

The Metro



Volume 2—Sept 2009



Toastmasters—Metropolitan Division, District 69



He's Back!

A Triumphant Mark Hunter returns to Brisbane!
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Getting the Most Out of Toastmasters!

42 New Members in 2 months for Metro!

Congratulations Metro Division Toastmasters.

In July we ran the Club Officer and Member training sessions.

As you know, on Saturday 18 July we ran a full day of action packed sessions PLUS two evening sessions—one in the city on 22 July and one in the 'burbs on 29 July. And what a success it was!

We were overwhelmed with your support and can now report that we trained:

176 Toastmasters—this included 159 Club Officers, 17 TM members
Thank you for your support and

enthusiasm.

Thank you also to all the trainers who gave up their time to prepare and present and to Metro Division TLI trainer Marilyn Davies, whose passion for exciting and meaningful training provided us all with a wonderful opportunity to

Get the Most Out of Toastmasters!

We have also run Judges Training in the city on 26 August and a session at Chermside on Saturday 29 August. Thank you to the trainers!

We are now working on the February training—looking to provide you all with something different!

We aim to run the 3 sessions again—a Saturday and two eve-

ning sessions. Dates and venues will be advised later in the year.

September and October of course see the last of the club contests and the start of the Area Conferences.

To all club contestants, congratulations. You are a winner regardless of whether you win a place. Just by being in the competition you face your fear; you challenge yourself to take that extra step.

To those of you who now go on to Area competitions—good luck. It is always exciting to present to that new and larger audience and I know your clubs will be there as your cheer squad to support you at your contests.

Marilyn Freeman
Metro Division Governor

Build Your Club Membership and WIN!

We've asked you to be bold and exciting and grow your membership to charter strength and beyond in this coming TM year!

We know that that's a huge challenge for some clubs. But we're prepared to reward you!

The two clubs who achieve the greatest percentage growth on their 1 July 2009 membership base will win a **full registration**

to District 69 Convention, Caloundra—30 April-3 May 2010.

The promotion closes midnight, Friday 26 February 2010.

You will be asked to complete a registration form—available on the Metro Division website.

Send in your registration form. Run your membership drives. Then finalise your form with your

results and resend on or before 26 February 2010.

Who will you send when you win? Will you hold a lottery—luck of the draw?

Will you use the prize to reward a hard working club member?

The choice will be yours! But you have to be in it to win it! Visit www.metrodivisiontoastmasters.com look under **Resources: Membership**

MEET THE METRO TEAM



Area 5 Governor
Mark Griffin

News from Area 5—Rising Through The Ranks— Area Conference 18 Oct

At the end of the 2008-2009 year four clubs were awarded Distinguished Club Award, with one club narrowly missing this milestone.

The sixth club has seen tremendous growth in the last half-year moving from 6 to almost 11 members.

It is exciting to see that there are many new faces amongst this sixth club who are ready to take on

leadership roles within the club, and that there are more experienced members there who provide excellent mentorship for these toastmasters.

The Area 5 Conference for this year is taking shape. This year the theme is "The Luck of the Irish".

I am asking people to come dressed up – this could be simply wearing a

small green brooch to 'the sky's the limit'.

There will be a prize for the best-dressed on the day.

All the Area 5 clubs will be involved in running the various sessions on the day which not only shares the workload but also means each club can gain a sense of ownership over their area conference.

News from Area 8—"Dare to Grow" - Area Conference—24 Oct.



Area 8 Governor
Asoki Jayawardhana

All Clubs in Area 8 seem set for Distinguished or better this year, and are enthusiastically working towards this Goal with many members achieving higher levels.

All the Clubs without exception have creative and exciting meetings at which guests are warmly welcomed and the Toastmasters mission and vision clearly evident in their actions.

Area 8 Conference, scheduled for October 24th, is well on the way to being a memorable and successful event with a theme of "Turn Up The Heat". We turned up the heat by inviting the World Champion to be our keynote speaker!

It will be held at Pendicup Community Centre in Warner with all 6 Clubs actively involved in various aspects of Confer-

ence planning and execution and a prize for the club with the most attendees.

Adult Learners Week will be a special focus in our Area this year, with many of the Clubs planning Special Events with a view to attracting new members.

Obviously we are very proud that the World Champion is from Area 8!

News from Area 15 - Achieving Together! - Area Conference 31 Oct.



Area 15 Governor
Susan Chisholm

Area 15 has a good mix of experienced members and 'newbies'.

Club meetings all have a lot of variety in their programs and provide opportunity for all members to advance.

The five clubs are working hard on increasing membership so they all achieve charter strength.

An Area 15 planning

meeting was held in July 2009 to organise the Area 15 conference.

This is being held on 31 October 2009 at the New Farm Uniting Church Hall. The theme for the conference is:

'Achieving Together'

and this is a theme demonstrated in each club's meetings and activities.

Congratulations to Annette Parsons from Ipomoea Club who received her 15th year Toastmasters badge on 20 July 2009.

Exciting news is that MDI had its 35th birthday which was recognized by a presentation at a combined meeting of Area 15 clubs on 31 August 2009.

News from Area 18—Better Your Best—Area Conference 4 Oct.

Area 18 has 4 very different and diverse clubs.

One advanced club — (Chermside Communicators), one Corporate Club (QR) and two community clubs (Brisbane North and Stafford Heights), so membership drives must be approached from different angles.

Chermside cannot recruit members as a normal club does. This club promotes themselves by networking, email and other club visits.

QR attracts members via a company weekly publication which regularly advertises vacant positions.

Brisbane North have already gained 3 new members to take their tally to 18. One of the new members is a reinstated member who moved back into the area but the others came through the internet.

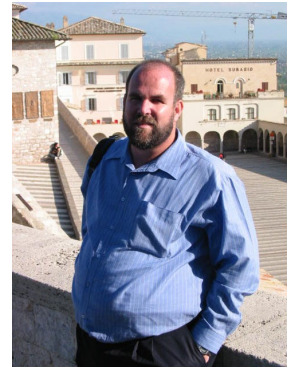
Stafford Heights club is 27 years old and is one of the strongest clubs in the Metro division.

In July they had a base of 29 members and have already increased membership to 32. They gain their members in a number of ways including Speech craft and an up-to-date web site.

OTHER AREA NEWS -

A new club Demonstration Meeting - Narangba Valley Tavern Mon. 12 Oct

Area conference Aspley Bowls club—\$35 full day incl. lunch, a.m./p.m. tea



Area 18 Governor
Rod Luck

News from Area 19—Making The Most Of Toastmasters Area Conf 17 Oct.

Area 19 has been busy attending training and growing membership.

We had 24 members attend training and whilst membership has grown by just 2 there are Speechcraft plans and membership drives underway across the Area.

Two long service medals have been presented. Congratulations to Brian Webber at Western Sub-

urbs for 20 years membership.

Congratulations also to Marlene Lucas at Telstra Transit for 15 years membership.

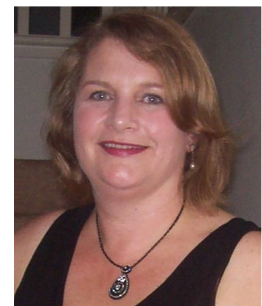
July was busy. Boyd Park, the newest club to charter in Metropolitan Division held their Charter dinner on 27th July

While Western Suburbs one of the older clubs celebrated their 37th Birth-

day.

The Area 19 conference will be held at Arana Leagues Club on Sat. 17 October and all plans are well under way.

Area 19 now also has its own silk banner that will be proudly displayed at our Area conference.



Area 19 Governor
Michele Henselien

News from Area 21—Ring The Bell! - Area Conference—7 & 21 Oct.

Area 21 goals are 3-fold - 1. Re-introduce the competitions; 2. Improve on 2009's DCP outcomes at all clubs; 3. Facilitate networking between clubs.

Area 21 competitions to be held evenings of 7th & 21st October. All clubs have members experiencing competition for the first time, either competing, or volunteers!
All clubs achieved the first Admin and Training requirements as planned!

At Area Council meeting, 26 August, clubs reviewed agenda and meeting formats. Great ideas circulated with many initiatives going back to clubs.

Club News: - Goalsetters are holding speech comps across all 4 categories & have 1 AC.

CBD are holding 2 speech contests in September. Young Achievers are leveraging off their Mentoring program for future succession planning.

ACS are holding a membership drive .

111 have 4 new members and won best planning award at the Council meeting!

Next Council Meeting:

Wed. 11th November—debrief the comps, update DCP progress, share meeting structure changes, present communication & leadership registers & distribute a succession planning template being presented at SAC 14th Nov.



Area Governor 21
Don Graham

News from International Convention—Proposal A—14 Regions Approved!

Toastmasters Proposed Regions Approved!

Friday 14 August was a momentous day for Toastmasters International.

As from Sunday, 16 August the Toastmasters' world will have 14 regions, four of them outside North America.

Until now there were only 10 regions—all of them allocated to North America.

Everyone else was allocated to DNARs—Districts Not Allocated To Regions.

Australia will now belong to a region consisting of New Zealand and **four** Australian Districts and we will be known as Region 12.

4 Districts in Australia—not 3.

There is going to be a new district in Australia - Western Australia now has over 50 clubs and will now

have its own District.

Can you imagine the demands of being District Governor of what was District 73—previously Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania!!

This wonderful result could not have happened without you and your club returning your proxies and registering your vote.

Thank you!

But .. what does all this mean to you as a club member.

It means that Toastmasters International is now truly international.

It means we will have improved global support:

- We will have our own Regional Director (to be elected).
- We will have our own regional

advisor marketing.

It means we will have a voice:

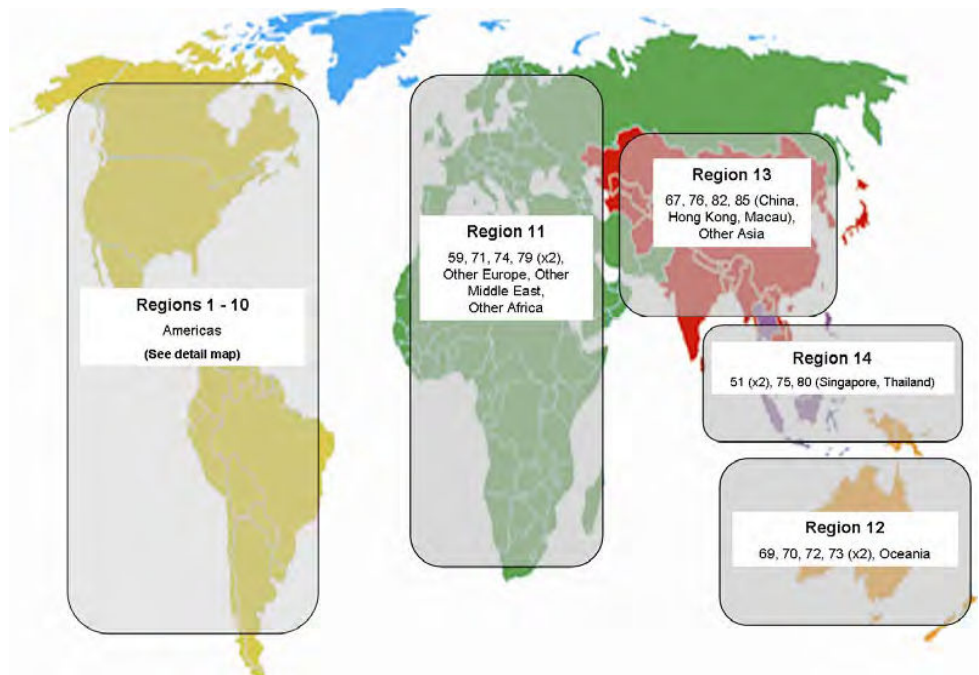
- The voice of the region will be heard via regional surveys
- We will be represented at Toastmasters International.
- We will elect our own directors

It means the playing field will be more even:

- All regional international speech contests will be held at the international convention for progressing to the finals days later. This means that all 10 regions from North America will be under the same pressure as the contestants from the rest of the world — now the other 4 regions!

Below you can see the new TI Regions map.

Toastmasters Proposed Regions



Mark Hunter .. World Champion of Public Speaking!

As I'm sure you all know by now, Mark Hunter achieved the impossible dream.

He won the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The second Australian to do so. The fifth person outside of the Americas to do so since 1938.

And Mark is a Metro Division member.

He is a member of Bunya Toastmasters and a member of SeeChange Advanced Toastmasters.

He has also been a dedicated and passionate trainer at Metro Division training sessions, always giving back to Toastmasters wherever he can.

How did Mark achieve this amazing win?

Anyone who knows Mark knows he has great oratory skills. He has incredible speech writing skills and an insightful mind.

But what makes Mark extra special, what takes him from 'Ordinary to Extraordinary—is the Extra he puts into his performance.

The effort, the commitment and going above and beyond the norm.

Like holding a demanding full time job yet still taking his competition speeches to over 20 clubs across a number of divisions to rehearse and get feedback.

Revising, tweaking and changing

his speech—one word here, a nuance there. If there is one thing I have learned from Mark it is that a speech, particularly a competition speech, is dynamic.

A competition speech is NOT the same speech that is just rehearsed over and over but is something that constantly changes, grows and improves.

Congratulations to Mark on his win! He is truly an inspiration to us all.



Toastmasters Skills—They may be Soft, They're Definitely Not Limp!

Hard skills are, of course, about technical competence—and no amount of soft skills can substitute technical competence.

BUT ... without soft skills your technical competence won't get you very far.

Soft skills make the difference between an average and a GREAT performance!

What are soft skills?

- Effective Communication
- Presentation Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Listening Skills
- Analytical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Change Management

How do these skills apply in business?

We all know that the best bosses are the ones who listen—although they tend to be in short supply!

Anyone involved in negotiation knows the value of listening and engaging with the "other side" to bring about a deal!

Organisations increasingly want to hire people who can demonstrate strong communication skills in addition to their technical knowledge and qualifications.

Today's interview selection process commonly uses competency based questions to find out whether a person has leadership skills or the ability to influence people through positive behaviour.

It's also a standard part of most performance appraisals these days.

Soft skills are about how we sell our ideas to colleagues or clients.

This will of course sound very familiar to a Toastmaster—because soft skilling is what Toastmasters is all about.

This is our product and it has never been more in demand than it is today!

There are other organisations out there selling training in soft skills—but our point of difference is that we offer: the opportunity to grow at your own pace, hands on practise, all at an affordable price.

Talk Up Toastmasters!

**Soft
but
not
Limp!**



Toastmasters—Metropolitan Division, District 69

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Toastmasters it's about
Better Thinking
Better Listening
Better Speaking

**If we want what
we've never
had—we must
do what we've
never done!**

Date Saver:
Metro Div
Conference:
Saturday
20 March
Bronco's
Leagues
Club

Membership Building Tips—Community and Corporate/Government Clubs

If we want what we've never had—perhaps we have to do what we've never done! When we apply this to membership growth and retention—perhaps we have to think outside of the square. Do things differently! Try new things! On the Metro website, we have some tips for membership growth that one of the International Convention candidates for regional director circulated to all Districts.

Please consider!! Perhaps something on the list will work for your club! www.metrodivisiontoastmasters.com — go to **Resources:** Item 'Membership'. There is a tip sheet for Community Clubs and a tip sheet for Corporate Clubs.

Did you know that for every new member enrolled before 30 September, our District earns 3 points towards their goal—bit like the club DCP. BUT from 1 October the points drop to 2 per new member and then later in the TM year to 1 point per new member. So the more members we can enrol prior to 30 September the stronger our clubs become and the stronger our District can be.

Metro Division has already enrolled 42 new members as at 3 September giving us the second spot for new members enrolled. Southern Division have 43!

Retaining Current Members!

Whilst it's wonderful to enrol new members let's not forget our existing members. It's fees time again. A time when members may stop and question whether they continue with Toastmasters! We need to make sure our current members feel valued and feel they're getting value for their money. When we lose existing members we not only lose a member. Our club loses their experience, their input and their knowledge.

It is far more difficult to enrol new members than it is to retain the ones we already have.

A Lecture About English

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day. "In English," he said, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative.

However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right!"