



MENAI TOASTMASTERS Club # 6320 Chartered 1986

Bi-monthly newsletter - 1st Edition

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International Speech & Evaluation Contest

Well it was that time of year again. Or was it? We normally have our International speech and evaluation contests early in the new year. However, to ease the burden on the Area 42 and Southern Division Governors, due to the tight District 70 contest calendar, Menai TMs Club held their competition on 1st of December and What a Competition it was.

Four contestants took the plunge to have their "Evaluation skills" evaluated. Our Target speaker was TM Mike Smith from Miranda Club. He spoke about the "Hole in the ozone layer" and simplified science by using "footballs" to show us the actions and reactions of Oxygen.

Toastmasters Arthur Ollet, Bruce Cliff, John Drinkwater and Mark Kyte all rose to the challenge of performing a 2-3 minute evaluation of our Target Speaker and gained some new experience along the way. Congratulations to all those who competed.

The above Toastmasters, with the exception of the Squash player who is ranked 16th World, Bruce Cliff, were joined by Daniel Nakhel to compete again in the International Speech Contest. Daniel drew the Ace and was first up, talking about The dangers of the Evolution Religion. He was followed by Arthur, recounting some history about the Aussie "Diggers" in France, with an outfit too match (see photo). John Drinkwater was next discussing the lost arts of Chinese Culture and he was followed by London's own musical prodigy, Mark Kyte encouraging us not to let fear guide our lives (aka our sleds).

TM Arthur Ollet as a 'Digger' for his speech during the contest



Last Meeting for 2009 will be on 15th December

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Results

Evaluation Contest 1st Place – Mark Kyte
2nd Place – Arthur Ollet
Speech Contest 1st Place – Mark Kyte
2nd Place – Daniel Nakhel

The Area 42 Contest will be held next year and further details will be supplied shortly by the Area 42 Governor.

Why be a target speaker?

One of the benefits of being a target speaker, in terms of development, is you receive many evaluations not just one. Being a target speaker is also a very good opportunity to complete manual speeches and to test your comfort zone by delivering speeches to different and larger crowds, than what you may be used to at club level.

The Meeting of the 'Menai Mafia'

While the masses were distracted with celebrating Melbourne Cup Day, Ron (The Don) Alexander, in consultation with Mark 'Baby Face' Kyte, decreed that members of the Menai Mafia should meet at the Italian restaurant called Al Martino's in the mountain village of Illawong, in the Provincia di Menai.

The venue was chosen because it was a good place to practice Voice Projection, and this quickly became the theme of the meeting, until Arthur (Frank Nitty) Ollet, silenced the other restaurant goers with his speech entitled "Hell's Gates".

The night was full of Nicknames, some of which are still remaining long after the meeting, just ask our Area 42 Governor Carole (The Razor) Sharp ATM-G.

Word of the Day

The Executive Committee of Menai, at their most recent meeting, supported a motion to initiate the practice of having a word of the day, for our meetings. This practice is prescribed by Toastmasters International (TI), and is provided by the appointed Grammarian.

First meeting in 2010 will be the 9th February

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This is a great and fun way, for members to increase their vocabulary. Some examples are

Maunder - 'to talk incoherently or aimlessly'

Bimonthly - 'once every two months'
- 'twice a month'

To provide a greater accuracy, some dictionaries refer to the alternate word of 'Semi-monthly' to mean "twice in one month". This also applies to District 70's semi-annual conferences which occur twice a year.

Menai's in house Speechcraft course

Toastmasters has the facility to run crash courses for those who want to better their public speaking skills and confidence. These are known as Speechcraft courses. These courses are designed to extend the structure of Toastmasters to non-members so they also can benefit from the Support, encouragement and friendship that TM members provide each other. They are also a great learning experience for TMs, by being part of a journey where you can see a group of people develop.

These are some of the reasons why the Menai members have agreed to run a 'pilot' in-house speech craft course, sometime early in the new year.

This will provide the opportunity for Menai TM members to get involved in the mentoring program, by sharing some of their TM experience for the benefit of others.



Menai Club President, Cathy Doran, CC, ALB, as the Toastmaster, at a Miranda Speechcraft course

Income generated from the course helps to keep our club functioning.

Menai plans to run a Speechcraft course during our regular meetings. The course will be run over 6 regular meetings (12 weeks in total). There are 4 positions available and each will have access to a dedicated member as a mentor as well as the support from the entire club.

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There will be plenty of opportunity for members to participate by giving Evaluations, Demo Speeches and Educational presentations and many can be credited towards leadership tasks.



TM Daniel Nakhli giving a demonstration speech on 'Show what you mean' at a Miranda Speechcraft course

If you know of anyone who would be interested in partaking in the course please contact **Rick Haynes ATM-G - VP Club Membership** vp_membership@menai-toastmasters.org

Recent Awards

Congratulations to Rod Fuller who recently completed his 10th speech from the Competent Communicator Manual.

Congratulations TM **Rod Fuller, CC**

Menai TM Membership Profile

Name: Ron Alexander, DTM
Time in Toastmasters: 9 years

When and why did you join toastmasters?

I retired from the NSW Police Force January 1991, was offered employment with the Serious Fraud Office (Auckland, New Zealand 1992) for 4 years, as I hold 3 teaching certificates through the Sturt University (Goulburn).

Upon returning to Sydney 1996, I recognized a need to re-develop my communication skills. Having spoken to a friend, I was introduced to the Miranda RSL Toastmasters Club in June 2000 and joined on the first night.

What aspects of Toastmasters do you like best?

The aspects I like the most about Toastmasters are numerous, however, the most significant aspects that keeps me in Toastmasters are, watching new members develop their Public Speaking and Leadership skills and receiving recognition in meeting the challenges. Observing advanced members continue in honing their skills and enter speaking competitions and I believe the most important aspect is, gaining new friendships.

Interested in displaying your profile Please contact the newsletter editor via saa@menai-toastmasters.org

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