determination and an appreciation of the power of love.

The Brisbane primary school principal, who had to fight to continue teaching after a

water skiing accident 30 years ago confined him to a wheelchair, has now become the public speaking world champion.

Download a copy of his speech from our website at: [www.chatswoodtm.org.au](http://www.chatswoodtm.org.au)

By Naomi Rosenthal, VPPR

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### Upcoming Events

- **5th & 19th September**—Speechcraft Course. **Assistants needed for 19h.**
- **Area Contest—Humorous & Table Topics**—7th September @ Greengate Hotel
- **DUES RENEWAL**—pay by **30 Sept 09**
- **Club Meetings**— 9th & 23rd September
- **Club Meetings**—14th & 28th October

## 6 Questions.

**“I never like being the centre of attention... - and it’s about time I did.”**

### We asked member Toni Eatts 6 questions.

Here’s what she had to say.

### What are you reading right now? Give us a 30 sec synopsis.

One Fifth Avenue by Candace Bushnell. I'm interested in what the writer of Sex and the City, who so captured the interests and longings of 30-something women, has to say about 40-somethings. The book traces the lives of five women who live in the building.

### What are you working on right now?

Writing profiles, health and travel articles for various publications and magazines.

### When did you last leave Sydney and where did you go?

In April we spent a couple of weeks exploring Port Douglas, the Daintree, Cooktown and Cairns.

### Who is your greatest influence and why?

I don't really have one. I get inspired by an eclectic range of people from Deepak Chopra and Oprah to Alison Lavick, Terri Nixon and Chris Daly.

### Why did you join Toastmasters and what keeps you coming back?

I never like being the centre of attention - which is what you are when you give a speech - and it's about time I did. I keep returning because I learn something at every meeting, usually from the info contained in the speeches other members give.

### What was your last Toastmasters assignment and what did you learn?

It was a Number Six and required me to change my tone, pitch etc. I learnt I need to allow more time for practising my speech.



### Congratulations!

This badge was awarded to Naomi Rosenthal, Immediate Past President for having sponsored 10 or more new members during the 2009 Annual Membership Programme.

Well done to all of us at Chatswood Communicators for enrolling 14 new members during 2008/09.

## Winners! (cont)

After the break, the Table Topics contest kicked off with the topic, “Public Transport in Sydney—does it work for you?”

With 7 contestants and yours truly last to enter the room, I have no doubt all responses were of a high quality and entertaining. Terri Nixon

beat the bunch with Peter McCarthy taking 2nd place.

**The Area Contest will be held on Monday, 7th September 2009 at the Greengate Hotel, 7:30PM.**

Support your fellow toastmasters, as they compete against the area by attending this great event.

**RSVP:**  
[vpe@chatswoodtm.org.au](mailto:vpe@chatswoodtm.org.au)



## Awards Board



### Meeting #582 August 12

Best Speaker: Michael Ogg  
 Best Evaluator: Megan Ash  
 Best Table Topics: Terri Nixon  
 Best Assignment: Peter McCarthy

### Meeting # 583 August 26

#### *Humorous Speech Contest*

1st Place - Megan Ash  
 2nd Place - Naomi Rosenthal

#### *Table Topics Contest*

1st Place - Terri Nixon  
 2nd Place - Peter McCarthy

**Area 34 Humorous and Table Topics Contests will be hosted by Kuring-gai Toastmasters Club at the Greengate Hotel, cnr Greengate Road & Pacific Highway, Killara on Monday, 7th September 2009 at 7:30PM.**

**RSVP: 0424 189 413 or [vpe@chatswoodtm.org.au](mailto:vpe@chatswoodtm.org.au)**

## Presentation Tip—Take charge of the room

The sight of empty rows of seats when you are giving a speech is a serious drain on your energy, and a constant distraction. It will also make your audience members think "why didn't everyone else turn up?". The problem is usually caused by enthusiastic organisers who want to ensure that everyone will have a seat, and therefore not only put out far too many chairs, but also provide much too large a room.

That's why you need to arrive early, and ask the organiser how many people are expected. Then count the chairs (yes, do it yourself). If there are obviously too many chairs, request that some are removed.

Point out the disadvantages of a half-full room, and the fact that chairs can easily be added at the last minute. If you are able to, it may be possible to switch to a smaller room, or to change the layout from theatre-style to cabaret-style (circular tables with

about ten chairs around each). In addition, a few people left standing shows how popular your talk is, which will reflect well on the organiser.

You might also wish to change the layout to remove a central aisle (one thing I always do if I can). Most importantly, you should take charge of the room, so that you and the audience feel comfortable, and have no distractions while you are speaking.

If you can't make any changes, try putting any handout material on the front rows only, and/or have people escorted to their seats at the front. If you end up with a tiny audience, ask them to re-arrange their chairs in a half-circle in front of you. Never, ever make an excuse like "I don't know why so few people turned up". Simply present your speech as though the audience is exactly what you expected.

**"Take charge of the room, so that you and the audience feel comfortable"**

This information was written by Alan Stevens, and originally appeared in "The MediaCoach", his free weekly ezine, available at [www.mediacoach.co.uk](http://www.mediacoach.co.uk).



**We're on the web:  
[www.chatswoodtm.org.au](http://www.chatswoodtm.org.au)**

**Become the Speaker and Leader you want to be**

**CHATSWOOD COMMUNICATORS  
TOASTMASTERS CLUB**

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Meeting Venue: Club Willoughby, 26 Crabbes Avenue, Willoughby NSW 2068

Meeting Dates: 7PM, 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

**The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.**

Published by: Graham Stoney, President  
Edited by: Naomi Rosenthal, Vice President Public Relations

**STOP PRESS**

**Assistants are needed for Speechcraft on Sat, 19th Sept. Contact Graham Stoney now on 0422 985 561 or [president@chatswoodtm.org.au](mailto:president@chatswoodtm.org.au)**



**Handy Evaluation Checklist**

Place a "+" next to aspects of the speech that were noteworthy for their effectiveness

Place a "-" next to those parts that could be improved. Be sure to note suggestions for improvement where needed.

Leave blank any that do not require a comment.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opening captured the audience's attention.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pauses were used effectively, where needed.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main points in body were supported by examples, statistics or illustrations. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stood at ease with confident body language.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closing was effective and memorable.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Facial expressions conveyed emotional content.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Made sufficient eye contact with the audience.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved about the stage with purpose.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocal variety added to the message.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gestures were significant and appropriate.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pace of speaking changed to match portions of content.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Humour was appropriate and supported the theme. |

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The part I could really appreciate was \_\_\_\_\_

The best suggestion I can offer is \_\_\_\_\_

The best thing overall about this speech was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_