

SOUTHERN CROSS

Your monthly newsletter from
Toastmasters International
District 73

Toastmasters International, District 73 – Incorporating clubs in South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia
ABN: 58 230 042 715

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“Looking Good”

As the year draws to a close we are again “looking good” for Distinguished District. We are pursuing a further 28 CTM awards, so if you have recently completed your CTM and haven’t sent the paperwork in, I would ask you to do so now. If you can do your last speech and submit the award application before the deadline of June 30th, that too would be appreciated.

As you know, the District success plan reflects the Toastmasters International mission statement of attracting more new members, educating them and retaining them. The fact that we are achieving these as a District means your clubs and members are achieving your own goals, congratulations.

Eleven new Clubs have been formed, and numerous clubs that were borderline in membership, are now up and running well. This means that even more people are able to benefit from the fastest growing personal development and leadership organisation in the world. A heartfelt thank you for a great effort to all of the sponsors, mentors and club coaches as well as each and every Toastmaster who have assisted these clubs.



Past District Governor Dick Briggs, DTM receiving a special award for many years of service from Marlene Sinclair, DTM



District Governor Marlene Sinclair, DTM about to address the Annual Convention

All of this has only been possible because of you; your support not only within the Club, but at Area, Division and District levels as well has been nothing short of miraculous. I would like to personally thank the huge army of enthusiastic volunteers who have worked tirelessly to support this great organisation.

This year I have personally been through very demanding times with the death of my partner, Mal, but this has been balanced by some very exhilarating ones as we have worked and achieved together. I have been delighted find strong support from across the entire District and both pleased and proud to have made so many lasting friendships.

It has been an honour, and pleasure to have served as your District Governor, and a privilege I will certainly treasure.

Thank you to all members for your untiring support and comradeship throughout the year, and I wish the new Management Team a truly fabulous and successful year.

Marlene Sinclair DTM
District Governor

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District Officer Training

District Officer Training will be held on 25 June, at 9:00 am for a 9:30 start. It will be held at:

Tudor Inn Box Hill
1101 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill, Victoria 3128
Telephone 03 9898 9581

The Agenda is as follows:

- 9:30 Introduction of new Executive
 - Incoming DG introduces his team
 - 10 minutes for each executive to present their aims and goals for New Year
- 10:15 Break
- 10:25 Area Governors with Les for training
Division Governors with Lisa for training
- 12:30 Break for Lunch.
- 1:00 What is expected for club officer training (Les & Lisa)
- 3:00 Break.
- 3:15 Area & Division Governors of each division meet to start planning COT
- 4:00 Round Robin
- 4:30 Close

At the end of training there will be a break to allow you some time to relax before the Changeover Dinner Dance details of which are on a separate flyer. District Officers, please make the time in your busy schedules to attend, as it will be very beneficial for your coming year as a district officer.

Again congratulations and thank you for standing up and assisting in the running of this great organization.

Les Courcha DTM
Lt Governor Education & Training

Cranbourne have moved ...

Cranbourne Toastmasters are now located at:

'The Craft House'
 Blue Hills Country Club
 125 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd,
 Cranbourne VIC
 Melways 134 D6

and our website is:
www.cranbourne.toastmasters.org.au

Distinguished District ... nearly there!

Last year District 73 achieved **"Distinguished District"** status. We're hoping to repeat or better that effort this year.

The figures below show that we are 18 CTM awards short of Distinguished District. We need your help to achieve this goal. If you have completed your CTM, but the award has not been processed, please ask your VPE to submit it online ASAP – certainly before the deadline of 30 June.

For June 2005 (mid June figures):

District Targets	Goal	Actual	%
CTM	182	164	90
ATM	52	87	167
PAYMENTS *	5309	5511	104
PAID CLUBS	135	137	101

Key:

- On Track/Achieved
- Slightly behind
- Needs URGENT attention

* Payments made by members (eg. renewals, new members, reinstatements)

This empty space is just waiting for you to contribute an article.

Sad, but true, is the fact that too few members want to write something to inform or assist others.

Well, here is your opportunity to change all of that. All you have to do is write an article and send it to Geoff or Andrew.

Articles by members are welcome. Just include your name and club; and a contact point (email or phone number) in case we need to verify any material submitted.

All this space (and more) could be yours. So, why are you waiting? Get those articles to us by the 1st of the month to be included in the publication issued on the 15th of the month.

See 'How To' for more details.

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Invitation

TO

District 73

Changeover Dinner Dance

To follow Victorian Area Governor and all Division Governor Training

Make up a club table or just bring yourself to celebrate another successful Toastmaster Year.

Fun Trivia Lucky spots Dancing

Saturday 25th June 2005

7pm for canapés, 7.30pm sit down

At the newly refurbished

The Tudor - Box Hill

1101 Whitehorse Road

Box Hill Victoria 3128 Australia

Telephone 03 9898 9581

Motel rooms available at \$110 per double

REPLY preferably ASAP Latest Friday 17th June

NAME:..... PARTNER:.....CLUB:

Special Dietary requirements.....

YOUR ADDRESS:.....

SUBURB..... PCode..... Phone:.....

email:.....

Cost \$38 per head.

Please make out cheques to: "Toastmasters International, District 73"

Send to: Marlene Sinclair DTM

District 73 Governor

29-31 Pleasant Rise, Croydon South VIC 3136

For any queries ring Marlene on 0413 382 624

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Since the District started in 1976 it had grown in size by over 100 clubs. Following the loss of two energetic members in the past 24 months, along with other factors, left the District in a lower position on the world rankings. The climb back to the top had started under Judith Talanoa's leadership, but that was only a base to build a better future on as we go towards tomorrow.

Part Ten – Building a Better Future as we go Towards Tomorrow.

Geoff Morrissey DTM took over the leadership of the District as District Governor in 2002/2003. Geoff came from Moonee Ponds, Moonee Talks and Satdy Arvo Toastmasters clubs.



It was the first year that the new timing for contests structure came into effect. Geoff introduced this change when he was Lt. Governor Education and Training.

Club membership numbers was an area that Geoff thought that the District had to look at. He had two of his greatest allies in this cause in his two Lt. Governors. Peter Iredale DTM (LGET) and Ed Biggs DTM (LGM) brought great Toastmasters knowledge and innovation to the District Executive.

Peter had produced a Club Building CD during the previous year when he was Lt. Governor Marketing. It contained a wealth of material for clubs to use and manuals to read to help clubs build up membership.

Ed was also concerned about club membership, in particular clubs achieving Charter strength (20 members or more). One of his major aims was to



Peter Iredale DTM

assist many of the Districts existing clubs regain Charter strength.

How truly great a leader is depends on the team behind them. With his two Lt. Governors behind him, Geoff was truly a great leader of this District.

But in this year Geoff wasn't the highest-ranking Toastmaster in Australia. Not even his counterparts from Districts 69 and 70. In this year an Australian was the International President of Toastmasters International. The International President was Gavin Blakey DTM from Queensland. Gavin had been in Toastmasters for over 21 years, 20 of those in a leadership role. Gavin visited the District during the District Annual Convention held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle WA.

Statistics for 2002/2003: District 73 finished the year with 124 clubs, with four clubs having chartered during the year. These were Subiaco Early Birds in September, Bunbury in December, RMIT in January and Esanda in June.

The election of District Officers for 2003/2004 presented more than was expected. Peter Iredale had to withdraw his nomination for District Governor due to work commitments. It was clear when Peter addressed the audience that he was disappointed not to be able to round off his efforts of the previous few years. He received a standing ovation, remarkable for someone who wasn't elected. This left Ed Biggs to then nominate and be elected unopposed as the District Governor.

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When Ed took over as District Governor he hit the ground running. Unlike his marathon running it was more like a sprint. In the first 100 days of the 2003/2004 Toastmasters year a number of reforms had taken place.

The prime reforms had been:

- Bringing the District Budget fully into accord with Toastmasters International Requirements;
- Integrating Western and Central Division Accounts into the District's Books;
- Amending the Travel Policy for Contests and Training to allow more funds to be directed to marketing;
- Reviewing the structure of Speechcraft and the distribution of net proceeds;
- Reviewing and recommending amendments to Continuing Motions; and
- A special draw down of \$15,000 from Reserves to drive a concerted marketing campaign.

Many of these changes were due to Toastmasters International funding priorities. However, the overriding objectives have been to operate as a one District unit and to direct the major focus and funds towards membership growth. Ed led the District well through these changes in direction.

Two other major reforms occurred during the year that changed the District as well. The first was dealing with conventions. It was made up of two parts. One was to hold only one convention each year instead of the then two conventions (the Annual Convention in May and the Semi-Annual in October).

The other part was to introduce a set schedule involving all four states covered by the District in regards to where Conventions are held. Conventions are held in Victoria or Tasmania in even numbered years, and South Australia and Western Australia in alternating odd numbered years.

The other change was to the District Publications. Then there were two District Publications, the Southern Cross and the Focus. The Southern Cross, then a printed and bound newsletter was very costly to produce. A larger publication than the then Focus,

an e-mail style newsletter, was given as an alternative.

Both these changes were accepted and introduced.

The results being the Convention that has just occurred at Glenelg, which had all four District Contest finals occur at it; and the newsletter that you are reading now.

Statistics for 2003/2004: District 73 finished the year with 134 clubs, with ten clubs having chartered during the year. These were Berwick and Mervin in September, Maccabi in November, More Than Words in February, Central Communicators and Curtin GDB in April, Speakers Corner and Prospeak in May, and Brimbank and Speak Easy in June.

OTHER ITEMS DEALING WITH THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

Write up your club's history and tell the whole District about it. With the History of the District finishing soon for the time being, an offer goes out to clubs in the District to write up the history of their club and have it published in the Southern Cross. Please keep the number of words to about 300 words and include a picture or two.

Further information on the history of District 73 required. If you have any information on the history of District 73 can you please e-mail them to Andrew Breeden on the number or e-mail below.

Information can include club formation, important District events or District Governors.

Pictures of District Governors needed. Pictures of former District Governors Ron Ellis (District Governor 1977/8), Tony Jessop (1978/9) and Len Hooper (1979/80) for the poster of District Governors of District 73 which was seen at the Annual Convention and appears in this edition of the Southern Cross. Also, if you have any pictures of any District Governor that is better than the ones on the poster could you please send them in as well.

List of District Conventions. A list of District Conventions (Date, Venue, Hosts, Chairman and Theme) is being put together. Does anyone have details of these? Please contact Andrew on the number or e-mail below. Also, does anyone have any pictures of Convention Badges? There were definitely badges produced for the Frankston 1996 and Whitehorse Annual Conventions.

Contact Andrew. Contact Andrew through the Southern Cross' e-mail address: southerncrossd73@hotmail.com or ring him on **0411 589 498**.

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From Public Relations to Marketing

Public Relations Report

Being your Public Relations has taken me to the next level where I know that the grounding I have had over the past year has put me in a good position to tackle Lt. Governor Marketing

My main work over the past year has been with the following:-

- Chartered Infosys Toastmasters Club (Corporate)
- Organized the November District Council Meeting.
- Toastmaster Week in Melbourne
- Organized Toastmaster's as M.C. at Relay for Life

Infosys Toastmasters Club

Late last year I was fortunate enough to charter Infosys Toastmasters Club (Corporate) with the help of Dick Briggs and Doug Gullick. Infosys Head Office is in India. They are going through a difficult time at the moment due to company initiated staff changes even to the extent of overseas. This is awkward, but Mary Voice and Miles Clements are getting on top of it.

Toastmaster Week

I went all out for Toastmaster Week in Melbourne; I was fortunate indeed to have at my side a very highly motivated committee led by Marlene Sinclair. D G. we used one of Melbourne's premier locations, the "BMW Edge theatre" at Federation square, CBD. We chose to demonstrate Toastmasters by running continuous mini meetings over the four hours we had available to us, one of our star performers was "Young National Retail Business Man of the Year" Paul Atherton. Paul attributes a lot of his success to Toastmasters. Verity Robins and many other Toastmasters also delivered a presentation.

During the course of the day we had over one thousand people attend, a few took part but most just watched and yet others strolled very slowly by. This function had exceptional media coverage, which was organized by Neil Spark. Trish Zanos and Susan Morrison were very active members who took on many tasks. Our Flyers and sandwich boards were designed and printed in colour by George Randall in conjunction with David John.

Relay for Life

I was also involved with the promotion of Toastmaster's at Relay for Life for the International

Cancer Council at Berwick. I was fortunate enough to make contact with the Federal Member of Parliament and also the Mayor of Cardinia. These people wanted to know what they could do to help promote Toastmaster's.

With the help of Berwick Toastmasters Club, we had people from a wide area attend. We had a display stand and quite a few people showed interest in the organization.

Berwick Show

Toastmasters also manned a promotional stand at the Berwick Show and that with many people from all area's inquiring about Toastmasters.

I would like to thank Marlene Sinclair DTM. District Governor and also District 73 members for all of your support over the past year.

The Convention in Adelaide for those who attended was a great gathering of Toastmasters, and we had a good mix with four competitions this year for the first time. It was good to see first timers again with some very positive feed back.

I would like to congratulate Ingrid Carpenter as the incoming Public Relations Officer, Lisa Cluett DTM, Lt. Governor Education Training elect; Andris Bilkins DTM, District Governor elect; and Geoff Morrissey DTM PDG as Toastmasters of the Year. Congratulation to all winners of the District contests finals at Convention.

Marketing Plans

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking – vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership. Foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

It is basic to this mission that Toastmasters International continually expand its worldwide network of Clubs, thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its program.

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Plan of Action

- Ensure that Toastmasters is recognised as Australia's most affordable communication, Leadership and Training Organization.
- Analyse club feedback to build and support clubs that are low in membership and use experienced Toastmasters as coaches.
- Develop and initiate marketing and promotional strategies designed to attract more clubs within the Corporate and Community sectors.

Strategies

- Continued monitoring of clubs.
- Develop new clubs.
- Maintain a strategic overview of the District 73.

General Marketing Plan

- Encourage Division/Areas to focus on helping clubs to become Distinguished
- Survey member interests, satisfaction levels, to ensure we are meeting their wants and needs.
- Maintain our "Market Driven" approach to marketing Toastmasters to ensure we continue to meet the needs and wants of current and prospective members.
- Promote existing membership and club growth programs to clubs.
- Create a realization that the success of an Area or Division is ultimately based on the success of the Clubs.

How I would like you to help

- Promote recognition systems for Club extension, membership growth, and club achievement.
- Provide clubs with the most current, useable performance data as quickly as possible.
- Look for openings in your area where you could build a new club.
- Support low membership clubs by helping with membership drives, Demonstration Meetings and provision of promotional tools.

Jacqueline Gullick DTM
District 73 Public Relations Officer
(Lt Governor Marketing elect)

Dawn Breaks for New Club

A new club at Hewlett Packard, **HP Early Morning Shakers & Breakers**, was chartered on the 20th April of this year. The charter dinner was held at our VPE, Jon Flowers' home (who by the way is a fabulous cook). There were over sixteen people present including the District Governor Marlene Sinclair DTM and the guest speaker Paul Atherton.

Area Governor Bernard Marmion and Division Governor Sylvia Chauh are the club mentors and have put in significant work getting the club to charter strength.

The club held its first demonstration meeting in August 2004 and currently has 20 members, with one of the members, Jeremy Daniels, having completed his CTM on the night of the charter. Several members have already passed the CTM halfway mark! Our corporate club meets every Thursday morning prior to work at the HP offices in Blackburn. Membership is open to Hewlett Packard (HP) employees only but visitors from Toastmasters are welcome.

We have had several joint meetings so far to add to the variety of our meetings.

We successfully held our first Toastmasters videoconference meeting with HP California Roseville Rappers (District 39, Club No. 7914) on 23rd March. This HP club has been running 14 years. In California, 15 members attended and we had 2 guests and in Melbourne, 14 members attended and 1 visitor (who was very keen to join after the meeting). Debra Ledsinger, the Roseville Rappers' Division Governor, was in attendance.

As far as I know this is the first videoconference for Toastmasters that has been held in Melbourne. We would like to hold another videoconference in the coming months with another HP club in Singapore.

Amanda Symonds
President
HP Early Morning Shakers & Breakers

ADVERTISE FOR FREE ...

Do you have a Club, Area or Division event to advertise? Why not use Southern Cross to spread the news?

Best of all, it's **FREE, NO CHARGE, GRATIS!**

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Club Officer Training

This year, Club Officer Training is being arranged at the Division level. The following is the (known) schedule of COT so far:

Central Division (Sharon Ferrier)

Friday 17th June in Adelaide (venue TBA)

Eastern Division (Bernard Marmion)

Venue and date to be decided on Thurs 16th June

Metro Division (David Reynolds)

Tuesday or Wednesday 28/29 June or Tuesday or Wednesday 5/6 July. Venue TBA

Northern Division (Stephen Eldridge)

TBA

Southern Division (Dennis Keay)

Sunday 3rd July. Venue TBA

Western Division (Betty Hart)

Saturday 23rd July and Thursday 28th July in Floreat

More information will be included in the Stop Press page and Division pages of the District websites. Check www.d73.toastmasters.org.au for more information.

Welcome Mat

District 73 welcomes the following new members who have joined since last month:

Club	Name
Alfred Hospital	Roberta Callaghan
ANZ Talk of the Town	Ajit Ravindran
ANZ Talk of the Town	Amro Abdelkawy
Ballarat	Anne Cassidy
Banyandah	Clare Henville
Bendigo	Bev J. Hicks
Business Talk	Sean A. Molloy
Carrington Central	I-hsing Huang
City Centre	Adam A Ford
City Centre	Chiara M Goya
City Centre	Jia Lin Sun
City Centre	Rhobelle Nicdao
City of Greater Geelong	Lyn Johnstone
City of Perth	Dale Carpenter
City of Perth	Jae Rhee
	Pascale Amberville-Colby
City of Perth	
Diamond Valley	Danny Novak

Club	Name
Diamond Valley	Daryl Glover
Diamond Valley	Kevin McLaughlin
Doncaster	Amanda Kelly
Doncaster	Julie Barker
Doncaster	Stuart Clark
East Gippsland	Margaret Macfarlane
Epping	Constan Jayasinghe
Frankston	Daniel Waltzer
Frankston	Dean Wilson
Gateway	Patricia Pursell
Gateway	Yandy Djakaria
Glen Waverley	Katherine Zombos
Glen Waverley	Saddha Gunasekara
Hawthorn	Saban Kati
HP Shakers 'n' Breakers Breakfast Club	Cathy Tang
HP Shakers 'n' Breakers Breakfast Club	Peter Hung
HP Shakers 'n' Breakers Breakfast Club	Wilson Leung
Justalk	Jonathan M Hodgson
Justalk	Nola Haddrill
Justalk	Philomena T Colleran
Kew	Michael P Cope
Knox	Natalie A Browne
Kodak	Benjamin Farrar
Kodak	Dimitra Bouzalas
Kodak	Janice Chisholm
Kodak	Janice Chisholm
Kodak	Nicole Parker
Maccabi	Adrian Chernok
Maccabi	Edwin Benson
Margaret River	Richard J Rowe
Monash	Don Bing Tran
More Than Words	Joanne G Redfearn
More Than Words	Robert Moog
More Than Words	Stephen C Bailey
More Than Words	Tania Plueckhahn
More Than Words	Yvette Pia Carlsson
Morning Star	Margaret Van Putten
National Australia Bank	Frank Ziovas
Northbridge	Stephen A Van Mierlo
Northern Stars	Stephen V Satchell
Post*masters	Elizabeth Chudek
Post*masters	Rachel Johnson
Post*masters	Sabbi Saravjit
Post*masters	Varvara Ioannou
RMIT	Stephen M Roddis
Rowville	Chris A Cartwright
Sandgroppers	Jonathon Pike

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Club	Name
Shepparton	Noella Forster
South Melbourne	Stuart Bronson
Southern Cross	Lisa F. Gibbett
Southsiders	Desmond P Butterly
Southsiders	Shyam Talluri
Speakers on the Terrace	Filomena Marrasso
St Georges	Vjera Marinkovich
Sullivan's Cove	Elizabeth Reidy
Swan	Linda S. Stanley
Synergy	Rosie Davoli
Talkabout	Adam Law
Talkabout	Heidi Michael
Talking Blue	Adam J Watson
Talking Blue	Alfie Fernandez
Talking Blue	Brij S Panwar
Talking Blue	Graham A Ring
Talking Blue	Kim L Linkenbagh
Talking Blue	Marion J Mackie
Talking Blue	Nigel R Davies
Talking Blue	Peter J Cartwright
Talking Blue	Robert Marmur
Talking Blue	Nicholas Kastelein
Tea Tree Gully	Alexia Hunter
Telstra Exhibition	Craig Short
Telstra Exhibition	Ian Murray Sharon
Telstra Exhibition	Rampukar Adam
Telstra Exhibition	Morrison Adam
The Oaks	Morrison Judd
The Oaks	Millner Debra
West End	Woods
Yarra Valley	

Invitation
**Victoria Quay
 Toastmasters
 Club**
 Celebrates its
500th Meeting

Date: 13th July 2005
 Time: 6 pm
 Venue: Fremantle Bowling
 Club, Ellen St

All interested, especially past
 members, are invited to attend an
 evening of fun, food and fellowship.
 For more details, please contact
 president Mark Richards on
 08 9456 2041 or email
marknrobyn@bigpond.com



These attractive, self-contained, 12V timing lights can be yours!

- Without timer - \$50.00
- With built-in timer - \$85.00

Contact: [Tom Carpenter](#) for more information on 0412 540 187.

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Annual Convention Report

The Annual Convention for District 73 in Adelaide was held last month in Glenelg. Having purchased some 1959 Cadillac car parts three months prior what an excuse to go and pick them up!

The convention opened on the Friday night in the opulence of the ballroom of the Stamford Grand Hotel and our BBQ was changed to a grill due to the weather where Toastmasters from all over District 73 could reacquaint themselves with each other. There were many new Toastmasters there that I had never met before which made this evening a great way to make and meet new friends, along with reacquainting myself with old friends from Western Division and the Victorian Divisions. Following the formalities of the opening ceremony where our District Governor, Marlene Sinclair and Nick Nash the Convention Chairman welcomed us all. This was followed by the Table Topics Contest. This contest was chaired by Fred Hill and the topic that each of the six contestants wrestled with was "time my enemy or my friend" Speaker number one, Christopher Waterhouse from Metro Division was judged to be Table Topics Champion of the District in 04/05; deservedly. Not only did he present the audience with an objective side of the argument but he presented a tremendously inspirational response, and I expect this speaker to represent District 73 in the International Speech Contest in the not too distant future.

Saturday, rising bright and early the Convention resumed with workshops. Every delegate had the opportunity to attend each of the workshops as each workshop was repeated throughout the morning. Some of the workshops were, Specialist Speech Coaching presented by Davis Griggs who has a background in theatre, and currently runs the speakers studio in Adelaide. And Workshop Number 2 was hosted by Josie McLean who presented to delegates on the source of our problems in the world, the situation we are in now and a new way of thinking. Josie suggested to us that capitalism is not the way. Following morning tea it was time for the District Humorous Speech Contest, this competition was won by Southern Division's very own Bridget Billimoria, who talked about the trials and tribulations of being a domestic goddess.

More workshops followed and I attended "keeping your club strong" by Davis Nicolas DTM and his panel of experts from a variety of successful clubs from across the district.

Following this, was the purpose of the Convention, the District Council meeting. The most important item of business was the election of senior officers for 2005/06; the results being, District Governor, Andris Bilkens DTM from Central Division, Lieutenant Governor Education and Training, Lisa Cluett DTM, from Western Division, and Lieutenant Governor Marketing, Jacqui Gullick DTM, from Southern Division. Public Relations went to Ingrid Carpenter from Eastern Division, Division Governor Central, Sharon Ferrier, Eastern Division Governor, Bernard Marmion, Metro Division Governor, David Reynolds, Northern Division Governor, Stephen Eldridge, Southern Division Governor, Silver Service member Dennis Keay, and Western Division Governor Betty Hart. During the presentation for the incoming District Governor he commented how much fun he was expecting to have ensuring the "committee of women" are all kept under control!

A presentation was delivered from the Tasmanian delegates, to advise the location of the 2006 Annual Convention, which will be held at the Casino, just out of Launceston.

Following a break main course was served followed by the International Speech Contest where the top speakers of the district vied to represent our District in Toronto, our representative this August will be Daryl Pedder from Central Division. Daryl's theme was "Ask the best of your people not the best of yourself". Dessert followed with the annual presentations; DTM recipients for 2004/2005 were recognised along with the Area Governor of the Year, Division Governor of the Year, District Officer of the Year and Toastmaster of the Year. Toastmaster of the Year was awarded to a past District Governor Geoff Morrissey DTM. The highlight of the evening was managing to avoid dancing during the last part of the evening.

The final session on Sunday morning commenced with Open Forum where Toastmasters have the opportunity to seek advice from the senior district officers. The Evaluation Speech Contest followed morning tea and was won by past member of Silver Service, Andrew Monaghan.

The Convention closed with the key note speaker Suzanne Twelftree. Suzanne suffers from a condition known as Arterio Venous Malformation, and is now confined to a wheel chair following a surgical mishap. Suzanne's outlook on life is certainly very inspirational and she reminded many in the audience about the problems one encounters with overcoming life's adversities.

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Immediately prior to the closing address by our District Governor Marlene Sinclair, DTM and Convention Chairman Nick Nash, attendance ribbons and awards for the top three newsletters were presented. I was honored to receive on behalf of Silver Service Advanced Toastmasters Club an award for top 3 Club Newsletters 2004/2005 for our club newsletter Quicksilver. This award will be presented to the editor Charmaine Reece at our next Silver Service meeting.

All in all, an enjoyable and busy Convention, and as the Silver Service representative, I was very pleased to be a part of this Convention.

Paul Dixon
Vice President Public Relations
Silver Service Advanced Toastmasters
Club 1644

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Contributions

How to Contribute: If you have a story or idea, send an email to Geoff or Andrew. Stories should be in the body of the email or in Microsoft Word format. Documents should not contain images or branding of any kind. If you have images to go with your story, please ensure that they are JPG or GIF format and small enough (file size) to easily download.

Letters to the Editor: Email your letters to Geoff or Andrew with the subject **"Your Say"**. Only letters which meet legal and editorial standards will be published. All published letters must include the author's name (may be withheld on request), club name and number. Letters may be edited for length, clarity and must be no longer than 250 words. Where a number of letters are submitted on the same topic, the Editor may publish a representative sample, rather than all letters received.

Deadlines: The aim is to publish monthly by the 15th day. Articles can be submitted up to the 1st of each month and will be published if time and space permits. It is recommended that advertising of events be done in the month prior to the event – so, try to give at least 6 weeks for publication.

Back Issues: Back issues will remain on the District Web site www.d73toastmasters.org.au.