



Corroboree

The bi-monthly newsletter for members of District 69 Australia

Issue 146 February 2012

“Our nearest club is 1500km away.”



Before dawn on 26 September 1998 pilot Murray Cosson (right) flew his six-seat Piper Lance from Alice Springs to Mt Isa to attend an Area Conference with fellow members Clive Brown, Ruth Jones and Isabel Thomas. The flight took around three hours each way at a speed of 300km/hour. They flew home the next day with their share of trophies, including Isabel's first place in the International speech contest while Murray placed second. *Read more on page 10.*

▶ *A snapshot of District 69 - p5*

▶ *Brisbane Central's half century - p8*

Start something big in 2012

Welcome to 2012. The year of the Nibiru planet hitting Earth and the year in which the Mayan Calendar runs out and the world ends – or so the doomsday merchants will tell us. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is no evidence whatsoever that a planet is on collision with Earth and the conclusion of the Mayan calendar has no historical significance. Our 2011 calendar ran out on 31 December and we started the new 2012 calendar.

Although we cannot look forward to the end of the world in 2012 - except in the movies - we can make it an exciting time in our personal lives. Every new year brings with it ideas of renewal.

I sometimes have silly New Year resolutions like giving up smoking (for the 36th year in a row). It is so long since I smoked that my wife Fran is the only Toastmaster who has seen me smoking.

However, I do look seriously at what can be done better this year. The break over Christmas and new year gives us all time to contemplate the year ahead and face it with renewed enthusiasm.

Toastmasters is an organisation of change. Many a frightened newcomer has blossomed into a confident outgoing presenter and conversationalist.

This is a major change in someone's life. It often allows them to go forward and achieve things in life that they only dreamed about before.

How often do we hear someone say, "I should have started Toastmasters years ago." If I had the confidence I have now, my earlier life would have been very different.

Well, it is never too late to start. Stella Etherington is remembered as one of District 69's greats. She started Toastmasters in her 70s and was still active at age 90. No matter what your age, you can still change your life.

What do you aspire to change this year? We say that



Toastmasters causes the change, but it is really only the catalyst. A person has to want to change for it to work.

We have many members who leave Toastmasters without achieving all of the benefits.

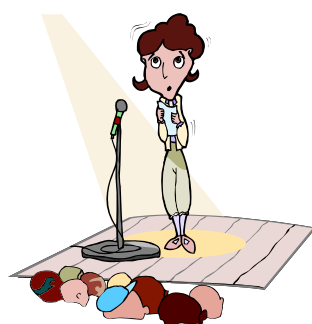
My challenge for you in this new year of 2012 is to strive for change.

- Give as many manual speeches as possible and get on the program as much as you can. Darren LaCroix (2001 World Champion of Public Speaking) has the mantra "Stage time, stage time, stage time". He wanted to be a stand up comedian so he joined several Toastmasters clubs to obtain more stage time to practice his performances. He became a World Champion before becoming a professional comedian.
- Seek to learn something from every assignment. Can you make every assignment entertaining to your fellow Toastmasters? They will love you for it, but you will be the ultimate winner.
- If you think you are already a competent speaker, seek out a mentor who can take you to the next level of skill in both communication and leadership.
- Get someone to video one (or all) of your speeches – see for yourself how good you really are. This can sometimes be a real eye-opener.
- Attend the Division and District Conferences and the Special Speaker days put on by District 69 and watch the best speakers in action.
- Look at the leadership roles in your club. Aspire to learn a leadership skill by taking on one of these in May. If you are a competent club leader, think about a District position and mentor someone new in your current club role.

As clubs fire up for the new year, now is the time to set your challenges for 2012.

Instead of this being the end of the world, it can be the start of something bigger and better.

- John Kay DTM



Training our leadership trio

It is vitally important that every leader in Toastmasters receives training for their leadership role.

Club leader training is provided through the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), while training for District officers is provided through the Lt Governor Education and Training. So who provides training for the three senior elected officers of District 69?

Fortunately, Toastmasters International fulfils this role twice a year, first at the International Convention in August and then at mid-year training in January.

This year's training was held in Sydney and included the District Governor, Lt Governor Education and Training and Lt Governor Marketing of each of the Districts in Regions 12 (Australia and New Zealand) and 14 (Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand).

After the introduction which established our expectations and set the tone for two days of training, we went straight to a team building activity, which interestingly was the same Marshmallow Challenge we had set for Area and Division Governors at their first round of training in June last year.

Following on, we gained a clearer understanding of how our values, our team's and the organisation's values are the source of the actions that drive each of us to carry out the District's mission.

The afternoon session emphasized the knowledge and tools required to achieve Distinguished recognition or better through assessment, evaluation and District strategic planning, while the following session on Club Quality and Member Retention showed how these two

aspects are inextricably linked. By identifying the characteristics of quality clubs, understanding the membership cycle, and discussing how to maintain quality-minded volunteers year after year, we saw how we could work to ensure a continuous positive impact on our District.

Breakout sessions gave us role-specific information, hands-on activities, best practices and were a fantastic means of networking. Of course, prudent financial management is part of running a successful District for the maximum benefit of its members. Executive Director Dan Rex covered pertinent financial policies and protocol that affect each District and gave us an overview of the District accounting system. For the District Presentations session, each team had to prepare a seven-minute presentation, which in our case focused on one of Lance Miller's themes: doing the ordinary extraordinarily well. There were plenty of opportunities to learn what worked well for other Districts.

Before the wrap up, we had a closer look at the new District Recognition program which comes into play on 1 July 2012 to better understand the new criteria and resources for helping our District achieve Distinguished recognition or better.

John Kay, Carolyn Phillips and I came away feeling grateful for the training and opportunities to learn and connect with others experiencing the same leadership high points and challenges as us.

Education awards

District 69's education goals this year are for its members to achieve 252 Competent Communicator (CC) awards and 72 Advanced Communicator (AC) awards. As at 20 January 2012:

- **119** members have achieved CC (81 this time last year)
- **56** members had achieved AC (56 this time last year)
- **114** members have achieved a leadership award (96 this time last year)

- **Charlie Starrett DTM**



DISTRICT TRAINING: (From left) John Kay, Daniel Rex, Sue Haynes (Regional Adviser - Region 12), Mike Storkey (International Director - Region 12), Sally Newell Cohen, Christine Temblique (International Director - Region 14), Charlie Starrett and Carolyn Phillips.

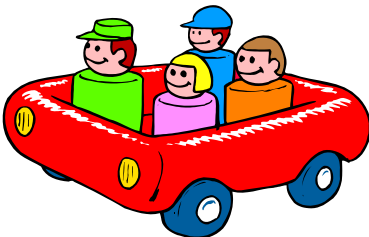


Benefits of car-load coaching

I prayed for freedom for 20 years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.
- Frederick Douglass, Former slave, abolitionist, editor, and orator (1817-1895)

Frederick Douglass was an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. Born to a Negro slave, his father was his white master.

He learnt to read (against the law) and escaped from slavery to become a leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his dazzling oratory.



He stood as a living example of the value of being exposed to new realms of thought.

Is your club struggling to gain new members or retain experienced members? Here's a suggestion: organise with other members of your club to visit another club together.

Pick a club that is either lower or higher in numbers, pick up your club mates and enjoy an evening with a group of like-minded people.

Car-load coaching is simply a car load of people visiting another Toastmasters club.

If this club is lower in numbers, they will benefit from an injection of visitors, energy and your know-how. Let the Vice President Education or President know you're coming as you'll probably be on the program presenting a segment or speech.

Remember to take your Competent Communicator and Leadership manuals with you.

If this club is higher in numbers, you will be challenged by their quality standards, find an idea to use in your club and be inspired by their successes.

Either way, you'll create a deeper bond with other Toastmasters, extend and practice your skills and have fun. Car-load coaching is good for the club you visit and good for your club as well. The conversation in the car on the way home is amazing.

If you are hoping and praying for new members, re-read the information about Frederick Douglass and be inspired. Now is the time to act.

Give car-load coaching a go. Lift the quality of your club by learning from the success of others, being exposed to other ways and having fun together with members of your club.

- Carolyn Phillips DTM

Sign up and celebrate Toastmasters Week

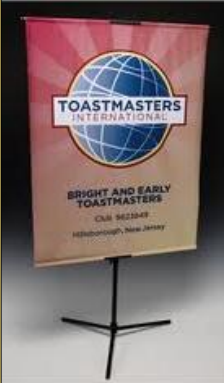

Clubs are encouraged to hang up signs, flyers or banners promoting their club and the organisation as a way of celebrating Toastmasters Week from 13-24 February.

Wear your badge and/or your Toastmasters pin/t-shirt at work and at the shops. This is a simple, easy and affordable way to get the word out there that the Toastmasters programs are fabulous. Plan to put signs up in public places during February. Book in for a display at your local library.

Find places on community notice boards to pin up a flyer advertising when and where your club meets and the benefits of being a Toastmaster. Your local council has banner sites that you can display the white banner for free.

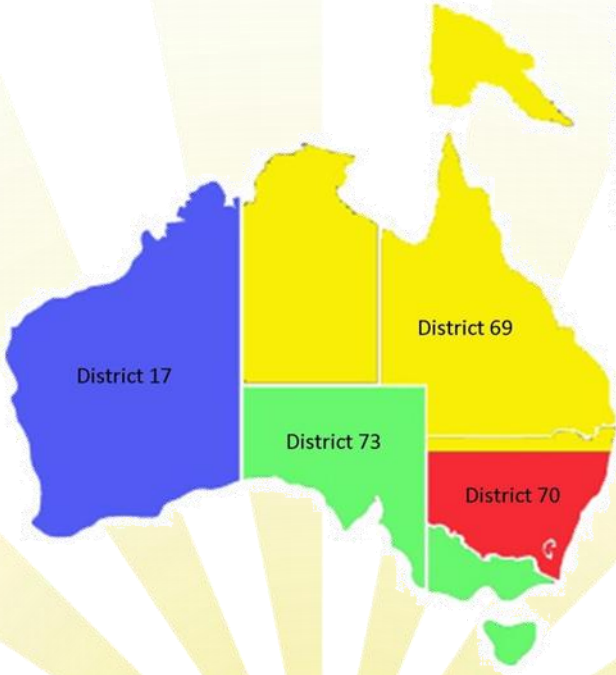
If you would like a selection of flyers to personalise for your club, contact Carolyn Phillips on 0403 379 183 or carolyn_007@hotmail.com.

Alternatively, type in "reports, forms and resources" on the District 69 website search bar to find a range of posters available for use.





District 69 snapshot



Region 12 members

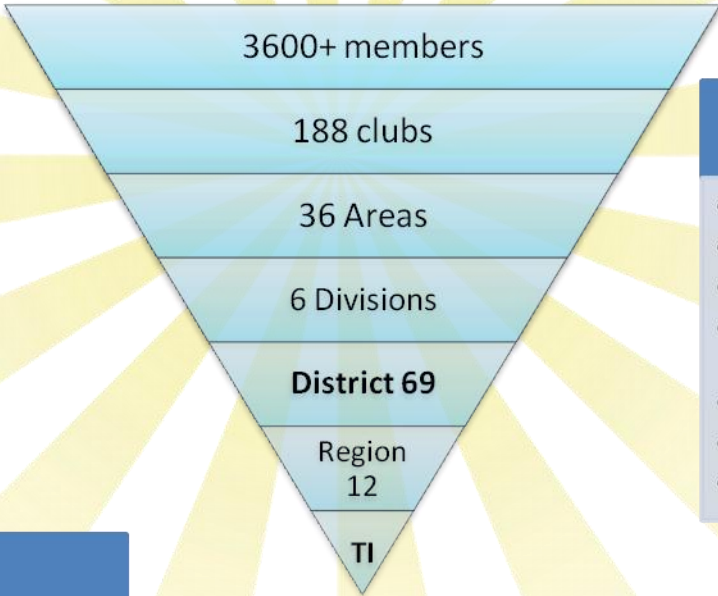
- Australia
- Papua New Guinea
- New Zealand

5 oldest clubs

- **Brisbane Central** (1 June 1962)
- **Darling Downs** (1 June 1963)
- **Townsville Club** (1 July 1963)
- **Cairns Toastmasters** (1 May 1964)
- **Dalby Club** (1 September 1966)

Club locations

- QLD: 164
- NSW: 18
- NT: 2
- PNG: 4



Specialist clubs

- Advanced: 9
- Company: 20
- Govt agency: 4
- Specialised: 2

New clubs (since 1 July 2011)

- Cooroy
- Westgate
- Griffith Guild
- Townsville University
- Chinchilla
- Westpac Niugini
- Westpac Vaigana

History

- District 69 formed in 1971
- District 70 was then the rest of Australia
- Rus Walkington - first District 69 Governor (previously President of Territorial Council of Australia)
- District 73 formed in 1976
- District 17 (WA) formed in 2011

District achievements

- Two World Champions of Public Speaking:
- Mark Hunter - 2009
- Jock Elliott - 2011

Divisions

- Northern
- Central
- Western
- Southern
- Metro
- Eastern
- Established 1 July 1989
- View details on [D69 website](#)

Compiled by Hari Kotrotsios ACS/ALB

Can your club benefit from a helping hand?

Anne McKinnon joined Toastmasters in 2005 and received her Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award in July 2010. She took up the District Chief Club Coach role after moving to Brisbane in late 2010. Her role involves being the first port of call in processing applications from clubs and matching them up with prospective club coaches. For more information, contact Anne on (07) 3844 6137 (h) or 0406 029 746 or email anniemac2@live.com.au.

Clubs go through cycles with respect to membership levels and despite a club's best efforts, numbers drop. If your club's numbers are 12 or less, consider the benefits of getting a club coach (or two) on side.

Club coaches are usually experienced Toastmasters who bring with them the gift of fresh eyes, alternate perspectives, new ideas and bundles of energy that can help stimulate and refresh interest and passion in your club.

Aside from the personal satisfaction that a club coach earns through seeing the fruits of their input in club growth and members thriving, they also achieve credit towards their Advanced Leadership Silver Award - a necessary step before achieving the DTM. Are you someone ready to take on this challenge?

Is your club ready to take on a club coach?

1. If your club is struggling with any of the following:

- To attract members
- Retain members
- Operate efficiently as a club
- To run productive, engaging and fun meetings
- To attract members to take on executive positions
- Having an active executive that meets monthly, steers the club and manages club business
- To apply or work to the guidelines of the Distinguished Club Program (DCP)



2. And your club has 12 members or less,

3. And your Executive is keen to obtain an outside person to assist and guide the club so they can rejuvenate,

4. And your Executive and club members are keen to try new strategies and ways of doing things and work toward Distinguished Club Program goals.

Freetoasthost upgrade

As of **February 17, 2012** the old FTH1.0 servers will be shut down.

All clubs still using Freetoasthost 1.0 are requested to sign up for FTH 2.0 and move their old site to the new FTH 2.0 platform as soon as possible.

[Click here for details about the new free FTH2.0 Toastmasters club website.](#)

As part of the Toastmasters International Rebranding, **Freetoasthost 2.0** is available to all chartered Toastmasters clubs around the world.

FTH 2.0 includes:

- a new look
- a new agenda system
- a new method of tracking members' meeting activity history
- a new calendar
- a new method of managing club members
- new mail lists for guests and former members
- a new online editor
- unlimited custom web pages
- a new file management section with virtual folders

For a detailed step-by-step guide on how this is done, [click here](#).

[Click here for upgrade tips.](#)

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL



A group is a collection of individuals, while a team is bound by a common goal. All teams are groups, but not all groups are teams. So the first step is identifying a goal.

Committee composition is also important. Assigning people to a committee simply because they are not busy enough is a bad idea.

Members need to have the desire to achieve the task, plus the knowledge, skills and abilities to get it done. In addition, they should want to be part of a team. Some people can contribute better by working alone. Use your club's people for their strengths.

Your team will strive toward mutually agreed upon outcomes. As the club assigns goals to the committee leader, ensure they are communicated to the team and then agreed on.

Make the process productive

There is a predictable process for committees or teams whose members don't really know each other. Understanding it can save time, eliminate squabbling and promote productivity and harmony.

1. Forming. The committee meets, outlines goals and processes, and begins building friendships while working through potential problems with the structure and leadership.

2. Storming. An inevitable period of turmoil. Questions arise about leadership, accountability and the goals. Members are uncomfortable as they learn that some can't be counted on, or the reverse – members try to do everything themselves.

3. Norming. The team reaches an

A productive committee requires a common goal

As clubs start looking for new executive officers in May it is important to build a committee that works effectively as a team. The following article provides useful pointers when considering, building or working with a team:

agreement on goals, committee form and format. This period is characterized by cooperation, mutual support and accord. Group norms are developed that allow the team to compensate for the weaknesses of individual members.

4. Performing. This is a period of accomplishment, achievement, productivity and pride as the committee works together and reaches its goals.

5. Adjourning. The committee members address their mixed feel-

others' thoughts. It's far better to encourage input, delay criticism and create an environment that nurtures open expression.

To promote dialogue and effective committee work:

Encourage all members to participate and contribute. Later, this will ensure that everyone buys in to the common goal.

Make the process of generating ideas and evaluating them distinct from each other. Too often, a committee member will put an idea on the table only to have it shot down immediately, which discourages and stifles the creativity of other members. Divide the two processes into distinct sessions.

Don't respond to each participant or dominate the ongoing discussions. A chairman's responsibility is to elicit ideas, not supply them.

Look forward, not backward. Permitting too much complaining about how "We can't do this because last time ..." means you can't accomplish the committee's goals at all.

If club leaders understand how to get committee members to buy into the five-step cycle, they are well on their way to achieving even the most challenging of goals.

- Excerpt from *Toastmaster Magazine*, February 2010



ings of accomplishment and loss as the team achieves its goals. Success means, ultimately, that the team members must go their separate ways.

Tips for effective committees

A leader's role in a committee has a huge impact on the team's work. A leader who monopolizes discussions and demeans others' opinions won't receive the benefit of



Oldest club approaches its half century

Brisbane Central Toastmasters Club will become the first club in District 69 to celebrate its 50th birthday in June this year.

Just the third club to be chartered in Queensland, Brisbane Central became the oldest club in District 69 when the original clubs in Toowoomba and Mackay both folded.

Following a visit from members of the original Toowoomba Toastmasters Club, some Brisbane businessmen decided to form the Brisbane Central Toastmasters Club which chartered in June 1962.

Although the club has had several meeting venues over its 50-year history, the name Brisbane Central is closely linked to the fact that its first home, the Canberra Hotel, was opposite Brisbane Central railway station.

Through demonstrations, visits and advice members of BC have helped the formation and early days of clubs in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns plus Brisbane clubs such as DC, MDI, Alpha and the Gold Coast Club.

Advance Club in fact chartered with half the BC club members when it reached 40 members which was considered too big for one club.

Members who served Toastmasters above club level include:

- Lionel Fifield, a past District 69 Governor,
- Morrie Hee, in 1970-71 an Area President (second most senior Toastmaster in Queensland) in the then Australian Toastmasters Council before the formation of District 69,

- Phillip Bate, a past District 69 Public Relations Officer and a former Area Governor in District 73,
- Eric Roush, a past District officer,
- Ken Dagleish, past Area Governor,
- and at least two former members who became Area Governors from the Advance Club.

Undoubtedly the two club mainstays have been Morrie Hee and Phillip Bate (*pictured with 1998 World Champion of Public Speaking Brett Rutledge*), while Ted Burton and Jim Gentles also served the club with distinction.



A Toastmaster since May 1964, Morrie has given outstanding service to Toastmasters as a mentor, club officer and evaluator while Phillip Bate DTM, who joined Brisbane Central in 1972, has been one of the most prolific and versatile Toastmaster competitors in District 69 winning or placing at District, Division and Area Contests for the International, Evaluation, Humorous and Table Topics contests. In addition, he is a past winner of the District 73 International Speech Contest.

Other Brisbane Central members to reach District level in speech competitions include Eric Roush, Chas Martin and Terry Arthur.

BC was initially a men only club, but only one vote gave the decision to allow women members. The opposition was only because BC had sponsored the Brisbane Toastmistress Club so why should women want to join a men's club when there was a similar club for women?

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Now only 20 meetings away from number 1400 which may arrive during its 50-year anniversary, the club has celebrated many milestones such as meetings 800 and 1000, and meeting number 1234.

The secret of the club's longevity is its unofficial motto "Fun in education" running parallel with the Toastmasters International motto "Better listening, thinking, speaking" which was current for many years.

This goes beyond the educational value of Toastmasters while a visitor to the club once described the members as a group of 'rugged intellectuals'.

- Submitted by Phillip Bate DTM

Are your contact details up to date?

Have you recently changed your name, address, email or other contact details?

[Click here](#) for a PDF guide to help manage your profile on the TI website.

Missed previous editions of the *Corroboree* newsletter? [Click here for archive copies.](#)

Stephen's over the moon with speech success

When Stephen Hughes joined the Weblec Club in Maryborough in June 2005, he spoke very quietly and was hard to understand.

He found it difficult to sit still and often got up and wandered around the room, as it was not easy for him to stay focused on the meeting.

One night he was given the job of timing and when the lights weren't going on for one of the assignments we realized that Stephen had quietly gone to sleep.

Stephen delivered his Icebreaker speech in September 2005 and went for three minutes and 54 seconds. He gradually worked through his speeches and did various other assignments until he was up to his number nine speech 12 months ago.

With the help of his mentor, John O'Sullivan, Stephen worked hard on his tenth speech which he delivered at the club's Christmas meeting in December. He inspired us by telling us of his Asperger condition and how he had overcome the difficulties it presented in his life.

Stephen had also achieved his Queen's badge in Boys Brigade, and various trophies playing the trombone in the Excelsior Band.

Stephen's mother Denise said they were looking around for a way of helping him improve his communication skills when they saw articles in the local newspaper offering two Toastmasters clubs in Maryborough.

Stephen says he is "over the moon" about his accomplishment which has made a big difference to his self esteem.

"It's a big milestone in my life and worth the effort," he said.

Congratulations Stephen, you are an inspiration to us all.

- Submitted by Pat Pitt DTM, Vice President Membership, Weblec Toastmasters



Vice President Education Helen Pelling presented Stephen Hughes with his Competent Communicator ribbon at the club's December meeting.

Date claimers

Division Conferences

Central Division
3-4 March 2012

Western Division
10-11 March 2012

Metropolitan Division
17 March 2012

Southern Division
17 March 2012

Northern Division
24-25 March 2012

Eastern Division
24-25 March 2012



District Convention

4-6 May 2012

Mercure Hotel, Brisbane.
Packed with excitement,
surprises and the best
educational sessions
in District 69.

Plus four spectacular
competitions.

Adventurous club overcomes its isolation

Alice Springs Toastmasters club is a little different. If we wish to visit a neighbouring club, we need to allow about four days and \$1000, as the nearest club is 1500km away. Travel costs are a problem. We are all isolated, however, Territorians are curious, adventurous people who tackle difficult things. Otherwise they would not have got here in the first place.

- Charter member Murray Cosson ATM-B



ABOVE: Murray Cosson, Pushpa Vida, Catherine Ross, Myn Blom, Jason Clark, Justin Zammit, Ruth Jones, Jill Brew, Jose Petric.

Murray Cosson remembers the dark, very early Saturday morning when he flew his little aeroplane, with three fellow Toastmasters on board, from Alice Springs to Mount Isa to participate in the Area Conference in September 1998.

"We watched the sunrise from the aeroplane and landed at Mt Isa in time for a quick breakfast and then on to the competitions. We flew home on Sunday with our share of the trophies."

The previous year, Dr Ray In-gamells competed in the Division Conference in Brisbane in 1997, contributing to a series of successful achievements for the club, which is one of only two based in the Northern Territory.

"In spite of our isolation we manage to send competitors interstate and overseas and run successful conferences in our town. It just costs more, but it's only money and time, and our members can be very

determined," said Murray.

Notably, Pushpa Vida, an English teacher and dedicated Toastmaster, represented District 69 at the finals of the International speech contest in the USA in 2010.

"It's great to have members competing interstate and overseas, as this confirms the high quality of our speakers," he said.

"We also welcome visits by other Toastmasters, as this helps us keep in touch with other clubs and new ideas. Our visitors love it and so do we."

Electronics are slowly helping to reduce the effects of the club's isolation. When Murray was Area 29 (which it then was) Governor in 1996, his main form of communication with Alice Springs, Mt Isa, Darwin and Gove clubs was by phone or fax. "However, we won a Distinguished Area award that year. Sadly, the Gove and Mount Isa

clubs are now gone," he said.

"We have hosted a number of conferences in Alice Springs over the years, including the Division Conference. We filled the venue and had a great event.

"We enjoy having all those quality speakers and their supporters here. They bring valuable knowledge and experience, which helps with our isolation."

Stephanie Hart (nee Haymon), a former member of a Toastmasters club in Gove, started the Alice Springs club in October 1993 after moving to the town.

The first meetings were held in her house and the Club Charter was presented by Division 9 Governor Davina Daniel at a dinner meeting at the Diplomat Motor Inn in December 1993.

Stephanie is still an active member of the club, as are Charter members Murray Cosson and Jose Petric.

They join 18 other members who meet fortnightly on Monday evenings at the Mental Health building, in the centre of Alice Springs.

Talk Up Toastmasters award time

Each club that gains five or more new, dual or re-instated members receives a ribbon and a 10 percent discount for resources from Toastmasters International. As an additional incentive, District 69 is offering a set of 10 Icebreaker and Competent Communicator ribbons to every club that gains five new members during February and March. These ribbons are a personal touch for members who have presented their Icebreaker speech - the most challenging one - and have achieved their Competent Communicator award.

Who sleighed Santa?

I breathed a sigh of relief when Santa came to my grandkids. A few days beforehand, Peninsula Toastmasters had disposed of Santa. All we saw of him was a pair of legs and an empty sack at the bottom of a chimney. It was a sad story! Let me tell you about it.

It was to be a festive occasion at the North Pole. Santa had invited us to a special function and, although we were concerned that he might not have good news, we were determined to enjoy the night. However, Santa didn't arrive and we were worried. Then we began looking cautiously at each other. When Holly the Barmaid discovered the body, all our misgivings were confirmed.

Holly herself was not above suspicion. Because Santa worked his staff so hard in December, she was stood down every year because nobody had time to stop for drinks. She was certainly upset that she had no income at the most expensive part of the year. That was true too, for Bart the Barber. As Santa didn't shave or get a haircut for months, all the fake Santas around the world copied him. He asserted that half the kids in the world didn't even know what a barber was – all thanks to Santa!

The wife is always a suspect, especially when she looked and acted as Betty Claus did. What a flirt. She was seen with Elven the head elf, the Nutcracker, even the Tin Soldier. Her behaviour with the Little Drummer



Bart the Barber (Steve Baird) with the Snowman (David Jones) at Peninsula Toastmasters' Christmas celebrations in December.

Boy was atrocious. Do you know that within minutes of Santa's body being found, she had a marriage proposal, or perhaps just a proposition – and his blood wasn't even cold in his veins!



We were all wary about the Snowman. He had come from the South Pole and was certainly determined to pick a fight with Santa. He thought that the North Pole had undue publicity because of Santa and wanted to change the emphasis to the South Pole. Santa hadn't even been prepared to consider a visit. This was arrogance that the Snowman had never encountered before.

When we looked around, it seemed that everyone had a motive for getting rid of poor old Santa. Even the little Sugar Plum Fairy wasn't feeling very sweet about him. Sally the Seamstress was tired of altering his suits when he continued to put on weight every year. As for Mary Christmas, Santa's expectations that she would step (totally unpaid) into any situation where he couldn't attend were beginning to grate on her. She felt completely unvalued. Oh, and Sammy Scrooge seemed to have got himself into a lot of financial trouble after investing in Santa's toy store ventures. Everyone had a motive and an opportunity to do the wicked deed. There wasn't any guest there who wouldn't have felt justified in helping Santa on his way.

Of course, we eventually worked out who sleighed Santa, but not before we saw much aggression and many hurt feelings. Things will never again be the same among those guests at the North Pole. And, as I said, it was such a relief that things proceeded normally for the children of the world after such a stressful event.

- Submitted by Monica O'Rourke

How to connect with audience

Professional speaker and Toastmaster Kevin Ryan presented an educational workshop in Brisbane last November. Julie Pigdon shares highlights from the workshop:

Kevin is an excellent presenter. I found his presentation very insightful. It was loaded with practical tips and keen observations.

- Tell a story - stories are memorable and people relate to them. Therefore stories, especially your own personal ones, are a great way to connect with the audience.
- Don't end your public speaking presentations with a Q&A session. People remember the first and last thing they hear, so make sure the last thing they hear is what you want them to remember. The recommendation is to say "We will have X minutes for Q&A, before we wrap up", then end on a positive note.
- Move from left to right across the stage, if you are moving, as that is the way people read.
- Say positive things on the right, negative things on the left (if you are going to) and the point you want to make up front in the middle.
- Talk about the future on the right, and the past on the left.
- Never back away from the audience as this implies lack of trustworthiness, or turn your back to them.
- Use analogies that people can relate to – great if you can tell your own story.
- Don't use your best humour in the first five minutes - set the scene first.
- Have some lines for prepared spontaneity – for example, when people are late, accidents happen, technology fails etc. If you have a prepared line for these circumstances (like a one liner), you look really smart and you can think on your feet. Billy Connolly does this really well with people who arrive late.
- Be real and vulnerable.
- Do the following when speaking: point, reason, example, point.

A great website to see professionals in action on a variety of topics is www.ted.com.

I thoroughly recommend you see Al Gore speak as he is a great storyteller. [Click here for a preview](#).

Corroboree submissions:

- Club articles and photos
- Speaking hints and tips
- Educational articles and how to
- Event photos and reports
- Interesting photos with captions
- Contest results
- Membership building ideas
- What works at your meetings to make them interesting and fun

[Click here for guidelines](#)

Corroboree deadlines:

17 March 2012
16 May 2012
17 July 2012
16 September 2012

Send in your submissions at any time during the year:

corroboree@toastmastersd69.org

Use of member contact information

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