

CHATTER ON A PLATTER

Moving Forward & Getting Ahead

Farewell Jan !

Thanks Jan for everything you have done for us and the club. July's meeting was a celebration of Jan's hand of guidance with Northern Beaches Toastmasters from its inception. The venue was excellent, food fabulous, lots of lovely guests and friendly faces including **John Inglis** and **Keren Snell**.

Speakers for the meeting;

Kathy Stewart with a hilarious speech about the lifelong struggle with her curly hair and evaluated by David Tomlinson.

Luke Donabauer spoke about the differences between Baby Boomers and Gen Y generations, evaluated by Sharon Austin.

June McKimmie gave an amusing account of her driving lesson, reversing uphill on a bench seat and in a column shift Vauxhall, evaluated by Reg Stewart.

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Presidents Message

The July meeting was held at The Bored Monkey at Narrabeen. This was the second time we have been at this venue and it was great. The evening was fun and vibrant, the food was excellent, we had our own bar staff. It was the perfect spot to hold our farewell dinner to one of our Founders, Jan Vecchio. Although Jan will remain a member of the club and visit occasionally, we will not have the benefit of her regular presence at the club.

It was lovely to see so many people attend. Lots of visitors and members we haven't seen for quite some





time. It was particularly good to end the evening with 2 new members, Tanuja and Graham West. Most members will remember Tanuja as one of our Speechcrafters and we are very happy to welcome her to our club. Her husband Graham is also very welcome especially as he has put his hand up to enter the humorous speech contest in August. It was also nice see Susan Watson again and to meet our other visitors, Tanuja's mum Christine, along with Robin, Mark, and Linda and Michael Said. Michael attended in his official capacity as District Director and gave an inspiring address to the club.

I won't be at the August meeting as I will be overseas and I am very sorry to be missing the clubs Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest. I will be thinking of you and wish all the contestants the very best of luck.

See you in September.

Warm wishes Sharon.



Next Meeting info;

**Date; Tues 23rd August
Humorous Speech
& Table Topics Contest
Venue;- To be confirmed**

Mark Twain Quotes:

**Build schools now or
jails later.**

**Kindness is the language
which deaf can hear and
the blind can see.**

**The human race has one
effective weapon and that
is laughter.**



Interview with Toastmaster Luke Donabauer Vice President Education

Where did you grow up & go to school?

I was fortunate enough to grow up on the beautiful northern beaches, in Cromer. I used to walk just up the road to get to St Rose primary school, then I made the transition to St Augustine's College in Brookvale.



What were your favourite school subjects?

Favourite subjects would have to have been English Advanced and legal studies. Eng Advanced really introduced me to critical analysis, which was something that was very important in university studies. For legal studies, it gave me a core understanding of society, and the systems that govern them, whilst also incorporating an international component particularly in our analysis of foreign legal atrocities. This subject also inspired me in my university studies. I was lucky enough to have brilliant teachers and mentors for both of these subjects in particular.

What was your first job?

My first job was at the Warringah Mall games arcade Galaxy World (used to be up next to Hoyts). I was 15 at the time, and was in charge of presenting people with the prizes of their choice. It was great to see people enjoying the games they were playing, and to begin developing the people skills which are so important both professionally and personally.

What are your passions in life?

My fundamental passion in life is challenge. I believe that if we do not challenge ourselves we will never grow as individuals. This is why we explore new things in life such as Toastmasters, to develop our skills through challenge in the hope of becoming better-off as a result. When we stop challenging ourselves we prohibit personal growth. Another passion of mine that flows on from challenge is personal development. This is in a sense that we identify our strengths and weaknesses as early as we can as people, and convert our weaknesses into strengths.

What are your hobbies? (Sea Eagles supporter?)

My hobbies consist of: yes, of course following the NRL (in particular the Sea Eagles, especially when they are doing well), playing soccer, toast masters, following the Australian stock exchange, reading, studying and socialising with my wonderful friends from all over the place!

What would be your favourite travel destination?

Favourite travel destination would have to be Austria (although I can't say I've been yet!). I have extended family over in Austria and visiting both Austria and Germany is very high on the to-do list. I've heard from friends, family and research that it's a beautiful country with great people.

Which overseas Toastmasters Club would you like to visit?

I would have to say the VIC (Vienna International Centre) Club. I have heard that German clubs incorporate great multilingual approaches to international members visiting, and myself being able to speak German at a basic level and wanting to learn further, I believe that attending a meeting of this club would be very interesting and enjoyable.

Can you tell us about the life of a Private Investigator?

I can, but if I do I'm afraid I'd have to.... It was quite interesting at times. As I was a surveillance investigator, it involved a lot of observation and remaining in a static location for long periods of time (yes, stake-outs). At times, yes it can be quite uneventful, however when the person of interest is spotted and they get into their car, the adrenaline begins and it can get pretty intense!

Anything else you would like to say?

For anyone who is seeking to better their public speaking skills, social skills in general or simply to attempt to boost their confidence, toast masters is an excellent organisation to be a part of. The skills we learn here can be utilised both professionally and socially, and it still today the cheapest public speaking training anywhere around.