

PRESIDENTS REPORT BY ASOKI JAYAWARDHANA

Stafford Heights Toastmasters is unique in its special welcoming atmosphere, and the sincerity of its members towards each other and towards visitors and guests. We are still very happy meeting at the Chermside Library, which boasts easy access and free parking resulting in many people who visit deciding to stay.

On Wednesday 16th February, we held our Tall Tales Contest. The quality of the Speeches was proof that here was a place where people could indeed relax and have fun – even make fools of themselves - without feeling threatened or bashful. Needless to say, it was difficult to find a winner (all the speeches were well constructed and equally improbable) – but the judges were experienced and able, and thankfully the evening ended with a winner – Tony Savin.

Congratulations to Ian Demack who represented Stafford Heights in two of the four Division Contests. It was an outstanding contest and Ian delivered two excellent speeches.

We are currently running another Speechcraft Course, this year making sure that many more of our members are involved in the running of it.

Apart from Speechcraft, other members have also extended the skills they have learned at Toastmasters and presented outside of our Club. We applaud them and hope that many more, as they grow in confidence and leadership, use their gifts to benefit the wider community.

It is a pleasure and a privilege for me to be President of this outstanding Toastmasters Club. I have learned and grown through the successes and challenges which are inevitable in any growing organization such as ours.

My grateful thanks go to outstanding executive officers who have been generous in doing a grand job in their executive roles. Thanks also to all members who contributed in any way to the success of the Club this year.

It's the time of year when we start following up Office Bearers for the coming year. If our Succession Plan is successful, Stafford Heights will have a vibrant and exciting new Executive in place next year. Thanks to everyone in advance for your generous consideration, and here's hoping!

Asoki Jayawardhana - President

ASOKI JAYAWARDHANA ACCEPTS HER DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER AWARD (DTM) FROM MONICA O'ROURKE (PRESIDENT OF THE SEACHANGE TOASTMASTERS CLUB). CONGRATULATIONS ASOKI ON THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD; ASOKI IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF STAFFORD HEIGHTS TO ACHIEVE THIS HONOUR. SEE BACK PAGE FOR FULL STORY.



A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

IAN THERKELSON

Don't forget to check the Forward Program Guide in the Members Only section of our web site, www.SHTM.org.au which is updated from time to time, and gives a provisional guide to what role you will be allocated at future meetings. If you know you won't be able to carry out that role, please let me know so the plan can be amended and others given the opportunity to prepare.

Record of your progress

It's time for us all to make sure that all of the projects we have completed so far are properly signed off and recorded in the club records. Please bring your Communication and Leadership manuals with you and make sure you see me to get them up to date. Also, please review your 2010-11 personal goals, and let me know how **we can help you to achieve them.**

TOASTMASTERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY JAYMIE KOCH

With the Queensland Floods literally at Brisbane's doorstep, I wanted to help where I could, not only in this crisis but also in the future. As such, I registered my interest with Volunteering Queensland ("VQ"), which acts mainly as a connection between volunteers and organisations that need assistance or the help of volunteers.

Subsequent to the recent devastating events, VQ received over 80,000 volunteer registrations - a fantastic community response!

Since my registration I have been involved in a number of volunteering efforts. The most recent was as a result of VQ seeking 'community organizers', which I decided to participate in. This decision was for a number of reasons - I thought being a community organiser would provide the opportunity to be more involved in the community and volunteering generally, as well as provide leadership and communication development.

The event was called '*Queensland's Largest Community Resilience Discussion*' and I co-hosted, together with my mother, Deniece Koch - a fellow Toastmasters from the Healthy Chatterers, one of the community meetings. A special thank you to Max Coopes, Anne Driver, Bob George, Tony Savin and Mary Sweeney of SHTM for attending and supporting the event.

My involvement in Toastmasters since joining about 12 months ago, has enhanced my communication and leadership skills, and probably more importantly given me the confidence to take on new challenges.

As a final comment, I believe innovation is essential. I strongly recommend that if the opportunity arises, challenge yourself, and get involved in communication and leadership opportunities. It is amazing how much you grow from 'doing'.

Life is a journey - so enjoy the adventure!

STAFFORD HEIGHTS SUPER STARS - YOU'RE A SUPER STAR YES THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE



IAN DEMACK COMPETES AT THE DIVISION CONFERENCE DELIVERING HIS HUMOUROUS SPEECH "A GOLDEN AGE". WELL DONE ON AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT.

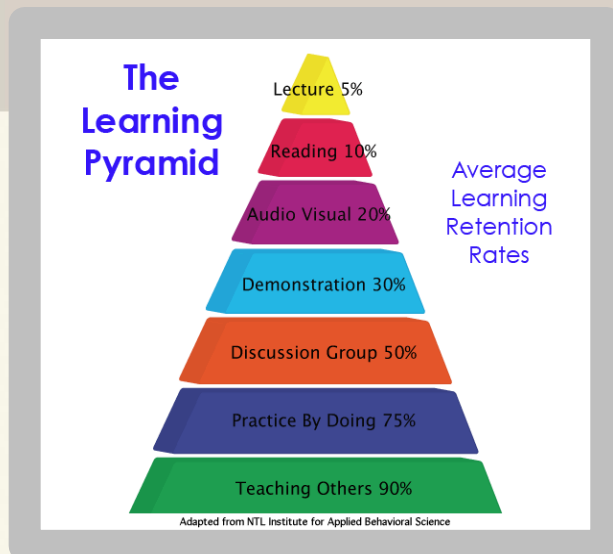


COMPETITORS IN SHTM TALL TALES COMPETITION, FROM LEFT, WINNER TONY SAVIN, SECOND IAN DEMACK; PAUL TURNER AND NEIL DUNNE ALSO COMPETED

SPEECHCRAFT – A CRAFTY WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

BY IAN DEMACK

I've been feeling guilty. For too long I have been keeping many of the pleasures of Speechcraft to myself. This year, I've decided to share. Rosemarie Parisi stepped up to the plate as Speechcraft Coordinator for Term One. Rosemarie wanted to push herself, to learn new skills, and she has certainly achieved her goals. She has added some valuable innovations to Speechcraft, such as personal goal-setting for the participants. Why has Rosemarie done such an excellent job as a first-time Speechcraft Coordinator? The following diagram explains why:



This pyramid rates the value of different learning methods. If you ever wondered why you often found university lectures less compelling than a good tutorial discussion, now you know! At Toastmasters, we place a premium on learning by doing. That's why we stand up to speak at every meeting; it's why we challenge ourselves by undertaking more complex projects during our Toastmaster journey. But while *Practice by Doing* is 75% effective, it's trumped by *Teaching Others*. **If we really want to master the art of public speaking, the best thing we can do for ourselves is to pass our experience and knowledge on to others.**

Fortunately, Stafford Heights Toastmasters has the ideal vehicle for members who wish to step up to the next level: Speechcraft. This isn't just a lucky coincidence. Stafford Heights Toastmasters has been running Speechcraft since 1987. We run Speechcraft at the Stafford Heights State School, in Redwood Street. Speechcraft gives our members a chance to develop their skills as trainers and discussion leaders—skills which build on our existing skills as public speakers.

One issue that concerns me is the issue of sustainability. Ideally, a club like ours would have multiple presenters who could step in and run an entire Speechcraft course, or present individual segments of the course. In practice, what tends to happen is that a small group of members run the program, with much appreciated support from other members, until they burn out. Then the baton passes to someone else.

I would like to expand the pool of Speechcraft presenters, so Stafford Heights can continue to run successful Speechcraft courses. I'm currently looking for members who would like to take on the role of Speechcraft Coordinator for a term. If we have four or six experienced Coordinators, then we can share the workload between us.

I'd especially like to involve some of our newer members. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved in Speechcraft, without running the entire course. They include:

- Bob George has been handling the Timekeeper duties at Speechcraft since the Flood—Noah's, not Campbell's. The Timekeeper is the backbone of the course, making sure we keep to our schedule. Bob does a sterling job, but there are times when he would like a break. If you're handy with the stopwatch and timing light, and would like to watch the course participants develop their speaking skills over six weeks, please let me know.
- There are a number of educational segments that we run at Speechcraft. Some Toastmasters have segments that they enjoy running. Terry Hicks, for example, presents 'Planning Your Presentation' and 'Body Language' in his inimitable style. However, even a superstar needs an understudy. We need to be able to cover any unavoidable absences in the program. Here's the deal. Come along to Speechcraft, and observe a superstar in action. Get session notes and advice from said superstar. Practice, practice, practice. Then, when the superstar falls ill with laryngitis, be ready to fill the spot at late notice. A star is born! (cont.)

SHTM

NEWSLETTER

Consider Speechcraft, one of the best ways to learn

VOLUNTEER FOR THE NEXT ICEBREAKER AT SPEECHCRAFT

- There is also an opportunity for one of our newer members to present an example of an Icebreaker Speech on 23 May. You may have already presented your Icebreaker speech. This is an opportunity to give the speech again, in front of a different audience. After your speech, we have a group discussion. The Speechcrafters consider your speech construction, as well as your use of vocal variety and body language. It helps them prepare their first Icebreaker Speech for the following week—and you receive some valuable feedback, as well. Please let me know if you are interested.

THE NEXT SPEECHCRAFT

Our next Speechcraft course begins on 9 May. As we celebrate Lizzy's birthday on 13 June, Speechcraft concludes on 20 June. Over the six weeks, you'll see novice speakers blossom as they develop greater confidence in front of the group. You'll have the opportunity to present educational segments, or lead group discussions and evaluations

If this sounds like an intriguing way to spend your Monday evenings, or if you have any further questions, please let me know. My contact details are:

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Mobile: 0421 339 416
Email: idemack@gil.com.au

ASOKI JAYAWARDHANA RECEIVES TOASTMASTER HIGHEST RECOGNITION

WWW.SHTM.ORG.AU

Very special mention must go to our honourable club President Asoki Jayawardhana who was awarded the Distinguished Toastmasters Award last month. This is Toastmaster International's highest honour.

What an incredible achievement. I did a bit of research to find out the requirements for receiving such an honour. Here is what Asoki has achieved in her time as a Toastmaster:

Received an Advanced Communicator Gold Award. To qualify for this award you need:

- To achieve Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) or Advanced Toastmaster Silver (ATMS)
- To complete two additional Advanced Communication manuals
- To conduct a Success/Leadership, Success/Communication or Youth Leadership program
- To coach a new member with his/her first three speeches

#Received Advanced Communicator Silver Award. To qualify for this award you need:

- The Advanced Leader Bronze Award
- To have served a complete term as a district officer (district governor, lieutenant governor, public relations officer, secretary, treasurer, division governor, area governor).
- To have completed the High Performance Leadership Program
- To have served successfully as a sponsor or a mentor
- To have served successfully as a club coach or club specialist.

Fewer than 12,000 of Toastmaster's 4 million past and present members have achieved the elite DTM status. Wow! Congratulations Asoki, it's wonderful to have such an experienced Toastmaster in the club. Asoki is the only member of SHTM in the history of the club to achieve this honour.