



WESTERN WAFFLE

The newsletter of Western Gourmet Toastmasters Club April 2010

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

We had another great meeting at Peronis Restaurant in April ably MC'ed by 1st time MC Wendy Nielsen, well done Wendy for a great night of memories, and again the food was superb. It was good to see Lyndal and Warren back again after stints in hospital, welcome back.

Well it's that time of the Toastmasters year again (Election Time) and Immediate Past President Christine presented her Executive Nomination Report at the start of the meeting. Nominations were presented for 6 of the 7 positions, these are: Ian Lipski for President, Julie Ackroyd for VPE, Geoff Henson for VPM, Elizabeth Wilson for Secretary, Gary Wilson for Treasurer and Ron Marriott for Sergeant At Arms (no nomination for VPPR). Of course any financial member can stand from the floor for any position. The election will be held at the next meeting.

It was good to see the Area 13 Evaluation contestant (David Griffiths) successful at the Western Division Contests in March. He had some stiff opposition to contend with. Dale Rees – Bevan won the International Speech contest Both go on to the Finals to be held at the D70 Conference in May. I attended with a number of Western Gourmet members and it was a great afternoon of entertainment.

Don't forget the Annual Conference is on at Bankstown Sports Club from May 21 to 23, it looks like it will be a great conference so if you are yet to register you better hurry up. Registration can be done online at the D70 website: www.d70toastmasters.org
Hope to see you there.

Well that's all from me for this edition, see you at Guildford Leagues Club on May 14 for "Elections" with Rhonda Hookham as MC, take care see you at Guildford.

Best Regards,
John Taylor
President


Meeting: 132

Theme: Lights, Camera, Action
MC: Wendy Nielsen
Venue: Peronis Restaurant 48 Station St, Harris Park
Date: 9/4/2010

Much milling and conversation were in evidence around the long dining table in Peronis restaurant's function room. Members had dressed for the occasion, some very flamboyantly - it was rumored that the Dame Edna look alike was actually David Moore. The function room was decorated with Hollywood paraphernalia such as movie posters and Hollywood signs. By looking carefully around the room you could notice variety of props including videos, DVD's, news reels, signs, movie clipboard and decorations – a lot of effort had gone into creating an atmosphere of Hollywood entertainment.

With a quintuple bang of the gavel Sgt At Arms, Ron Marriott, brought the meeting to order and introduced the President. President John Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced "I love seeing movies on the big screen". John confessed to watching movies at the Lyceum Theatre stating "That is the first place I saw Casablanca". John introduced VPE Elizabeth Wilson with the program changes followed by stand-in Secretary Gary Wilson with the apologies.

President John introduced Immediate Past President Christine Jansz to conduct nominations for the new executive committee. Next John introduced our MC for the meeting Wendy Nielsen.



Wendy gave an enthusiastic introduction to the meeting theme which was followed by Debbie Sivyer with the Welcome. Debbie welcomed our guests Robyn Peck and Melissa Chapperlin.

MC Wendy introduced the Round Robin theme of 'Your Inspiration, Exasperation or Gratitude from the Movies' with "It's like a box of chocolates – you never know what you'll get". There was a diverse range of movies – Mr Deeds goes to Town, Pokemon, Funny Girl with Barbara Streisand, Casablanca (guess who...), James Bond movies, Die Hard series – with Bruce Willis, Hunt for Red October, Titanic, Annie, P.S. I love you, An Affair to Remember, Sleepless in Seattle, Shutter Island, The 6th Sense – Bruce Willis, The Railway Children, Brokeback Mountain, Shirley Valentine, Blind Side, Batman and Robin.

MC Wendy introduced Quiz Master, Steve Wieczorek, with the theme of "Famous Lines" Steve has 32 questions of varying difficulty. Steve read the rules of the quiz and we were underway. Melissa spoke of her enjoyment of scuba diving. Steve announced "I tried scuba diving once but they forgot to put air in the tanks". The quiz was fast paced and entertaining. Only ½ point separated the teams at the end of the quiz – well done! Steve hands back to Wendy – time for a break to enjoy the exquisite Peronis entrees.

With a quadruple bang of the gavel Ron brought the meeting back to order. Wendy introduced Julie Ackroyd with the Acceptance Speeches (aka Table Topics) and what a selection – Gary Wilson doing voice over's – someone called out "I didn't know that Gary could speak in such a high voice", Debbie Sivyer with the Scarlett O'Hara award for the most tantrums on a movie, Ian Lipski with the Donald O'Connor award for Singing in the Rain, Elizabeth Wilson with the Mary Poppins hand bag award, David Moore (aka Dame Edna) with the Chocolate Bust of Edward Cullen award for the tastiest actor – after a lengthy monologue by the great Dame, Julie Ackroyd reminded everyone "The award was for the tastiest actor not the chattiest actor!" as Julie assisted a reluctant Dame Edna (aka David Moore) in exiting the stage, Lyndal Eager with the Pretty Woman award.

Next Wendy introduced the prepared speeches. Dame Edna (aka David Moore) gave a speech entitled "All About Me" – research your topic – on the life and times of Dame Edna. During the speech the great Dame brought audience members onto the stage to "sing 4 & 20 Blackbirds" and the sing it again this time with rhythm. A very entertaining presentation. Wendy brought us to the dinner break to enjoy a succulent Peronis meal.

With another quintuple bang of the gavel Ron Marriott brought the meeting back to order and introduces Wendy (aka Audrey Hepburn). Wendy is inspired by hairstyles, likes old movies, doesn't like Jim Carrey, gratitude towards Shrek and most action movie heroes like Bruce Willis, where upon Steve exclaimed "He's got no hair!". Without skipping a beat the erudite Wendy introduced John Taylor with his research your topic speech on "Hollywood". We heard an entertaining and informative speech about John's trips to Hollywood.

Next Wendy introduces Lance Carter as the Chairman for the Great Debate "That the Hollywood sign on the LA hills should be demolished". Affirmative team (Susan Newton and Julie Ackroyd) went tooth and nail against Negative team (Ron Marriott and Ian Lipski). Judge Gary Wilson awarded the debate narrowly to the Affirmative team.

Evaluator Katherine Collins provided a very thorough and entertaining evaluation of David Moore's (aka Dame Edna) speech. This was followed by Gary Wilson with a competent evaluation of John Taylor's speech where Gary used the CRC method to provide good commendations and recommendations. Timer Elizabeth Wilson gave us our times for the meeting.

Elizabeth Wilson presented the next meeting promotion on behalf of Rhonda Hookham with the theme for "Elections" to be held on Friday 14 May 2010, at Guildford Leagues Club, Tamplin Rd, Guildford commencing at 7.30 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

Lance Carter gives the Epilogue in his inimitable style. MC Wendy thanked everyone and hands back to President John Taylor. John thanked everyone for attending, to Elizabeth for providing the Movie posters and for those people who provided and prepared the Hollywood paraphernalia and closed the meeting.

A very entertaining, action packed evening full of theatrics, creativity, debate, great food and fun!!!



Quotable Waffle

“I love seeing movies on the big screen!” - John’s opening address

“That is the first place I saw *Casablanca*” - John, confessing to watching movies at the Lyceum Theatre

“It’s like a box of chocolates – you never know what you’ll get” - Wendy introducing the Round Robbin

“If you want to see a bad movie, see *Batman and Robin!*” - anonymous

“Spoken like a true critic” – Steve responding to the critique of the *Batman and Robin* movie

“I tried scuba diving once but they forgot to put air in the tanks...” – Steve explaining his experience after Melissa spoke of her enjoyment of scuba diving

“I didn’t know that Gary could speak in such a high voice” – anonymous, in response to Gary’s ‘voice over’s’ Table Topic

“The award was for the tastiest actor not the chattiest actor!” – Julie Ackroyd reminding Dame Edna (aka David Moore) of his Table Topic title and timing

“He’s got no hair!!” – Steve in response to Wendy’s admission that she likes most action movie heroes like Bruce Willis

Tips & Techniques

Her Poise and Presence Were Never in Jeopardy!

Toastmaster tests her skills in popular quiz show

By Julie Bawden Davis

As a little girl watching *Jeopardy!* with her mom, Deb Grehn never imagined that one day she’d be on the show herself. But there she was last year, appearing on the popular TV quiz program and answering questions from suave host Alex Trebek.

Grehn, a 17-year Toastmaster and past District 53 governor, loves trivia and learning new things. That’s what prompted her to try out for the program. *Jeopardy!* tests contestants’ knowledge in different subject areas. As her TV adventure progressed, she drew on her communication skills, as well. All those years of Table Topics, speeches and feedback from fellow members came in handy for Grehn – just as it had at other times. “In every new venture, I use the valuable communication skills I’ve learned as a member of Toastmasters,” she says.

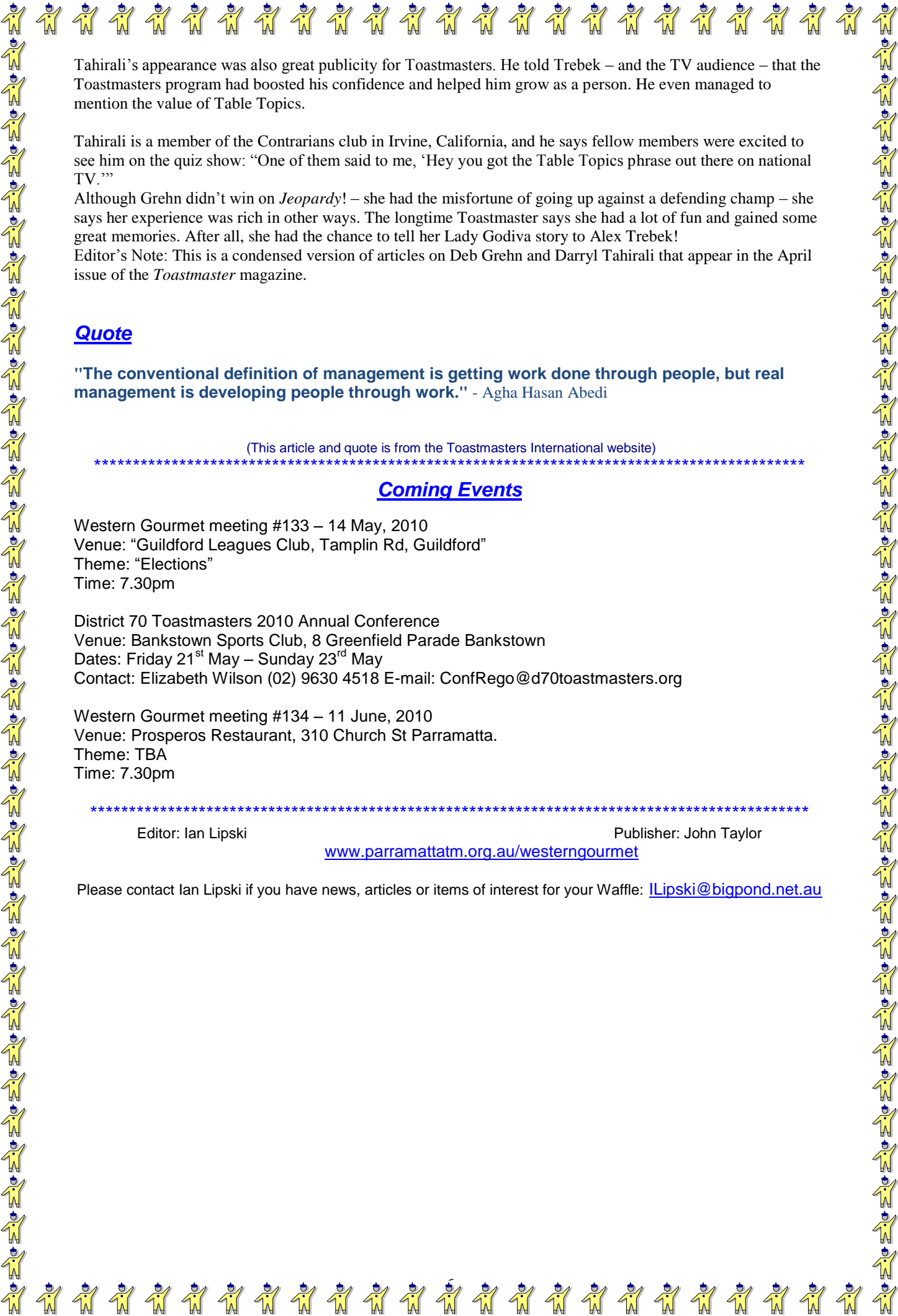
Grehn’s *Jeopardy!* journey began in early 2009 when she passed a preliminary exam online, earning a second test and an interview, in Boston, Massachusetts. A member of three clubs in Connecticut, she prepared for the big day with the help of her fellow club members.

Eventually, she was tapped for a spot on the show. The episode aired October 20. During the part where Trebek asks the contestants about themselves, Grehn charmed the host with an anecdote ... about the time she was Lady Godiva. Well, more specifically, about her first date with the man who is now her husband. Deb and Kim Grehn began their courtship at a Halloween party, where she came costumed as Lady Godiva.

Was talking to Trebek a daunting experience?

“I wasn’t nervous at all, but felt very composed,” says the West Hartford, Connecticut, resident. “The audience and Alex laughed at my story, which really bolstered my self-confidence. I attribute that self-assurance to my Toastmasters training.”

Grehn isn’t the only Toastmaster to have appeared on *Jeopardy!* over the years. In 2008, Darryl Tahirali was selected for the program – and his experience was a lucrative one: He won three games, pocketing \$86,000.



Tahirali's appearance was also great publicity for Toastmasters. He told Trebek – and the TV audience – that the Toastmasters program had boosted his confidence and helped him grow as a person. He even managed to mention the value of Table Topics.

Tahirali is a member of the Contrarians club in Irvine, California, and he says fellow members were excited to see him on the quiz show: "One of them said to me, 'Hey you got the Table Topics phrase out there on national TV.'"

Although Grehn didn't win on *Jeopardy!* – she had the misfortune of going up against a defending champ – she says her experience was rich in other ways. The longtime Toastmaster says she had a lot of fun and gained some great memories. After all, she had the chance to tell her Lady Godiva story to Alex Trebek!

Editor's Note: This is a condensed version of articles on Deb Grehn and Darryl Tahirali that appear in the April issue of the *Toastmaster* magazine.

Quote

"The conventional definition of management is getting work done through people, but real management is developing people through work." - Agha Hasan Abedi

(This article and quote is from the Toastmasters International website)

Coming Events

Western Gourmet meeting #133 – 14 May, 2010
Venue: "Guildford Leagues Club, Tamplin Rd, Guildford"
Theme: "Elections"
Time: 7.30pm

District 70 Toastmasters 2010 Annual Conference
Venue: Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade Bankstown
Dates: Friday 21st May – Sunday 23rd May
Contact: Elizabeth Wilson (02) 9630 4518 E-mail: ConfRego@d70toastmasters.org

Western Gourmet meeting #134 – 11 June, 2010
Venue: Prosperos Restaurant, 310 Church St Parramatta.
Theme: TBA
Time: 7.30pm

Editor: Ian Lipski

Publisher: John Taylor

www.parramattatm.org.au/westerngourmet

Please contact Ian Lipski if you have news, articles or items of interest for your Waffle: ILipski@bigpond.net.au