

# CHATTER ON A PLATTER

## Moving Forward & Getting Ahead

### Great Contests!

Our August meeting was contest meeting at NBTC, with both Table Topics and Humorous Speech contests well attended. The venue was the private upstairs room at Thup Tim Siam Restaurant, Manly who treated us to their delicious multi dish banquet. The meeting was chaired by Reg Stewart, the Chief Judge was Paul Gilchrist and we were on our best behaviour to impress our guests, Karen Moyies, Gail and Lyndall Goff plus regular guests Guy Loucks and Beverley Barber.

### Next Meeting info;

Date; Tuesday 27th September

Venue; Club Totem, 195 Condamine St, Balgowlah. Plenty of parking inside the Stockland Shopping Centre and take the club's direct lift to the reception, don't forget to have your parking ticket endorsed.

### Interview with Sharon on page 3



### Table Topics Contestants

We were treated to three excellent answers to the randomly selected Table Topic: "They were the good old days" Members Luke Donabauer, Sue Loucks and Talal Rossi each gave their own interpretation and the winner was Sue.

Congratulations Sue for a fantastic performance and well done to both Luke and Talal for taking the challenge.

The Humorous Speech Contest that also entertained the members and guests was contested by Talal Rossi, Steve Barber and Graham West and the winner was Steve Barber with his speech titled "Job Descriptions".

Both winners, Sue and Steve will represent Northern Beaches Club at the Area 8 Contest on Wednesday 14th September at 7.15pm St. Kieran's Parish Centre, 2 King Street, Manly Vale.

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## Members Birthdays

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Dave Tomlinson

Errol Byrnes

Madam Barber

Keren Snell

Kathy Stewart

Reg Stewart

## Humorous Speech Contestants



## New Member Inductions

*Welcome to our newest members, Tanuja and Michael West who were inducted at the meeting by VP Membership, Talal Rossi*



### Recent subjects and links on our Facebook page;

- ~ 7 Phrases to Help Your Public Speaking
- ~ Here's the best way to start a conversation that you're worried might end in an argument
- ~ You're Bad at Small Talk Because You Don't Know What It's For
- ~ Perfect Your Public Speaking Skills Now With This Step-by-Step Guide

## ***Interview with President Sharon Austin***

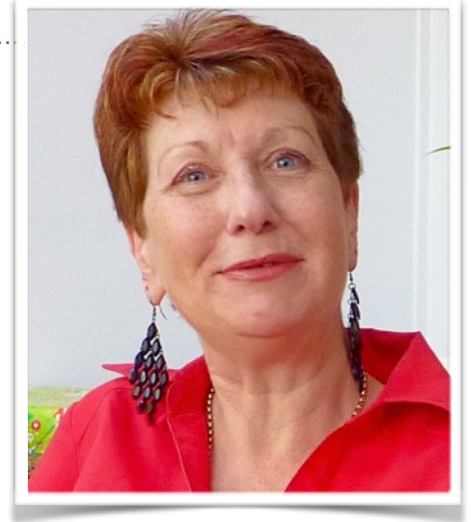
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### ***Where did you grow up & go to school?***

I grew up and went to school in Belfast, Northern Ireland

### ***What was your first job?***

My first job was as a Secretary in Ulster Factors, which was the first factoring company in Northern Ireland, long before factoring became a common way for companies to raise funds. My second job was with the BBC as Secretary to the Costume and Design Department. I also had a couple of part-time jobs, one as a Police Reservist and one as an Army Reservist (Medic) with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps



### ***When did you arrive in Sydney and why?***

I came to Sydney in 1996 because I found life in Northern Ireland during the troubles was very restrictive. I had spent a couple of years in Canada working as a nanny and having experienced the freedom experienced by "normal" countries, didn't want to live in Ireland

### ***What are your passions in life, other than TM?***

- I like to;     •     read     •     socialise     •     exercise
- binge on TV series such as Madmen, Suits, Orange is the new black, Dexter,
  - I am a marriage celebrant
  - I teach Ethics to kindergarten at Wheeler Heights Public School
  - I am about to start teaching computer skills to seniors through Computer Pals

### ***What would be your favourite travel destination?***

I really like the Kimberley and the top end of Australia. I think the scenery is amazing and love the red earth and blue skies.

### ***Which overseas Toastmasters Club would you like to visit?***

Belfast of course. I keep trying to get there but the timing never seems to work.

### ***Anything else you would like to say?***

I joined Toastmasters in 1994 and can't believe its been 22 years. It has helped me a lot in my career in not for profit, from making presentations to politicians and funders to becoming a marriage celebrant and officiating at weddings some that have over 100 guests. I also enjoy the fun, the camaraderie and the stimulation.

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