



## **Toastmasters International District 73**

### **Minutes of District Council Meeting**

**RMIT University, Level 6, Building 56, cnr Queensberry & Lygon  
Sts Carlton**

**Saturday 15 November 2008  
1 pm – 3.15 pm**

**1. Call to order**

The meeting commenced at 1 pm.

**2. Inspiration**

The inspiration was given by Jack Fawcett, E14 Area Governor.

**3. Reading of District Mission**

The District Mission was read by Kamilla Zwolak, E Division Governor.

**4. Welcome and opening by District Governor**

Senior District Officers were introduced to the meeting and District Governor Bernard Marmion welcomed all in attendance.

**5. Apologies and Credentials Committee report**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Tim Blackburn, David Milne, Nick Nash, Shelley Arcus, Wayne A'Vard, Anna Riggs, Martin Lindsay, Franco Principe, Gwen Rowe, Elisabeth Edwards, Mike Helm

***Motion: 'that the apologies be accepted'***

*Moved: Sandra Glass (D Sec)*

*Seconded: Jack Fawcett (E14 AG)*

***Carried.***

**Credentials Committee Report**

Credentials Committee Chairman David Nicholas reported that a quorum had not been achieved. As there are 160 active clubs in the district 106 active club votes were needed and only 100 were registered.

Council members were advised that a copy of all motions along with voting slips would be mailed to each club to enable a postal vote to be taken.

**6. Adoption of agenda**

The District Governor requested that the issue of district reformation be dealt with under correspondence and that accordingly item 12.2 be deleted.

The Treasurer requested that item 10.2 (Treasurer's most recent monthly report) be considered before item 10.1 (Adoption of district budget).

***Motion: 'that the agenda as amended be adopted'***

Moved: Carrol Jones LGM  
**Carried**

Seconded: Nola Sharp (Lilydale)

**7. Confirmation of appointed District Officers\***

A list of all appointed district officers was presented (*Meeting Papers P3*)

**Motion: 'that all listed district officer appointments be confirmed'**

Moved: Judith Talanoa (*Toast of the Country*) Seconded: Michael Landry  
(*N Div G*) **Carried**

**8. District Secretary:**

**8.1 Minutes of previous District Council meeting 17/05/2008\* (P4-12)**

**Motion: 'that the minutes of the District Council meeting of 17 May 2008 be confirmed'**

Moved: Sandra Glass (*D Sec*) Seconded: Michael Landry (*N Div G*)  
**Carried.**

**8.2 Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**8.3 Correspondence\* (P13-16)**

The secretary drew the attention of council members to the email received from Toastmasters International dated 24 September 2008 concerning the reformation of the district and to the reply by District Governor Bernard Marmion dated 12 October 2008.

**Motion: 'that the correspondence be received'**

Moved: Sandra Glass (*D Sec*) Seconded: Judy Murphy (*Lilydale*)  
**Carried**

It was noted that the letter by the District Governor referred to District 79 and this should have been District 70.

**Motion: 'that the outward correspondence be endorsed'**

Moved: Sandra Glass (*D Sec*) Seconded: Judith Talanoa (*Toast of the Country*) **Carried**

**Matters arising from Correspondence**

After some discussion a further motion was moved from the floor.

**Motion: ' that this council authorise, endorse and encourage District to pursue the reformation of the district as outlined in the proposal'**

Moved: Jack Fawcett (*E14 AG*) Seconded: David Nicholas (*Victoria Quay*) **Carried**

**9. Year End Audit report 2007-08\* (P17-21)**

**Motion: 'that Council adopt the 2007-08 Year End Audit Report'**

Moved: David Reynolds (*D Treas*) Seconded: Carrol Jones (*LGM*)  
**Carried**

**10. District Treasurer**

## **10.1 Adoption of District Budget for 2008-09\* (P22-29)**

**Motion: ' that District 73 Council Members adopt the 2008-09 District 73 Budget'**

*Moved: David Reynolds (D Treas) Seconded: Judith Talanoa (Toast of the Country) Carried*

The Treasurer advised that while membership renewals would cost clubs and members more District would benefit from the falling exchange rate, which might lead to a modest surplus this financial year.

## **10.2 Treasurer's most recent monthly report: to September 30, 2008\* (P30-37)**

**Motion: that District 73 Council members adopt the latest available Monthly Treasurer's Report as at 30 September 2008'.**

*Moved: David Reynolds (D Treas) Seconded: Joy Ainslie (Whitehorse) Carried*

## **11. Reports by senior District Officers (P38-52)\***

### **11.1 Report by District Governor - Bernard Marmion (P 38-41)**

District Governor Bernard Marmion noted that District is growing rapidly with 300 more members than at the same time last year and four new clubs already chartered this year.

He stated that in accordance with Toastmasters International policy District will no longer conduct Speechcraft courses, which are considered a club activity. Instead, enquiries regarding corporate courses received through the district website will be directed to appropriate providers who will pay a spotter's fee for this service. Enquiries regarding community-based courses will be directed initially to local clubs; if there is no suitable local course available these will also be redirected to appropriate external providers, who will be encouraged to refer attendees to Toastmasters clubs upon completion of the course.

He announced that Toastmasters International President Jana Barnhill will be attending the District Convention in Hahndorf in May 2009 and PDG Edmund Breen has been appointed to co-ordinate the visit. He noted that District had also had a visit from Past International President Chris Ford, who visited WA in September, where he was involved in a corporate presentation.

He advised council members that the International Convention which was to have taken place in Sydney in 2010 has been relocated to California.

He presented a plaque for his year as District Governor in 2002-03 to PDG Geoff Morrissey.

**Motion: 'that the report be received'**

*Moved: Bernard Marmion (DG) Seconded: Di Leech (Adelaide) Carried*

Q. Marilyn Newby (Satdy Arvo Communicators) asked the amount of the spotter's fee and was told that this was still under negotiation.

Q. Mark Richards (PRO) enquired regarding the directing of courses to those in the appropriate state or local area and was told that they would be so directed through the state co-ordinators.

### **11.2 Report by Lieutenant Governor Education and Training - Damian Chong (P 42-44)**

LGET Damian Chong presented a list of district awards achieved to date and noted that members are achieving well in all areas except that of Competent Leader awards. He suggested that district leaders and council members needed to take the message to the clubs that projects in these manuals should be signed off whenever a member carries out a meeting role.

He reported that several clubs had already achieved five or more DCP goals, with Victoria Quay in WA being the first, and encouraged all clubs to strive to be distinguished.

He listed upcoming education and training events and completion dates:

- Area contests which are currently being completed,
- Area Governor club visit reports which are due at TI by 30 November,
- Club Officer Training (second round) to be completed Dec – Feb,
- Division contests to be completed by end of March,
- District Convention and speech contest finals in Hahndorf in May

He pointed out the benefits of special training workshops such as those being run today, and encouraged clubs to work together to organise such workshops.

#### ***Motion: 'that the report be received'***

*Moved: Damian Chong (LGET) Seconded: Adrienne Bowd (RMIT)*

***Carried***

Q. Nola Sharp (Lilydale) asked when the District Directory would be available and was informed that that privacy issues among others had caused difficulties in its compilation but that a copy would be included with the voting slips in the mailout following this meeting.

### **11.3 Report by Lieutenant Governor Marketing - Carrol Jones (P45-50)**

(includes Vic Club Coach report)

LGM Carrol Jones reiterated that District has 300 more members than at the same time last year and is growing strongly.

She noted that all clubs have submitted club officer lists and only two clubs had yet to send in renewals, and reminded clubs that they need only send in a minimum of six renewals on time to remain in good standing and fulfil this requirement of the Distinguished Club Program.

She remarked that District had set a goal of 20 new clubs this year, but now expect that there will be 16.

She commented on the work of the club coach program co-ordinators Vivienne Triplett in Vic & Tas and Jeanette Farrar in WA. She referred to the report by Vivienne Triplett indicating the difficulty of finding sufficient club coaches for all eligible clubs and encouraged anyone who is interested in this role to contact her.

***Motion: 'that the report be received'***

*Moved: Carrol Jones (LGM)      Seconded: Michael Landry (N Div G)*

***Carried***

Q. Di Leech (Adelaide) asked if new clubs are always given new numbers as she believed one in South Australia had not been. She was advised that generally new numbers were issued for new clubs but if the club had been revived after a period in abeyance or renamed it may have been re-issued its old number.

Q. District Governor Bernard Marmion explained that new clubs were being supported with funds for promotion and that District had purchased a large supply of pamphlets for use by new clubs and clubs wishing to rebuild membership.

**11.4 Report by District Public Relations Officer Mark Richards (P51-52)**  
)

PRO Mark Richards commended the work of the state PROs Darren McClelland and Neil Spark in Victoria and Robyn Richards in WA in organising various successful PR activities. He noted the recent appointment of Mez Lee in SA.

He listed some of the successful PR activities to date including:

- Practical assistance to clubs in setting up club websites for those clubs without one.
- Excellent media coverage, with articles in major daily papers in Victoria and various others in suburban papers, as well as a radio interview in WA.
- A Train the Trainer workshop for Speechcraft presenters in WA
- The visit of IPP Chris Ford to WA with a corporate reception focused on promoting corporate clubs to major corporations
- A regular PR column in Southern Cross with helpful advice for clubs

He noted the need to grow strong clubs as well as new ones and the availability of promotional flyers for those clubs with low numbers.

He urged clubs celebrating milestones to seize the opportunity for media promotion around any special events to mark these occasions.

He advised that District is about to purchase Google Ad Words to increase public awareness of Toastmasters

***Motion: 'that the report be received'***

*Moved: Mark Richards (PRO)      Seconded: Terry Barridge (Hawthorn)*

***Carried***

There was discussion regarding the use of Google as a host for websites. Those seeking further information were advised to speak to their state PRO.

PDG Geoff Morrissey reminded all those clubs whose websites are hosted through toastmasters.org.au that the site will close at the end of this month.

## **12. Other Reports**

### **12.1 Report on District website (P53-56) – Ian Murray**

District Webmaster Ian Murray reported on the recent changes to the District website. He gave an overview of the new Members Site and demonstrated how to access various functions. He encouraged members to register and obtain a password, and to use the site to seek and to post information. He briefly outlined the next steps in the ongoing development of the site.

#### ***Motion: 'that the report be received'***

*Moved: Ian Murray (Webmaster)      Seconded: Keith Humphry (South Coast Speakers)      Carried*

Q. Anna Vandenberg (Whitehorse) asked whether a password was required to access the members site and was informed that a password was only necessary to post to the site.

Q. Mark Richards (PRO) asked about improving the front page and was assured that this was planned.

The Webmaster was thanked by acclamation for all his efforts in setting up the new site.

### **12.2 Reformation of District – see correspondence**

## **13. Motions deferred from previous meeting 17/05/2008 (P57)**

### **13.1 Amendments to continuing motions 13, 17, 18**

District Governor Bernard Marmion announced that these motions had been deemed invalid as they were inconsistent with Toastmasters International policy. Continuing motions 13 and 18 had been automatically deleted and continuing motion 17 amended to bring them into line with policy without the need for this council to vote.

Q. Judith Talanoa (Toast of the Country) enquired whether other continuing motions would also be automatically deleted. She was advised that motions would only be deleted automatically if they were inconsistent with TI policy.

### **13.2 Credit for attendance at club officer training**

As there was no mover the motion lapsed.

## **14. Report on Hahndorf Convention May 2009 (P62-66 )**

District Governor Bernard Marmion tabled the attached report from Convention Chairman Nick Nash. He advised that the program would differ from previous years in that there would be two contests on the Friday evening to accommodate a longer International Speech Contest and an extended District Council meeting on Saturday afternoon. He

stated that as there were now ten divisions there would be ten contestants in each contest and this meant that contests would take longer and timing would be very tight.

Members were reminded that a convention is a district function and that District must bear any profit or loss. The aim is to keep the cost reasonable while also ensuring that the convention breaks even or makes a small profit.

Although any profit from the convention must go to District it was agreed that proceeds from any raffles would become the property of the host club(s) to be used 'for the benefit of Toastmasters'.

***Motion: 'that the report be received'***

*Moved: Judith Talanoa (Toast of the Country) Seconded: Joanne Philippe (Williamstown)*

***Carried***

Q. Mark Richards (PRO) enquired whether a meal could be provided on the Friday evening between the contests. He was advised that this is being considered.

Q. Several members asked about arrangement for transport between Adelaide and Hahndorf, particularly for those arriving at the airport. Sandra Glass (D Sec) asked whether a co-ordinator could be appointed specifically to deal with transport arrangements. Di Leech, for the host club Champion Toastmasters, stated that this issue was to be discussed at the convention committee meeting on Dec 6 to be attended by the District Governor. Consideration would be given to organising buses to transport delegates to and from the airport.

**15. New Business**

**15.1 2010 Convention bids (P67-80)**

District Governor Bernard Marmion announced that bids had initially been received from Berwick club and a combined committee from Essendon and Williamstown clubs. The Berwick bid had since been withdrawn.

He invited Michael Landry (Essendon) and Dick Wilkie (Williamstown) to present the bid on behalf of the Essendon – Williamstown committee. They briefly outlined the venue (the Novotel Forest Resort, Creswick, near Ballarat, Victoria), the draft budget, and the many activities available in nearby Ballarat. They announced the theme for the Saturday evening would be 'Gold'.

***Motion: 'that the bid by Williamstown Toastmasters and Essendon Toastmasters Club Inc to host the 2010 Annual District Convention be accepted subject to the Organising Committee acknowledging 6 broad principles by signing the letter of acknowledgement and returning it to the District Secretary within 30 days.'***

*Moved: Michael Landry (Convention Chair)*

*Seconded: Marilyn Newby (Satdy Arvo Communicators)*

*Carried*

**16. Announcements**

Bruce Hill has been appointed chair of the audit committee for the current year.

District Governor Bernard Marmion thanked host clubs Williamstown and Essendon and members of the organising committee for all their efforts in organising the day's activities including the dinner to be held in the evening. He especially thanked Adrienne Bowd (RMIT) for organising the venue at short notice when previous arrangements fell through, and to RMIT University for making the venue available at no cost. A letter of appreciation is to be sent to RMIT.

He reminded all that District would be recognising new DTMs and presenting new clubs with their banners at a dinner to be held at the Treacy Centre that evening.

All members were invited to attend the workshops following the meeting.

**17. Next meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 at Hahndorf SA**

**18. Close of District Council meeting**

The meeting closed at 3.14 pm.

\* Denotes attachment included

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