



WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE

# SPEAK UP

## From the President

Issue: May 2023

### A reminder of our special guest Katherine Collette

Join us to hear from author, podcaster and former Toastmaster, Katherine Collette who is our special guest at the Miranda Toastmasters **9 May** meeting where she will speak about the important relationship between writing and public speaking. See more details on page 2.

### Upcoming Executive Elections

As we reach the end of the financial year, it is time for the current Miranda Toastmasters Executive Committee to hand over to a new team, to carry the Club through the next Financial Year. We'll hold the Executive Elections in the club meeting on **9 May**. There are a range of roles available to help to support the Club. For more information, please get in

touch. Nominations are also welcome – please put forward names to me or any of the Executive team.

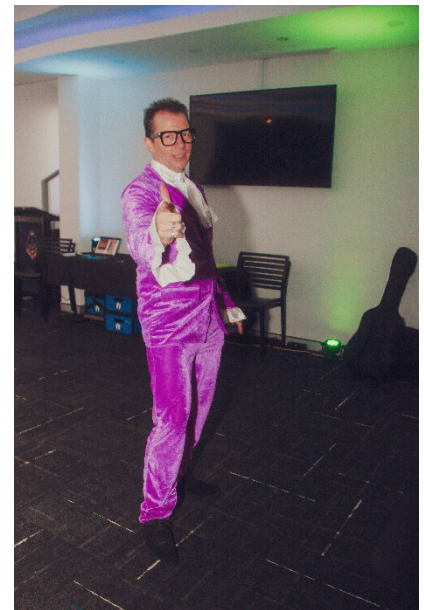
### For your diary....

The Miranda Toastmasters Awards Dinner will be held on **25 July**. This is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Club the last 12 months and acknowledge the expertise of individuals with an awards ceremony.

At the dinner we will also conduct a formal Miranda Toastmasters Executive changeover with the old executive team handing over to the new team.

And of course, it would not be a Toastmasters event without the opportunity to speak! Let's all get prepared and have a think about the speech you would like to present and start to practice!

**Mike Smith**  
President  
Miranda Toastmasters



## Have a go! Miranda Toastmasters Parliamentarian & Hartoonian contest

Miranda Toastmasters will hold its annual **Parliamentarian Contest** on **23 May** so get ready!

The Parliamentarian Contest is unique to Miranda Toastmasters and was initiated to commemorate the passion of Barnum F Tooth, President of the Club way back in the 1970s.

Barry was a stickler for the strict business session rules for all Club

business meetings. He was a huge and impressive man and quite daunting as he stood to raise points of order and move dissent from the Chairman's ruling.

The contest is now part of the tradition of the Club and offers important learnings about the use of Parliamentarian Procedures to help run meetings smoothly, fairly, and transparently.

Lessons learnt from the process used in the clubs business session, when carrying out the role of Parliamentarian and when participating in this contest; are invaluable when participating in business, strata and executive meetings.

Find out more about the Parliamentarian role and contest judging criteria on page 3.

## Hear from author Katherine Collette on 9 May



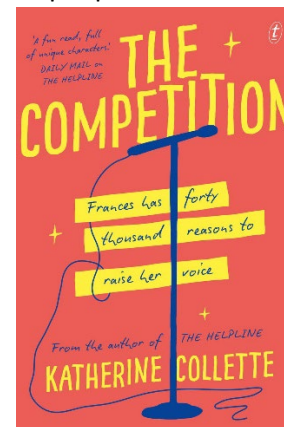
Katherine Collette, a former Toastmaster, author of two novels, **The Helpline** and **The Competition** and co-host of *The First Time*, a podcast about writing and being a writer will be joining us at our meeting on 9 May.

**The Helpline** was published in Australia, the UK, North America, Italy, and Germany and was longlisted for the Australian Indie book award for debut fiction.

**The Competition** was released last year; the story is set in the world of competitive public speaking it is both a satirical look at, and a celebration of, public speaking clubs. It was selected for the Queensland Writers Centre's Adaptable program, which aims to help get books adapted for TV and film.

At our meeting on **9 May**, Katherine will talk about how she started out as a writer and the important relationship between writing and public speaking.

She will cover topics such as how to balance what is funny with what is meaningful or true or good, she will provide advice for people who want to tell stories,



both written and spoken, and she will be available for a Q&A session.

For all those budding novelists, playwrights, and those keen to hear more about her experience and top tips with public speaking, please clear your calendars and **sign up for our Miranda Toastmasters meeting on 9 May.**



## Have a go! Miranda Toastmasters Parliamentarian & Hartoonian contest (continued)

### Parliamentarian role

The role of the Parliamentarian is to evaluate the Chairman's performance in conducting a Club meeting.

There are a few key points which a Parliamentarian can use to evaluate a Chairman:

- Did the meeting start on time?
- Did the Chairman adequately prepare?
- Was the Chairman decisive?
- Was the Chairman fair and impartial?
- Were matters handled correctly?

### Judging criteria

Contest judges assess each Parliamentarian Evaluation according to strict criteria. Out of a possible 100 points, judges will measure each evaluation on four elements. The value of each element is as follows:

- 40% for Analytical Quality (clear, focused)
- 30% for Recommendations (positive, specific, helpful)
- 15% for Technique (sympathetic, sensitive, motivational)
- 15% for Summation (concise, encouraging)

### Timing

The length of the evaluation is 2-3 minutes. Contestants will be disqualified if the evaluation is less than 1 minute 30 seconds or more than 3 minutes 30 seconds.

### Have a go!

Every member can compete in the Parliamentarian Contest. We encourage everyone to have a go!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of SPEAK UP. Please provide feedback via the contact details below. If there is any topic you would like covered in the next edition, please get in touch.