

The Whispering Woods



Note from the Editor

Welcome to our Cumberland Forest Toastmasters newsletter in a long while. We hope that our newsletter will be distributed on a more regular basis with updates on information key to our members and visitors.



We are hoping that in each edition we will feature updates from various members of the Executive Team, and a member profile in order to learn a bit more about our fellow members, especially if the ice breaker was done a while ago. So read on to learn a bit more about our more recent member Cecilia Strachan.

What's On?

The Semi-Annual Conference 'Toastmasters by the Sea', is fast approaching – Nov 11-12. For those of you who haven't been before, conferences are a great experience. You can attend as much or as little as you wish. There are educational sessions, Humorous & Table Topics contests and much more. This year it's at the beautiful Novotel Hotel on Brighton Beach and it will be a fantastic weekend. Register to attend via the online registration form at: <http://www.d70toastmasters.org/SemiAnnConfregform.htm>



What's Happened!

Humorous Speech Contest

Imagine this, a dark wind-swept night. Sixty people, crammed into a room - the feeling in the room is tense, almost electric. Yes, it was the setting for the Area 37 Table Topics (TT) and Humorous Speech (HS) contest that was held on Friday 23rd September.

Our very own Marcel Raffoul was doing us proud, as the contestant in BOTH contests. He had stiff competition, and

while not placed he performed admirably in each. His humorous speech about Bill Gates Gate went over very well - the impromptu use of an apple to highlight the Macintosh in history added to his showmanship. The eventual winners were Sharon Richards from HDTTC (TT) and Robert Thompson (HS).

We also had great participation from our other attendees, second only to the hosting club. Well done everyone:

- Gabrin Rajanayagam did a great job as Sgt At Arms helping contestants out for the Table Topics, starting the meeting and resuming it after the break.
- Peter Tohme took up the challenge of being one of the timers, a tough assignment knowing how it might make or break a speakers eligibility
- Charmaine Wells was one of the counters, and the pressure was on to determine the winners
- Darren Gilchrist was Toastmaster for the Humorous Speech contest. While he felt as nervous as the contestants, he would thoroughly recommend others 'give it a go,' if given the opportunity.

The Great Debate

Held on Monday 17th October, Cumberland Forest Toastmasters hosted the Hills District Toastmasters Club (HDTTC). The proposition to be argued 'Is technology improving our lives?'

The HDTTC participants Cedric, Lauren and Paul made their points for the affirmative. Our merry band of debaters, Darren Gilchrist, Les Kent, and Barry Gifford argued *against* the proposition. A tough call, coming from a company like IBM employing technophiles!

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It was a friendly, and fun debate. Lots of laughs and good humour was seen throughout. Interjections abound! It was definitely a close contest, and not without controversy! One speaker was disqualified for going just over time (HDTC); and Mark, the HDTC judge was unable to identify a clear winning team. His marking using points and half points system ended up with both teams on equal marks! Incredibly diligent scoring by Mark nevertheless. (ed: For our members education, in debates, judges are responsible to identify a clear winner so if you're asked to judge we're giving you the quick tip now!)

In the end, our team triumphed. YES!!! That makes us the perpetual 'trophy' holders for a second time in a row.

A big thank-you to all the audience, participants, judges, timers, and last but not least, the Debate Master for the evening Marcel.

Our ties with HDTC are stronger after such a lively meeting, and it was resolved that we must organise a reciprocal visit to their club sometime soon, even if not for a debate. Keep an eye out for more info on this.

A word from our President – Darren Gilchrist

Can you believe it fellow CFTMers? We're almost half way through our Toastmasters year already! Our club has accomplished 3 of our 10 Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goals already, and well on our way to accomplishing more. Well done to everyone who has helped make this happen! Our aim is to get 10 out of 10 goals, and we'll keep you posted on our progress throughout the remainder of the year, ending 30th June.



If you need assistance in achieving your educational goals, feel free to talk to your mentor or any of the club officers. We're here to help you accomplish whatever you want to get being a Toastmaster.

We've got exciting meetings coming up on our club calendar. So, to get the best value from your membership we encourage you to attend as many as you possibly can. Don't forget to invite your friends, colleagues or even family along with you to a meeting too. New members add vitality to our club, so your efforts are *really valued* bringing visitors long who could become potential new members. See you (and hopefully a guest or two, or three) soon!

Darren Gilchrist
(2005 - 2006 President)

Member profile: Cecilia M Strachan

For Cecilia Strachan, joining Cumberland Forest Toastmasters was like coming home to her old haunt. When Cecilia migrated to Australia in the 1970's, IBM was her first job. After 14 years with IBM, Cecilia moved to New Zealand for a year but then returned to Australia with her husband who also works for IBM. Cecilia joined Unilever Australia in their Human Resources department where she worked for 15 years.

As a young child, Cecilia saw her grandfather suffer with cancer and she had dreams of becoming a doctor so she could help those who were sick. Although this dream did not initially eventuate, Cecilia was later introduced by a friend to natural therapies, which she realized was an adjunct to orthodox medicine. She decided to become a Naturopath. Since she was working full time, it took Cecilia 9 years to finish her studies. With her passion for learning and her need to fulfill a childhood dream, Cecilia finished her studies and finally qualified as a

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Naturopath and Medical Herbalist. She now practices from her clinic at home.

Cecilia has joined Toastmasters so she can gain confidence in speaking to groups of people, especially when she is called to teach the advantages of natural therapies.

Late January	15 th January
Early March	15 th February
Early May	15 th April
Late June	15 th June

Got something to say?

This is the Club's newsletter so please let Peter, or any of the executive team know, what you would like to see in future newsletters so that they add value to you.

We also want articles! If you'd like to see your name in lights then send your contribution to Peter.

Contact Peter directly or email cftm@au1.ibm.com.

Trivia Time

See if you know the answers to the following. Answers available in the next newsletter;



Q: For about how many years did the Dinosaurs live on Earth before they became extinct?

Q: Who does most of the hunting between the male or female lions?

Q: What is a baby bat called?

Q: What is the main reason that Dolphins jump out of the water?

Q: What is the body's largest organ?

Q: Is the sound heard by a listener when holding a seashell to their ear come from the shell?

Planned Schedule for Whispering Woods

Publication Date	Article Submission Deadline
27 October 2005	N/A
Late December	15 th December

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