

SPINNAKER TOASTMASTERS CLUB 7868/72

President's Report May 2009

By Dale Hartle DTM

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Spinnaker Toastmasters Club for the year ending April 2009.

This has been a successful year for the club in a number of respects despite some difficulties.

Our meetings have been fun, busy, and well prepared. While attendance was down on the odd occasion, everyone has pitched in to fulfil their roles. Special thanks goes to John Butt for the efficient setting up of the room before each meeting, which saves a lot of time. And to Kath Cherrie our VP Education for the preparation of the forward programme every 3 months.

Our membership has reduced significantly in the past 12 months, with the loss of a few long term members, and with most of last year's Speechcrafters not rejoining the club. It is always difficult to operate the club when there are less than 20 members, especially when it comes to organising meetings. I hope this year's Speechcrafters do continue with the club and complete their Competent Communicator Award. Everyone needs to work at building club membership to ensure the club remains viable and in a good financial state.

The club is on track to attain President's Distinguished Club for the 8th year in succession, achieving 9 out of 10 goals, but unfortunately the club leader training goal was not completed. We just need two competent communicator awards, and one competent leader award to round off the year.

We had two guest evenings during the year – back in July we had 3 guest speakers in one night – Rob Julian DTM, Lt Gov Marketing Denis McCord DTM, and the New Zealand International Speech Contest winner Sanjiv Jetley. At the club's annual prizegiving in December, Trish Gray DTM from the WOW/Gourmet clubs presented readings from her newly published book.

The club was very successful in the Area speech contests, with Shona Smith coming 2nd in the Humorous contest, Susan Finlay won the Table Topics Contest, and Dale Hartle won the International Contest. Both Susan and Dale competed in the Division E contests, but were unplaced.

Kath Cherrie was awarded the Toastmaster of the Year award for 2008, and Shona Smith won the Most Improved Speaker Award.

We currently have a Speechcraft Course under way, with eight very talented and interesting participants. We look forward to their graduation speeches in June.

This ends my 2nd term as the club's president. As I hand over to the incoming president from 1 July, I implore you all to give your new president and committee the same support and assistance I have enjoyed. I will not be standing for a committee position this coming year as I am intending to undertake tertiary study, and will need to devote my time to that over the next few months. However I am always available for advice when needed, and will continue to maintain the club's website.

Yours in Toastmasters,

Dale Hartle DTM

President, Spinnaker Toastmasters Club 2008/09