



WESTERN WAFFLE

The newsletter of Western Gourmet Toastmasters Club June 2010

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Well the end is nigh for the 2009 / 2010 Toastmasters year and once again it has been a successful year for Western Gourmet. As I write my final article for the Western Waffle I can advise you that we have 8 DCP goals registered with the 9th submitted and waiting for TI to confirm. This will make us a President Distinguished club again. Congratulations to all those members who achieved educational goals this year, not only for Western Gourmet but for their other clubs as well.

As well as our clubs achievements a number of our members should be congratulated.

Contests: Ian Lipski (HSC), David Moore (TT) and Lyndal Eager (Eval. and ISC) won our club contests and represented us very well at the Area 13 contests.

Leadership: a number of members were involved in leadership in District 70. Ian Chick – District Governor, Julie Ackroyd – Area 4 Governor, Ron Marriott – Area 13 Governor, Warren Gold – Area 24 Governor, Michael Said – Area 25 Governor, Lynne Harris – Area 37 Governor, Sue Haynes – District Secretary and also congratulations to Ron Marriott on being elected Western Division Governor. To all those members who were involved in other clubs and District staff officer roles well done.

Welcome to our newest member Sue Haynes. Sue has been a regular visitor to Western Gourmet over a number of years and has decided to join us and be an active participant, welcome Sue.

The June meeting was a lot of fun and I hope everyone enjoyed the night. Thank you to Ian Chick, our member and D70 District Governor for presiding over our Executive Installation it was much appreciated.

Finally thank you to all members for your support during the year and especially to our 2009/2010 Executive for their great effort. Our Select Distinguished status (possibly Presidents) was due to all our members and executives efforts during the year. Good Luck to Ian Lipski and the 2010/2011 executive for the coming year.


Best Regards,
John Taylor
President

Meeting: 134

Theme: The Times They Are A Changing
MC: John Taylor
Venue: Prosperos Restaurant 310 Church St Parramatta
Date: 11/6/2010

Members, on arriving, congregated around the large U shaped setting in the Prosperos Restaurant function room. Many conversations were in progress as Sgt At Arms Ron Marriott effortlessly called the meeting to order and introduced President John Taylor. John welcomed everyone and spoke on the theme by noting changes that have taken place in our lifetimes and recounting a topical, humorous and personal story about changing times.

VPE Elizabeth Wilson presented the program changes followed by Secretary Geoff Henson with the Apologies. On discovering that she had been assigned the Timer role Rhonda questioned "How do I time things? There's no times on the agenda!". President John Taylor returned as our MC to again welcome us to the changeover meeting and to distribute questions to everyone for the evenings quiz. While the rabble rowers started to rabble Rhonda Hookham asked "Is there a prize for the least amount of answers?" "Yes" was the reply.



Julie Ackroyd warmly welcomed each of our visitors providing background information on each guest. Our guests included Sue Haynes (DTM, RA Marketing, Region 12), Robyn Peck (DTM, past member) and Steve Thompson (Parrachievers VPE, Area 13 Governor elect).

MC John kicked off the Round Robin “A change that has had an impact on you”. The responses were varied and surprising – becoming Web Master, working as a Teacher, joining Toastmasters, changing career path, getting divorced, switching from Programming to Project Management, bringing up kids, emigrating from England to Australia, 2nd chance at life, completing a Masters Degree, buying a home, completing a Degree, overcoming a debilitating illness, Death of a Mother, moving to Australia from New Zealand, joining the Toastmasters community, registering for National Service. During the round robin, Robyn announced “I’m a Taurus and I hate change!”.

Lyndal gave an inspirational Toast to the present and future Executive teams. Next Ron used the meetings theme on changing times to a Table Topics theme on Time Travel. The questions were both challenging and creative – what things to save from the last days of Rome, double booking at the YMCA California, changing hair colour in Auckland, giving a historical perspective of your descendants, lunching with JFK, fiddling with time. Table Topics Evaluator David Moore offered insightful observations, commendations and recommendations in his evaluation. A break for dinner to enjoy the excellent Prosperos menu.

Ron brought the meeting back to order very efficiently and re-introduced MC John. John had placed different coloured cards in front of each person. John announced “One thing I hate is those games that you have to get up for.” John went on to explain that this game is Bingo with questions based on Western Gourmet and proceeded to explain the rules of the game. On being nominated to award the Bingo prizes, Elizabeth exclaimed with excitement “I’m the Barrel Girl!” After explaining the prize rules some discussion followed with questions being raised as to the alternative means of winning prizes. Rhonda was heard to say “You’re mean” to John and John acknowledged by responding “I am mean”. Off we go with the Bingo show - what happened next is difficult to record, suffice to say there was much rabble rousing, banter, discussion, questioning and information sharing. Someone asked “I’ve got another Bingo, can I win another prize!?” – a very lively session indeed. At the end of the Bingo game session John described the software that he used to produce the Bingo cards and questions.

Toastmaster Gary Wilson introduced the prepared speeches. Geoff Henson’s speech entitled “It can be very Rewarding” was aimed at conveying the message that “everyone should have a pet in their lives”. A very warm and inspirational speech with much humour.

Time for a short break for yummy desert.

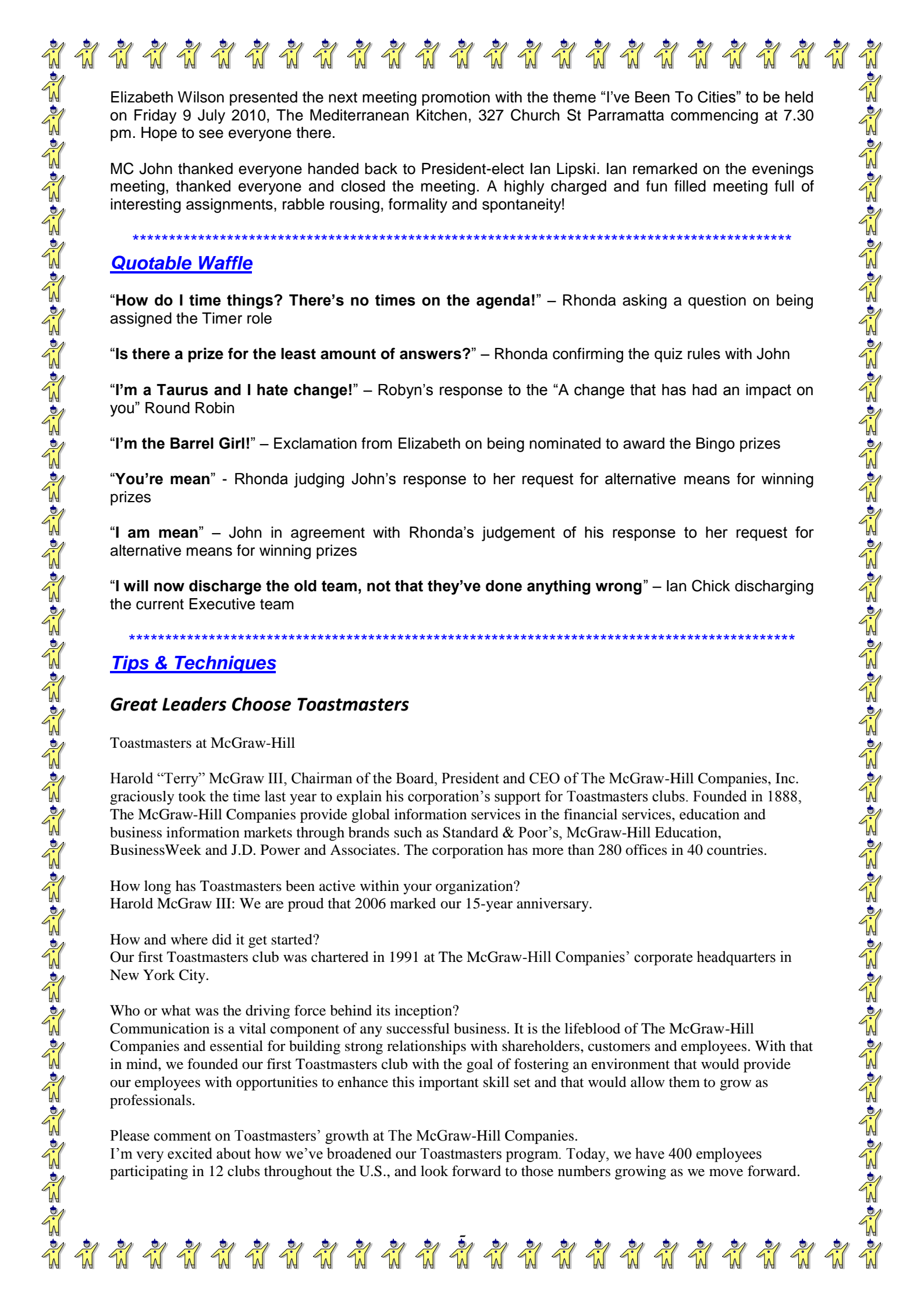
Wendy Nielsen’s speech “Ask, Listen, Act” was a very passionate, sincere and touching speech on the challenges that mental illness can create in people’s lives. President John Taylor’s outgoing President’s Address “The Year in Review” reflected on Western Gourmet’s achievements over the past year. John mentioned many highlights during the year and recognised and thanked the club executive and club members for their contributions and participation.

Steve Thompson evaluated Geoff Henson’s speech providing a classic CRC evaluation with perceptive recommendations and commendations. Sue Haynes evaluated Wendy’s speech with a comprehensive analysis, recommendations and commendations and noting that it was a very touching speech. Warren Gold evaluated John’s speech, providing valuable feedback using the CRC method.

Toastmaster Gary handed back to MC John. John conducted the “The Times They Are A-Changing” quiz. An extremely lively session followed with many prizes being won, some by the same participants.

Next President John Taylor asked District Governor Ian Chick to conduct the Executive changeover formalities. Ian Chick conducted the discharge of current Executive and the installation of the new Executive. President-elect Ian Lipski gave the 2010/2011 incoming Presidential Address. Ian thanked the club members for the honour and privilege of leading the club as its President and made a commitment to maintaining the club’s traditions including achieving the goal of becoming a Distinguished club, again, in the coming year. Ian handed back to MC John.

Rhonda Hookham Timer’s report was very lively and entertaining, more like a mini speech. Robyn Peck presented the Epilogue, a wrap up of the meeting in an entertaining and humorous style.



Elizabeth Wilson presented the next meeting promotion with the theme “I’ve Been To Cities” to be held on Friday 9 July 2010, The Mediterranean Kitchen, 327 Church St Parramatta commencing at 7.30 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

MC John thanked everyone handed back to President-elect Ian Lipski. Ian remarked on the evenings meeting, thanked everyone and closed the meeting. A highly charged and fun filled meeting full of interesting assignments, rabble rousing, formality and spontaneity!

Quotable Waffle

“How do I time things? There’s no times on the agenda!” – Rhonda asking a question on being assigned the Timer role

“Is there a prize for the least amount of answers?” – Rhonda confirming the quiz rules with John

“I’m a Taurus and I hate change!” – Robyn’s response to the “A change that has had an impact on you” Round Robin

“I’m the Barrel Girl!” – Exclamation from Elizabeth on being nominated to award the Bingo prizes

“You’re mean” - Rhonda judging John’s response to her request for alternative means for winning prizes

“I am mean” – John in agreement with Rhonda’s judgement of his response to her request for alternative means for winning prizes

“I will now discharge the old team, not that they’ve done anything wrong” – Ian Chick discharging the current Executive team

Tips & Techniques

Great Leaders Choose Toastmasters

Toastmasters at McGraw-Hill

Harold “Terry” McGraw III, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. graciously took the time last year to explain his corporation’s support for Toastmasters clubs. Founded in 1888, The McGraw-Hill Companies provide global information services in the financial services, education and business information markets through brands such as Standard & Poor’s, McGraw-Hill Education, BusinessWeek and J.D. Power and Associates. The corporation has more than 280 offices in 40 countries.

How long has Toastmasters been active within your organization?

Harold McGraw III: We are proud that 2006 marked our 15-year anniversary.

How and where did it get started?

Our first Toastmasters club was chartered in 1991 at The McGraw-Hill Companies’ corporate headquarters in New York City.

Who or what was the driving force behind its inception?

Communication is a vital component of any successful business. It is the lifeblood of The McGraw-Hill Companies and essential for building strong relationships with shareholders, customers and employees. With that in mind, we founded our first Toastmasters club with the goal of fostering an environment that would provide our employees with opportunities to enhance this important skill set and that would allow them to grow as professionals.

Please comment on Toastmasters’ growth at The McGraw-Hill Companies.

I’m very excited about how we’ve broadened our Toastmasters program. Today, we have 400 employees participating in 12 clubs throughout the U.S., and look forward to those numbers growing as we move forward.

Both personally and corporately, how do you support Toastmasters membership in your organization? Toastmasters has really put together an excellent program. We are continually raising awareness of the program and the critical skill set it can bring to our employees.

For example, we established a \$1,000 incentive award in 2001 for employees who achieve Competent Communicator status. I believe we are the only organization in the country with this type of program. To date, we have awarded close to \$120,000 in incentives to Toastmasters across the corporation.

We also want to be flexible enough so that our employees can be actively engaged in Toastmasters. As a result, most of our Toastmasters clubs meet during the workday, typically during the lunch hour.

What do you see as Toastmasters' greatest benefit(s) to your organization?

Having a strong culture that emphasizes effective communication is incredibly important to the success of any company. That's particularly true here at The McGraw-Hill Companies where we are known as a leading global provider of information services. Together with the strength of our leading brands such as Standard & Poor's, McGraw Hill Education, BusinessWeek and J.D. Power and Associates, our employees are delivering insight, analysis and solutions that open a world of opportunity for countries, markets, businesses, institutions and people around the globe.

The McGraw-Hill Companies is also a large organization that operates with a number of different business units. The Toastmasters program provides an important chance for employees to expand their peer network and collaborate with employees whose paths they may not otherwise cross.

Taken together, these professional development and networking opportunities strengthen our business by encouraging our employees to develop their talents and by offering occasions to become more connected to their colleagues.

Do you personally ever attend meetings or special Toastmasters events?

I have in the past and continue to attend meetings as a way to show my support and to encourage other employees to become active in Toastmasters. The program is such an asset to our employees that I make a point to be involved.

What would you say to heads of other organizations to encourage them to support Toastmasters?

Results tend to speak louder than words. All any leader has to do is look at the benefits individuals receive from their participation in Toastmasters and, more broadly, examine the results Toastmasters in general has achieved to see the value the program adds.

Excerpt from the April 2007 issue of the Toastmaster magazine.

(This article is from the Toastmasters International website)

Coming Events

Western Gourmet meeting #135 – Friday 9 July 2010
Venue: "The Mediterranean Kitchen, 327 Church St Parramatta"
Theme: "I've Been To Cities"
Time: 7.30pm

Western Gourmet meeting #136 – 13 August, 2010
Venue: "The Bite, 308 Church St Parramatta"
Theme: TBA
Time: 7.30pm

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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