



Monaro Mutterings



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Dear Toastmasters!

The first half of the Toastmaster year is over and it is now time to look to the second half.

We have had an exciting time these last few months what with contests and the District Semi-Annual Conference which was held in the Hunter Valley on 17 to 19 November. There is a full report on the Division Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contest and the Semi-Annual conference later in the issue. Everyone was getting excited about the World Champion of Public Speaking, Lance Miller, DTM coming to Australia but especially to Canberra.

Those who went to the Semi-Annual Conference were lucky enough to get to hear and meet Lance. District 70 had a seminar in place for Monday November 20 (immediately following the conference) for Lance to speak in Canberra and more that 50 people had let District Public Relations Officer, Ian Chick, know they were attending. A further seminar was organized for Sydney people who had not been to the conference to hear him. However, just before the conference, Ian had to break the disappointing news that Lance had to return to the US immediately after the conference. When I questioned Lance at the conference he said that he had business commitments that he could not get out of. Nonetheless, most in the Division and the District were very disappointed, and our sympathies go to Ian who had put so much publicity and effort in organizing the post-conference seminars. As a consolation, Lance offered 40% off his materials to everyone in our District until November 30, 2006.

Clubs have held their breakup meetings and dinners and will be in recess over Christmas. By late January, many will be back in full swing again.

Club and Area International Speech Contests are being organized. Judges who helped out in the first round will be called upon to see if they can help out in the second. As for Advanced Club Officer Training, the Leadership Training Institute session for which will be held at the Australian Catholic University, Watson from 12.30pm until 5.00pm on Saturday February 3. Training sessions will be organized for Area 43 (probably in Holbrook again) and for Eurobodalla club on the South Coast. The Division International Speech and Evaluation Contest will be held on April 28 at the Canberra Club and will be hosted jointly by Woden Valley and THE clubs. A Toastmasters stall will be held at the Multicultural festival on Sunday February 11, 2007.

The Division is down two Area Governors again with the resignation of Area 7 Governor, Sukanya Peddakotla with effect from October 21 due to work and other commitments. Yours truly quickly did the official club visits for Area 7 but in the second half she will be doing a lot of delegating! Area 43 still does not have a Governor but does have an expression of interest for 2007-2008.

There are two possible new clubs, one for Centrelink's Tuggeranong office and one at the Capital Airport Group at Brindabella Business Park. If we could charter both clubs by June 30 I would be ecstatic! Let's look forward to this next half of the Toastmaster Year with renewed vim, vigour and vitality and step up the publicity for our first meetings for 2007. Merry Christmas to all and a happy and safe 2007!

Cheryl White DTM - Monaro Division Governor

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***2006 Division Humorous Speech and Table Topics
Contest Results and Report***

<i>Contest</i>	<i>First Place</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Second Place</i>	<i>Area</i>
Humorous Speech	Julie Fitzgerald	17	Jenny Chynoweth	7
Table Topics	Neale Huth	17	Annie Davis	7

On Saturday October 14, the Monaro Division Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest evening was held at the Central Motel and Reception Centre, 11 Antill Street, Queanbeyan.

The function room at the front of the motel complex was resplendent in opulent looking drapes and the tables were set out in a herring-bone style arrangement, each table sporting gold candelabras and gold serviettes. The motel staff did a great job decorating the room and catering to the needs of the function.

Woden Lunchtime Toastmasters Club was the host club for the event. Thanks go to Ditas Anderson and Sukanya Peddakotla for helping to organize the event and to other members of the club and the Division for performing roles on the night. When it became apparent that fundraising was to be needed before the contest date, some members of the club went to other clubs in Monaro Division and pre-sold tickets for the raffle. Because names and phone numbers were written onto the ticket butts, anyone who had pre-bought a ticket and won a prize could be contacted by the committee.

The night itself was a success logistically and will come out with a small profit despite the overheads incurred. Yours truly was like 'a cat on a hot tin roof' but due to her support team, she was able to concentrate on chairing the evening, although there was the odd blunder due to nerves. The guests from Sydney had an enjoyable evening despite the fact that some of them were contest officials and all of them ended up driving back home afterwards!

The winners of both contests were from the same club, DIMA Club which is the newest club in the Division. The runner up for the Table Topics contest was Annie Davis from Twilight Club in Area 7 and the runner up for the Humorous Speech contest was Jenny Chynoweth from Woden Valley Club in Area 7.

The audience was well and truly entertained by the contestants and also by an impromptu skit performed by Philip Bendeich and yours truly promoting the forth-coming Semi-Annual Conference at the Hunter Valley. One of us had a 'glass of communication' while the other had 'a glass of leadership'. Although I had no hope of knowing my lines, my ad-libbing became a hit! The other highlight was the raffle draw by Ditas Anderson's eight-year-old daughter, Charlotte who ably helped her mother.

Yours truly treated herself to an enjoyable stay at the motel and breakfast the next morning which was included in the motel room tariff. Months afterwards comments are still being said about how well the evening went. There were many lessons learnt and, although there were some notable absences due to prior engagements, those who did attend were able to pass on favourable reports.

Time Table for January to June 2007

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Saturday January 20	Judging Workshop	To Be Arranged
Saturday February 3, 12.30 pm	Advanced Club Officer Training	Australian Catholic University, Watson
Saturday, April 28	Monaro Division International Speech and Evaluation Contest	Canberra Club, Canberra City

Semi-Annual Conference Report

Hunter Valley Gardens

November 17 – 19, 2006

In mid November some cars from Monaro Division motored north to the Hunter Valley, northwest of Sydney for the District Semi-Annual Conference, which was held from Friday November 17 until Sunday November 19.

Yours truly was fully intending to take her car but couldn't, due to a brake check revealing a suspension problem. So the three of us, namely Ditas Anderson, Kay Ledger and myself, traveled up in Kay's vehicle. We had a good trip up and arrived shortly before 7.00pm. The first event was dinner which was not included as part of the conference price and held at Harrigan's Pub, just down the road from the conference venue. It gave people a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

After a well earned sleep, and some conference formalities having being dealt with, the first item was a choice of three educational sessions. I was asked to facilitate Melody Braithwaite's 'Mind Mapping' session and this one was well attended and enjoyed. The other sessions which were held at the same time were 'Club Programming', presented by Richard Stacey, and 'Busting the Balance Myth' by Jenny Mallos.

The Table Topics contest was then held after a contest briefing. Because Neale Huth was unable to attend because of illness and Annie Davis could not compete due to short notice, Rebecca Plush stepped in, travelling up to the Hunter to represent our Division. Although she didn't place, many thanks must go to her for making the trip and competing for us.

An Awards luncheon was then held, with awards given out to people who had earned them on 2005-2006. This was followed by the obligatory District Council Meeting which was kicked off by a banner parade with yours truly carrying the Monaro Division banner.

The conference draw card, Lance Miller DTM, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, then spoke to us on "How To Build A Championship Club". He was certainly qualified to do so, having built a club he belonged to from a struggling club to a club with a membership of about 90!

At the Gala Dinner that evening some new Distinguished Toastmaster Awards were recognized and the District final of the Humorous Speech Contest was held. Our Division representative, Julie Fitzgerald, was placed third behind Michael Oxman from Southern Division and John Colebatch from Western Division.

The next morning, a brunch was held with Lance Miller, this time dressed more casually, speaking on how to become a championship speaker. His main question was 'Did Your Speech Communicate?' The brunch was, in my opinion, the best meal of the conference.

Ditas, Kay and I shared a suite at Harrigan's pub for Friday and Saturday night. The arrangement meant that we were able to stay for a reasonable rate and the room was very comfortable.

After a visit to a candle shop and a chocolate shop, getting as far as Cessnock and returning to the Pub to pick up things we had forgotten, we made another attempt to get home. The car wasn't performing as it should so we waited at the KFC in Cessnock for about an hour for the NRMA to look at it. The mechanic was very helpful and told Kay to keep an eye on the temperature guage. After two other stops due to the engine overheating we pulled up behind an NRMA vehicle which had stopped for someone else on the main drag north of Hornsby. After the diagnosis of a burst radiator, telephone dialogue and more waiting, we ended up getting a ride back to Canberra in a dual-cab tow truck with Kay's car on the back, at no cost to Kay thanks to NRMA Premium Care cover. We finally got back to Canberra at midnight. It was Ditas's birthday that day and she looked upon it all as an adventure. We spent the trip home chatting up the single tow truck driver with Ditas trying to talk him into joining Toastmasters. You could say that an eventful weekend was had by the three of us!

The only sad thing for the Division and District 70 is that Lance Miller needed to return to the US because of his work and was therefore not able to speak at Canberra and Sydney seminars that were organized for after the conference. He does want to come back, however, and offered a 40% discount on his products to Australian Toastmasters until November 30, 2006.

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

The District 70 Annual Conference
will be at
Bankstown Sports Club on 18, 19 and 20 May, 2007.

For enquiries, contact the **Conference Committee [by email](#)**
or phone **Conference Chairman Pauline Shepherd on 9632 8917.**

Next Issue – February / March – What’s in it??

- Advanced Club Officer Training Report
- Area International Speech & Evaluation Contest Dates, Times, Locations & Host Clubs
- Division International Speech and Evaluation Contest Flyer
- District 70 Annual Conference Flyer
- Please send any contributions to MDiv@d70toastmasters.org