



WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE

Newsletter of Miranda Toastmasters - Club 3554

# SPEAK UP

[www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au)

SPRING 2023

MIRANDA TOASTMASTERS



## 2023 Changeover Dinner

At Miranda Toastmaster's 2023 Changeover Dinner held on July 25 (Meeting #1372), the Club's outgoing Executive Committee were farewelled with gratitude for their great work over the previous year, and new Executive members welcomed.

As Mike Smith said on the night in his Outgoing President's Report, "I think we are a stronger club than we were at the beginning of the year, and we've continued to have fun. We have laid some solid foundations for the new executive to build upon. I thank my executive team for their commitment and hard work, as I thank you, members, for continuing your personal journeys with Miranda Toastmasters."

### Thank you to the Outgoing Executive:

Mike Smith — President.  
Anthony Keogh — VP Education.  
Anna Rubalsky — VP Membership.  
Susanna Jardine — VP PR.  
John Paterson — Treasurer.  
Bridgit Sordo — Secretary  
Kathy Tasker — Sergeant at Arms

### Welcome to the Incoming Executive:

Jill Brookfield — President.  
Alex Li — VP Education.  
Abbey Boonstra — VP Membership.  
Pat Cranney — VP PR.  
Daniel Bazzano — Treasurer.  
Teresa O'Byrne — Secretary  
Kathy Tasker — Sergeant at Arms



*Paul Sorensen thanks outgoing Executive members: (L-R) Mike Smith, Anthony Keogh, John Paterson, and Kathy Tasker. (Apologies from: Anna Rubalsky, Susanna Jardine, Bridget Sordo)*



*The New Executive: Jill Brookfield, Alex Li, Teresa O'Byrne, Kathy Tasker, Daniel Bazzano & Pat Cranney. (Apology Abbey Boonstra)*

## **The 2023 Changeover Dinner was also a night to celebrate the year's Award Winners.**

### **Congratulations to the 2022/2023 Award Winners**

Table Topics — Cathy Goodwin

Humorous Speech — Kathy Tasker

Evaluation Speech—Alex Li

The "Barnham F Tooth" Parliamentarian Award — Joseph Duffy

Hartoonian Spring Award —Pat Cranney

Hartoonian Autumn Award —Pat Cranney

Tall Tales —Tom Cerni

Master of the Toast — Mike Smith

Jim Colvin International Speech Contest — Mike Smith

Rick Haynes Most Improved Toastmaster Award—Abbey Boonstra

Toastmaster of the Year—Mike Smith

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and make the night such a success!



*Winners are Grinners! (L-R) Mike Smith, Cathy Goodwin, Kathy Tasker Alex Li & Pat Cranney*

## The President's Inaugural Speech by Jill Brookfield LD3



*"It is a BIG responsibility to lead this club and it's not a task I take lightly."*

**I am thrilled to be the president of this extraordinary Toastmasters club for the next 12 months.**

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the tremendous job Mike Smith did as president over the past 12 months, as well as the outgoing exec team. Mike leaves enormous shoes to fill and I will endeavour to not trip in them.

Nor is it a role that I can do without the support of the executive committee or each of you.

The continued success of what we have already built together will be a team effort. As we all know, Toastmasters is far more

than fortnightly meetings, it is a place of transformation. It is an ongoing journey of personal growth and supporting our fellow members while they grow in confidence building their speech and leadership skills.

As president, my primary goal for the coming year is to foster an environment where mentorship thrives. We all have unique experiences, skills, and insights that can profoundly impact one another. I encourage each of you to be mentors to our newer members, helping them find their voice, build their confidence, and navigate this transformative journey. In doing so, we will not only

strengthen our club but also create a legacy of empowerment that does extend beyond this club.

It's important we all become mentors, regardless of what you think you know or don't know. We can each be a mentor for a single speech, a meeting, a few months or sometimes longer. We can be a mentor to more than one person. We each have experience that may benefit others. Let's share what we have learned.

Leadership is another important aspect of Toastmasters. Leadership is not merely a title; it's a commitment to serve, support, and inspire others. *(Continues)*



**Another of my key objectives is to encourage and nurture leadership potential within our club.**

Let us identify emerging leaders and provide them with the guidance and resources they need to develop their skills.

By creating opportunities for all members to take on leadership roles, we ensure that our club remains dynamic and resilient. Together, we will cultivate a culture where leadership is

not just a destination, but a continuous journey of growth and impact. I am excited to be working with the new executive committee. Most have not served on a Toastmasters committee before, but what they lack in Toastmasters leadership experience they make up for in enthusiasm and a willingness to serve the club and their fellow toastmasters. I ask you all to support the committee by giving speeches, signing up for meeting roles and using Easy

Speak. These small actions really do help make the committee's jobs much, much easier.

So, to close, I want to reaffirm my commitment to Miranda Toastmaster Club through building mentorship and inspiring others to embrace leadership roles.

**Thank you for your support. Let's make this an extraordinary year for our club and all the individuals that make it so special.**



At the club meeting on Tues 12th September, Club President Jill Brookfield awarded two certificates of achievement to members Cathy Goodwin and Elly Vinkas for completing their level 3 Pathways. In fact, congratulations to Cathy for completing her 3 levels in one financial year and winning a Triple Crown.

Kathy Tasker was also recently honoured for reaching her tenth year as a Toastmaster.



## ***Six out of ten's not bad!***

Congratulations to all this year's Hartoonian Spring Award contestants:

Elly Vinkas (*Did You Know?*), Pat Cranney (*Beyond the F Word: Embracing Failure*), Teresa O'Byrne (*Not Snakes on a Plane*), Stephen Davies (*Hook, Line and Sinker*), Jill Brookfield (*Leading You Tema in a Neat Packet*), Kathy Tasker (*My Teenage Idol*).

The Hartoonian Spring and Autumn Awards are a Miranda- only contest held in Autumn) in the memory of late club member Garo Hartoonian, who according to the inscription on the trophies 'always maintained High Standards'. It was Garo's idea to help as many members along their Pathways by allowing up to 10 members to gives speeches on the one night =, instead of the usual three or four. Garo was also the inaugural winner of the Club's 1992/93 Parliamentarian Contest, another contest unique to Miranda Toastmasters.





## AREA 2 HUMOROUS SPEECH & TABLE TOPICS CONTESTS

On Tues10 October, Miranda Toastmasters had the pleasure of hosting the Area 2 Humorous Speech & Table Topics Contests.

About 40 members and guests turned up to witness four contestants compete in each category.

Miranda was well represented in both contests by Pat Cranney in the Humorous Speech contest and Cathy Goodwin in Table Topics, though, unfortunately, neither of our club champs scored a place in their respective events.

Cathy drew the first speaker's slot in the Table Topics contest, with Toastmaster for the event Mike Smith posing the question, What is your favourite day of the week? Cathy replied with her usual quick wit and self-assurance, but it wasn't to be her night. Arthur Ollett from Menai took out third place, Stella Eggleton from Cronulla second, and Kay Woods was awarded top honours.

Competing against Pat in the Humorous Speech contest, were Nick Gray from Cronulla, who came in at third place, Karen Young from Menai in second and Kay Woods from Port Hacking picking up first place.

Organisation of the event was overseen by Lynly Siely, 2023/24 Area 02 Director, PMS, who also provided a delicious array of refreshments and some amusing lucky door prizes

The night was also supported by many Miranda members including

Kathy Tasker as Sargent-at Arms, Mike Smith and John Paterson as Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest Toastmasters respectively, Anthony Keogh as timer, Abbey Boonstra as photographer, and club president Jill Brookman for assistance with organising and giving the official welcome. *(All photos from the night by Abbey Boonstra)*







Humorous speech contest winners: (L-R) Karen Young (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kay Woods (1<sup>st</sup>) Nick Gray) with Lynly Siely



Table Topics contest winners: (L-R) Artur Ollett (3<sup>rd</sup>), Kay Woods (1<sup>st</sup>), Stella Eggleton 92<sup>nd</sup>) with Lynly Siely



Miranda's John Paterson, Toastmaster for the Humorous Speech Contest with the winner of both the humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests, Kay Woods of Port Hacking.



Miranda's Mike Smith, Toastmaster for the Table Topics contest, with Miranda TM's Table Topics representative, Cathy Goodwin,



To prepare members for the upcoming International Speech and Evaluation Contests happening at Miranda on Tuesday 14 November, the meeting on the 24 October will include an Educational to give the lowdown on how these contests work and perhaps inspire members to participate.

To further assist you to prepare and present your best material, here's something for the archives that might be useful:

## International Speech Contest

Contestants present a five-to-seven-minute speech on any subject they choose.

Contestants must create their own speeches and the contest must be substantially original.

A maximum of twenty-five percent of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing or referencing another person's content. And if others are quoted, then the referenced content must be identified during the speech. Props may be used.

### ***Judging criteria***

Contest judges assess each speech according to a strict criteria. Judges will score a speech out of a possible 100 points based on three main elements.

#### **1. Content (50%)**

- a) Speech Development: Structure, organisation, support material
- b) Effectiveness: Achievement of purpose, interest, reception
- c) Speech Value: Ideas, logic, original thought

#### **2. Delivery (30%)**

- a) Physical: Appearance, body language, speaking area
- b) Voice: Flexibility, volume
- c) Manner: Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm

#### **3. Language (20%)**

- a) Appropriateness: To speech purpose and audience
- b) Correctness: Grammar, pronunciation, word selection





## ***Timing***

The length of the Speech for the contest is 5 to 7 minutes. Contestants will be disqualified if the Speech is less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds. So, it's critical to stay within time.

## **Evaluation Contest**

For the Evaluation Contest, Contestants observe a five-to-seven-minute test speech and then present a two-to-three-minute Evaluation on that speech.

The test speech is usually delivered by a Toastmaster from another Club.

At the conclusion of the test speech, all contestants leave the room and have five minutes to prepare an evaluation.

One by one, Contestants will be called into the room to deliver their Evaluation. Contestants may remain in the room once they've completed their evaluation speech.

## ***Judging criteria***

Contest judges assess each Evaluation according to a strict criterion. 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 to 3 minutes. Contestants will be disqualified if the Evaluation is less than 1 minute 30 seconds or more than 3 minutes 30 seconds.

## **Contestant eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in any contest, a Contestant must be a paid member of the Club. The only speech contest with an education requirement is the International Speech Contest. To participate in any level of the International Speech Contest, a member must have completed Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience or earned the DTM award in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in Toastmasters Pathways.

Have you filled out the **Moments of Truth Survey** yet?

Member satisfaction, participation and feedback is vital to the ongoing success of Miranda Toastmasters. Find the survey at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/3uLvaLo7eS8qbXZM7>

If you have any questions, email Jill at [jjbrookfield@gmail.com](mailto:jjbrookfield@gmail.com)



## What's on

24 October – Regular Meeting including Educational speeches on **International Speech & Evaluation Contests**

14 November - **International Speech & Evaluation Contests**

28 November - Regular Meeting including **Speeches + Table Topics**

12 December - **Christmas party**

Visit: [www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/whats-on/](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/whats-on/)

### CLUB MISSION

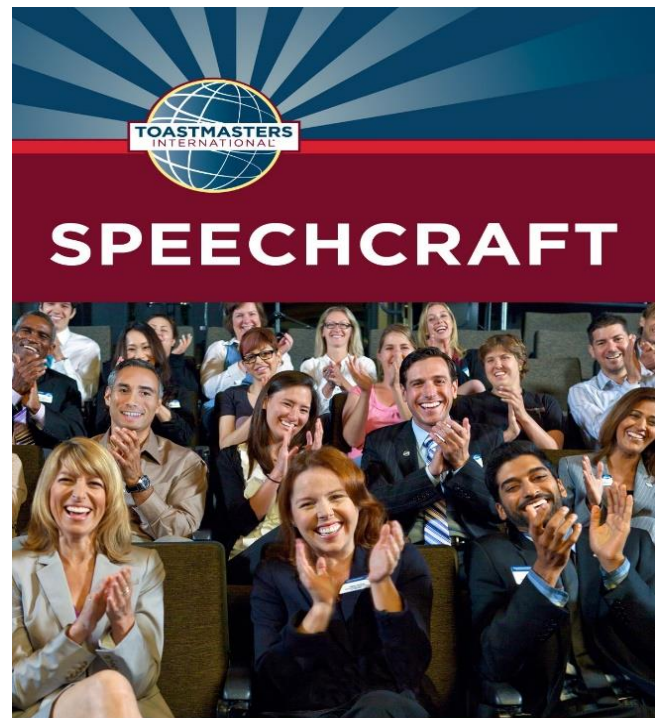
We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Find us

Web: [www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/)

Facebook: Search for Miranda Toastmasters Club  
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## SPEAK UP

MIRANDA TOASTMASTERS

Club 3554 - Area 2 - District 70 - Region 12

Our meetings are held the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of each month

6.45pm for 7.00pm - 9.30pm

at Miranda Diggers RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

Newsletter of Miranda Toastmasters

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