

THREE KINGS TOASTMASTERS CLUB

THE CROWNING GLORY

Newsletter

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Hi All

Mike Diggins did the Newsletter this week (the Essence of En and the Meeting Report). And a fine job of it he did too.

I think it is a great idea to ask people each meeting to record the minutes so that

we get a bit more variety. No-one wants my style all the time.

Mike also did a speedy job getting the report back. I got it the very day after the meeting. I could have done the newsletter the next day and had it to you in no time. But I upgraded

my Acrobat to version 5 and had some problems.

Let me know if you have any problems with this edition. You shouldn't have to upgrade to version 5 of Acrobat Reader to read it.

Tony

THE ESSENCE OF EN – THE DARK SIDE

The *Essence of En* is a series of articles that I am writing in search of the formula for creating speeches that entertain, enthrall, and enchant. This is about number seven in the series and I am starting to get a feel for some of the elements of the essence of en. You are welcome to send me your own contributions and ideas.

This week's article comes from Mike Diggins. It's got some words in it that my spellchecker hasn't heard of so beware. Here it is.

The Dark Side

In our search for the elements of enthrallment, enchantment and entertainment, we look for the light in our speeches.

Where light there is, also dark must be, or balance cannot there exist – and in Roget may balance be found.

Enthral our audience we must – but by exciting love, not by oppression or subjugation

Enchant them we can as white witches, never through the dark arts

Entertainment is good now, but once meant public hangings or burnings at the stake

These dual meanings enshrine the dichotomy of en, a force to enrich or enslave us in our efforts to find the essence of perfect English. The entelechy of the Dark Side cannot be in doubt, nor its enzootic nature or its unstinting ef-

forts to enfeeble our abilities

A thought for all those out there who think txtmsgns a gd idr:

"The limits of our language are the limits of our imagination"

The encroachment of the txtmsg as a force in the enthrallment of our language is proof positive of the existence of the Dark Side of En. Having a mobile phone permanently engrafted to hand and ear leaves the user enisled and introduces ennui to the rest of us.

If more proof is needed, look to the endemic nature of television – endless ennui envisaged as entertainment. Who can doubt the

Executive Committee to July 2002.

President-----Brent Catchpole

VP. Education-----Kevin Prohl

VP Membership-----Jean Harding

VP Public Relations-----Tony Cooper

Treasurer-----Neil Rothbart

Secretary-----Phil Jackson

Sergeant at Arms-----Ned Rich

Past President-----Brent Catchpole

Editor-----Tony Cooper

Events Coordinator -(appointed as required)

Debating Coordinator-(appointed as required)

THE ESSENCE OF EN (CONT)

words of Groucho Marx?

"I find television great for entertainment. Every time the thing goes on, I go and read a book"

But the insidious nature of the Dark Side of En uses these means to ensnare and endanger us. Know thine enemy! Use its resources where they can be used, but do not be entombed by the power of the Dark Side – by the entrenched skewed view of reality offered by the media.

So how do we avoid the enervation of our speeches and the enmity of our audience? Can

we limit the ensuing endarteritis in our encomiasts? Yes – by rejecting the entreaties of the Dark Side!

Use the En in English to enhance your words, but avoid using jargon to entangle your audience.

Organise your thoughts and enlist the help of an outline to avoid the ennui engendered by endlessness

Enunciate clearly, and avoid enveloping your audience in clichés

Envenom your audience by all means but by inspiration, not

envieglement

Above all, if you would emulate others, be a public encomiast rather than a private envier. They will share their abilities as you will share yours, and we will all avoid enislement as a result.

Yes, the Dark Side of En must be acknowledged, but it can be held in check by the power of enforcement – of the power endemic in each of us.

May the En force, er, be with you all!

MEETING OF 20 SEPTEMBER 2001

Savouries! Choccy cake! Wine! Someone's birthday? Yes – OURS. Three Kings Toastmasters Club has turned sixteen – another two years and we'll be able to take the Club down the pub – and all present are relishing another night of fun and frolics.

All was ready to go by 7.30, when **Acting Sergeant at Arms Peter Goffin** started the play by banging the gavel and introducing **President Brent**. Our worthy President set the scene with the Thought for the Night, that

"Every word has at least three meanings:

- The intent of the speaker
- The reception by the audience
- and the one in the dictionary"

Acting in his dual role of **Grammarian** (who said the guys can't multi-task? – Acting Ed), Brent also introduced the Word of the Night

RELISH

While describing the role of the Grammarian as " 'im wot meks shure u lot sez it rite" Relish – Appreciation, pleasure, enjoyment, tomato, horseradish, (wasabi?) – also a pleasing or appetising taste.

Chairman Kevin welcomed all to the 16th Birthday celebrations. Tony, Ted, Steve and Greg all apologised by proxy – accepted with relish.

ASAA Peter relished introducing our Guest, **Jane Lusby, DTM**, while **Mark Baxter** "sauced" the **Smile Story** from the Internet.

Next, to **Table Topics Master Jean Harding**, who introduced Table Topics from the pages of the Listener:

Jane Lusby with "Top Cab". This could have been from the awards ceremony for the best taxi driver in Auckland – but was actually short for Cabernet Sauvignon **Mark Baxter** with "Hold the Axe". Mark doubly relishes chopping anything, it seems, and heads were rolling everywhere – but this was about downsizing Rugby coaches.

Christine Meads with "When the World Changed". Like the Listener, Christine searched hard to find some good coming from the Twin Towers tragedy

Phil Jackson was an "old romantic", remembering the world as it should have been, when in 700BC (or 700 years ago – a long time, anyway) Judaism, Islam and Christianity combined to save the city of Judah from the conquering hordes. Actually about the romantic crooning of (missed the name)

Chairman Kevin introduced the **Table Topics Evaluators**, **Mark Baxter** and "Myself". Both dispensed CRC with lash-

ings of relish.

After a break to relish the refreshments, it was the turn of **Toastmaster Phil Jackson** to introduce the prepared speeches.

Carl Barlev presented his Ice-breaker, "**Here's Me**" Carl or Karl? The "K" version was the lowest form of household life in Denmark, said the grandparents – so Carl it is. Carl described growing up in Denmark and (if that wasn't cold enough) Greenland before his family settled on Auckland. Promises of many chilling tales from the North to come.

Edward Xu presented a "Speak with Sincerity" talk on "**Dreams of Immigration**"

It's not easy, but dreams can be realised if you are willing to overcome the difficulties. Edward described ways of improving your chances in the "Greenpeace country":

- **You** as an immigrant can display your skills and be willing to participate – as opposed to relying on benefits
- **Government** can do more to

MEETING OF 20 SEPTEMBER 2001 (CONT)

promote resources such as links to language courses

- **Consultants** can do more to promote a realistic understanding of the difficulties immigrants face

Conclusion – we all can, and should, give new immigrants a chance to be part of the community. The key is open-mindedness

Peter Goffin gave "**Fear and Freedom**", an "Apply Your Skills" (No. 7) speech

Peter's motto – "Never water-ski after watching 'Jaws'". From conjuring sharks by using Negative Imagination, Peter moved on to other low forms of life like Wayne "the Subcontractor's Nightmare" Hartner of Hartner Construction, and Osama bin Laden. Peter recommends harpooning sharks like Wayne with ruthless Credit Control. The other's not so easy, but if you don't face your fear squarely, you will never beat it. Only by beating fear will you gain freedom.

Noreen Helean gave "**My Song of Praise**", an Advanced "Speaking in Praise" topic from the Special Occasions manual. Shaking the dust off her Shakespeare, Noreen asked if we had learned anything since Shakespeare's time. Apparently not – and for emphasis, Noreen praised three plays from the Dark Side, all highlighting the suffering of

the innocents:

- Othello, tragedy from the sowing of seeds of suspicion
- Hamlet, tragedy from the sowing of seeds of jealousy and mortality
- Romeo and Juliet, tragedy from the sowing of seeds of hatred

Maybe we haven't learned – but the Bard gets Noreen's vote for portraying the consistency of the human condition

Brent Catchpole gave a No. 3 "Organising Your Speech" presentation of "**The Club Banner**"

We all want to succeed, and we all like recognition. Brent described how the various levels of Toastmasters received recognition, distilling this into the constant reminder of those achievements. This reminder is the ribbons on the banner – maybe we can't remember what they *all* are for, but history speaks loud at Three Kings. History will continue loudly, if Brent has anything to do with it – and we can all play our part.

Chairman Kevin introduced the Prepared Speech evaluations:

- **Jean Harding** gave **Carl** some CRC and lots of encouragement

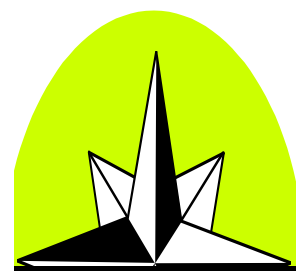
- **Kevin Prohl** evaluated **Edward** in impromptu mode – and very well too, with a great display of listening skills
- **Christine Meads** evaluated **Peter** with good CRC – and introduced "Osama bin Liner", showing again that laughter is the best medicine (otherwise you've got to take the b*****d seriously – Ed).
- **Jane Lusby** evaluated **Noreen** in classic form, dispensing CRC and vocal variety with relish
- **Mike Diggins** evaluated **Brent** and his banner

Officers' Reports

Brent:

Our Area Contest is on September 29 at Marcellan College Hall on Mount Albert Rd (the Hall is the building fronting the road, parking on either side of it). Contests start at 12.30 and run until around 4.30. Three Kings are running the Humorous Speech Contest, with Kevin as Contest Chair. Mark and Edward volunteered as Timekeepers, Carl as Tally Counter. **Come and support your Club if you can.**

(Continued on page 4)



Best Table Topic Speaker
Phil

Best Table Topic Evaluator
Kevin

Best Speech
Peter

Best Speech Evaluator
Jane / Christine / Kevin

Best Toastmaster
Kevin

Most Entertaining
Peter

A Toastmaster's Promise

As a member of Toastmasters International and my club, I promise.....

- ◆ To attend Club meetings regularly; to regularly write articles for the newsletter
- ◆ To prepare all my speeches to the best of my ability, basing them on the projects in the Communication and Leadership Program manual or the Advanced Communication and Leadership manuals;
- ◆ To willingly prepare for and fulfil meeting assignments;
- ◆ To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations;
- ◆ To help the Club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow;
- ◆ To willingly serve my Club as an officer when called upon to do so;
- ◆ To treat my fellow Club members and our guests with respect and courtesy;
- ◆ To bring guests to Club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers;
- ◆ To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters educational and recognition programs;
- ◆ To maintain honest and highly ethical standards during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Three Kings Toastmasters Club

Meet at the
Fickling Centre
Three Kings Plaza Mt Albert Road
Auckland
Every second Thursday evening 7.30 p.m.
President: Brent Catchpole
Ph 625 5469
brent.catchpole@win.co.nz

Vice President Education
Kevin Prohl Ph 527 8831
Vice President Membership
Jean Harding
Vice President Public Relations
Tony Cooper tonyco@iconz.co.nz
Treasurer
Neil Rothbart
Secretary & Editor
Tony Cooper Ph 629 1089
Sergeant at Arms
Ned Rich Ph 815 3478

- September 29** Area A6 Contests—Marcellin College Hall 12:30 to 4:30
- October 1** Committee Meeting at Brent's
- October 4** Club Meeting—Tribute to Elvis
- October 13** Division A Conference
- October 18** Club Meeting—Humour



MEETING OF 20 SEPTEMBER 2001 (CONT)

(Continued from page 3)

Kevin

The Speechcraft course has now finished – and they're considering an advanced one! Amazing improvements in the participants (especially in evaluation) and a great learning opportunity for Toastmasters, too. Congratulations to all involved – big round of applause for Kevin as organiser proposed by Brent and Neil, accepted with relish by all.

Division A contest is on October 13 in the Fickling Centre. Afternoon session is a paltry \$5, the evening one (dinner, Humorous contest and awards ceremony) \$35 if reserved by the end of September.

As if that's not enough, L J Hooker is sponsoring a "garage sale" of donated (but new) equip-

ment and services in the Royal Oak Mall during the morning of October 13. Proceeds to help victims of Cystic Fibrosis.

Grammarian Brent "Saucy" Catchpole returned to report on relish – and bring back some recent memories of good English.

Timekeeper Carl "with a 'C'" Barlev reported that most speakers were on time, in succinct fashion, and provided the speech timings

Master Evaluator Neil "say it with smiles" Rothbart gave excellent CRC combined with generous lashings of humour for all the relevant duties.

In closing the meeting, **Brent** presented the awards.

Next meeting: A final reminder

for the Area contest and **A Tribute to Elvis** (uh-huh, thanyouverrymuch)

The Mission Of The Club

The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth