

# CHATTER ON A PLATTER

## Moving Forward & Getting Ahead

### New Look Newsletter!

Northern Beaches Toastmasters celebrated our changeover meeting in the private room at Club Totem Balgowlah 28th June 2016.

Not only did we get waitress service but also undercover parking and inside toilets! (unlike some local restaurants we have had the pleasure of meeting at).

**Exclusive Interview with Jan Vecchio on page 3 !!**

### Next Meeting

**26th July 2016**

**Theme "Make Them Laugh"**

**Venue;**

**The Bored Monkey Cafe,  
Narrabeen**



## Changeover Meeting

Denise Tomlinson was admitted to hospital and all members wish her a very speedy recovery and return to the club.

Reg Stewart impressed us with a wonderful and dignified ceremony to discharge and induct the Club Officers.

Sue Loucks congratulated all members for the 7 DCP goals that resulted with the award of Select Distinguished Club. Sue explained how special this award is and that only 3 of 6 Area clubs, 12 of 27 Division clubs and only 53 of 144 District clubs had achieved similar levels of award this year.

### **This years Club Awards were presented to;**

Appreciation Award	Luke Donabauer
Mick Renvoiz Award for Commitment	Jan Vecchio
Toastmaster of the Year	Sharon Austin
Most "Best Assignments Award" shared by	Steve & Luke
Most "Best Speech of the meeting Award"	Jan Vecchio



## Ingoing & Outgoing Club Presidents

(Apologies to Sue for the Hitchcock style shadow)

### Thank You

#### NBTC 2015 - 2016 Committee

- President Sue Loucks
- VPE Errol Byrnes
- VPM Sharon Austin
- VPPR Sharon Austin
- Secretary Jan Vecchio
- Treasurer Jan Vecchio
- S-A-A Brian Paull
- IPP Jan Vecchio

### Welcome

#### NBTC 2016 - 2017 Committee

- President Sharon Austin
- VPE Luke Donabauer
- VPM Talal Rossi
- VPPR Steve Barber
- Secretary Sue Loucks
- Treasurer Errol Byrnes
- S-A-A Brian Paull

## Meeting Speakers

**Jan Vecchio** dressed to the theme of “Black & White” in a stunning outfit and presented a dynamic speech to the subject “Grey is Okay”. Intro - “Black and white are two words which are frequently used together - both have opposite meanings and in between is grey.”

Jan’s speech was evaluated by Talal Rossi

**Deanna Morpurgo** from the Humorous manual gave us a speech titled “Yachties - They’re a Weird Mob”. She ended with a quote from Mark Twain; “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

Deanna’s speech was evaluated by Kathy Stewart.

## Incoming President Sharon and her executive team



An exclusive interview with Jan Vecchio, co-founder of NBTC.

*When did you join Toastmasters and what were the motivations?*

I joined Toastmasters in February 1997 after a lengthy campaign by Sammie Newman to get me to meeting at North Harbour Toastmasters Club (now Balgowlah RSL). It only took 4 years. At my first meeting I noticed how confident people were as speakers. I wanted to have confidence to communicate one-on-one and be able to contribute to a conversation in a group of 3-4 people.

*Was any particular person/mentor responsible for your rise through the Toastmaster ranks or did it happen organically and unplanned?*

The rise through Toastmasters was unplanned. It happened mainly because the more involved I became in the program, the more I could see how effective it was for confidence building and, I wanted to be challenged to be a better communicator and leader than I am. Debbie Tibbles gave me the encouragement to take the leap and nominate for Lt Governor Marketing in 2010.

*Some say that Area Gov can be the best (fun) position in the organisation, (i.e. close to the clubs & members without too much extra paperwork or responsibility) would you agree with that?*

Yes. I think Area Director (as it is now) is the best role. You are working with the clubs, you get to visit clubs and speak at each club which boosts the confidence level. The paper work is not excessive, planning and organising contests and leading teams are excellent skills to be gained in the role of Area Director.

*Mind you, attending International Conferences as DG must be hard to beat?*

It is hard to beat. I will be attending my 7th International Convention in August. The speech contests, educational presentations, flag ceremony and general camaraderie are fabulous. It is such a beautiful thing to see so many nationalities coming together in friendship.

*You must have a huge list of wonderful international contacts that you have met and keep in touch with?*

I do have a long list. I am looking forward to meeting my international friends again - friends who are on the board of Directors, friends who have been International Presidents and who will be International Presidents, friends who are District Officers in other districts and friends who just like to go along to Toastmaster events because they love Toastmasters, like I do.

*How many clubs are you involved with?*

At the moment I am involved with 7 clubs as a member and 1 club as a mentor. I recently resigned from a club - the first club from which I have ever resigned. My club memberships span 3 districts. Last year I had 11 club officer roles plus my district roles plus the role of Chief Ambassador for the Revitalised Education Program.

*Do you have any idea how many speeches you have given?*

I have no idea, but I am up to my 30th Competent Communication Manual and have completed all 15 Advanced Manuals (some of them 3-4 times). When I was an ambassador for Youth Off The Streets, I gave many speeches which were never recorded as Toastmaster speeches.

*As co-founder of Northern Beaches you must be as sad to be moving on as we are to lose you.*

*(Perhaps you can continue to attend our meetings through Skype? ha ha)*

I am sad to be moving on - sad to think I will be missing out on the fun that we have at club meetings. If possible I will skype in during a meeting but I will come down to Sydney from time to time, and plan my visits so that I can attend club meetings.

*Anything else you would like to add?*

I am inspired by Helen Blanchard (first female President in Toastmasters International) who said "If you get out of Toastmasters, what I get out of Toastmasters, you will never get out of Toastmasters.". I get much more out of Toastmasters than I give. I have been given confidence to speak and to lead but the greatest gift is the number of beautiful friends I have.

*Thanks Jan, you have been a fabulous inspiration to so many Toastmasters and we wish you a big hug and all the very best for the next chapter in your life.*