

MT PRITCHARD TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Incorporating
COLTS

H I S T O R Y



Formally the 'City of Liverpool Toastmasters Club' abbreviated to COLTS. An all male Club until August 1983 when their first female member, Maria Gesler, was admitted to membership. The move to have female members join the Club was not met with great delight from all of the male members who saw this as another invasion and a challenge that threatened the breaking down of yet another male bastion. After all there was many healthy and thriving Toastmistresses Clubs that would be more than happy for new members.

The founder of the Club is Don Hocking ATM, who had the vision to start the Club and nurture it till this day.

Don Hocking has been occupied of late with writing his book "Hocking's rule – The essential guide to conducting meetings". The book has now been published and is available in book Stores. He is currently working on his second book "Donald Hocking's Wonderful world of meetings" not yet published but available on the WEB

Don Hocking has given us a brief history of the Club, in his own words, as follows:-



Don Hocking - Founder

A Brief History of Colts (City of Liverpool Toastmasters)

From the unreliable memory of its Founder, Donald Hocking, first ATM in Australia.

Unfortunately, this story begins with quite a few perpendicular pronouns, but that is how the story starts.

The tale will become more readable when I start using the pronoun 'we'

In March of 1965 I attended a demonstration meeting at the Lucas Heights Atomic Energy Commission (where I was employed), hosted by the Port Hacking Toastmasters Club. To me, this

evening was like a dozen birthday parties being held simultaneously!

I found out that the Toastmasters organisation encompassed two of my life's passions: public speaking (which I had been indulging in since the age of 6 and meeting procedures which has been an intimate part of my family life brought about by my father's participation as secretary in numerous organisations.

After a follow-up meeting to the Port Hacking Club, I resolved to begin a club in Liverpool. To this end I contacted the president of the Australian Territory of Toastmasters to obtain permission to found a club. I then received a phone call from Mr Dallas York of the Wollongong Toastmasters, who held the position of Extension Chairman, the officer responsible for initiating new branches of the movement. Thus armed, I contacted the Bankstown Toastmasters Club who was assigned to act as sponsors of the new club.

A copy of the minutes of that meeting is available for those interested in the date, who attended and the decisions made.

From the Foundation meeting until August 3, 1966, we held Club meetings in several locations, but mainly at the Mount Pritchard Primary School in Hemphill Avenue.



John Kruit

The Charter Meeting was held in the Galaxy Lounge, Collingwood, on the Hume Highway. The wives of members brought in hundreds of flowers to decorate the venue, a ten foot long fiberglass gavel was slung from the ceiling and

Toastmasters from all over Sydney were in attendance. The Guest of Honour was Mr Russ Walkington, President of the Territorial Council of Australia, who presented the Charter Certificate (which had been especially flown to Australia) to our Charter President Mr John Kruit.

John in turn, presented a certificate of appreciation to Don Hocking in recognition of his being the Founder of Colts.



Margaret Whittlam

The Liverpool Community was represented by the Mayor, Alderman Ernie Smith, and Mrs Margaret Whittlam (on behalf of her husband Gough - local Federal Member) and Mr Jack Mannix, local member of the State Government.

The Liverpool Boy Scouts guarded the cars of guests while the Liverpool Brass Band lined the entrance to the Lounge providing music suitable to the occasion. Following a request from the Parramatta Toastmasters Club, we presented our fibreglass gavel for their use at their approaching chartering.

Following the excitement of the Charter event, we settled into having regular meetings at Charlie Hunt's Crossroad Motel until we found the costs of meals becoming a little too expensive. Our next move was to the Del Monte Function Centre in Memorial Drive, Liverpool, where we stayed for some years. At this venue we had some of our most fabulous evenings. We presented two seminars' each to audiences of up to a hundred participants, two costumed live theatre productions and annual joint meetings with the Liverpool Toastmistress Club. At Del Monte, our meetings were never less than 30 members.

By this time, meals had become much too expensive, which led to Colts becoming somewhat nomadic. Venues consisted of the Liverpool RSL., Sunnybrook at Warwick Farm and Cabramatta Ex-Services Club, before finally settling down at the Mount Pritchard Community Club on Meadows Road, Mt Pritchard. Our stay at this Club has been a very happy one, especially as we have become a sub club of this organisation and the recipient of a generous annual subsidy.

It was due to this permanency that we resolved to change the name of our Club to 'Mount Pritchard' but to add the words 'Inc. COLTS' as a nostalgic gesture.

Turning now to the Roll Of Honour, we start, naturally, with me, Donald Hocking. I get the honour by being the Founder of the Club. Number two would be Mr John Kruit for being the Charter President. Of the hundreds of other members some defy description, but many come under the classification of being unforgettable, unbelievable or inexcusable.

The following is not a complete list of the 'characters' whose company we have enjoyed, but only the tip of the iceberg of a very enjoyable host of past members.

Faces that won't go away, no matter how we try are: Mervyn Spencer, Max Ferguson, Bert Foley, Keith Bainbridge, Maria Gesler, Parry Jones, Joe Matheson, John Deering,



Liliana Vozila

Len Newland, David Collett, Cec Judd, Tony Everett, Les Fitzpatrick, Marc Dicconson John Harvey, Michael Dockery, Brian Michaels.... And so the list goes on. Never to be forgotten will be Liliana Vozila under whose Presidency the Club became almost consumed by the female gender!

As I sit here writing I realise that this could almost become a 'never ending story' but before I go I must refer to the honour we enjoyed some years ago of being the Sponsor Club for the Double C Toastmasters Club of Liverpool.

C'est la vie.

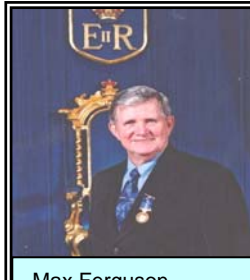
Hall of Fame – our Club’s notable members



Don Hocking Club
Founder
Member since
1966



John Kruit – Club’s
first president 1966
#



Max Ferguson –
recipient of “The
Order of Australia”
Member since 1973



Mark Latham – Club
member 1983-84

Leader
of the
Opposition
–Australian
Labor
Party.
2003-04

Club’s Life Members



Don Hocking –
Founder
Passed away



Albert (Bert)
Foley DTM



Max Ferguson



Maria Gesler DTM

Club’s First Female Member



The Club’s
first
female
member
joined the
then all
male Club,
on the
3rd August,
1983

Maria Gesler - Currently – is the Club’s first
female DTM. 2003-2004 Recipient of the
“Jazzier Smith” Award

Club’s First Female President



City of Liverpool Toastmasters Club’s
First Female President
1987 Lee Jourdain



Charter Certificate – Club Chartered on the 21st July, 1966

Past Presidents:-

1966	John Kruit	1988	John Harvey
1967	John Kruit	1989	Brian Michaels
1968	Mervyn Spencer	1990	Len Newland
1969	Don Hocking	1991	Michael Dockery
1970	Keith Bainbridge	1992 *	David Arnfield (6 months)
1971	Merv Grehan	1992-1993*	Liliana Vozila
1972	Vic Goldack	1993-1994	Maria Gesler
1973	Gary Bell	1994-1995	Joe Matheson
1974	Kevin Wilson	1995-1996	Parry Jones
1975	Alf Rechberger	1996-1997	Maria Matheson
1976	Les Fitzpatrick	1997-1998	Geoff Gates
1977	Peter Flynn	1998-1999	Ray Stenhouse
1978	Chas Hall	1999-2000	Joan Brennan
1979	Max Ferguson	2000-2001	Les Miller
1980	Max Ferguson	2001-2002	Karyn Charlton
1981	Bob Mulheron	2002-2002	Terry Nash (6 months)
1982	Chas Hall	2003-2003	Greg Hicks (6 months)
1983	Marc Dicconson	2003-2004	Sue Barrington
1984	Terry Longhurst	2004-2005	Carole Andrew
1985	Nestor Belen	2005-2006	Les Miller
1986	Bert Foley	2006-2007	Maria T Gesler
1987	Lee Jourdain	2007-2008	Du Yan Lin

*** Please Note that up to and including December 1992, the Toastmasters year was from 1st January to 31st December each year. In June 1993 the Toastmasters year changed to 1st July to the 30th June.

District 70 Officers – Club members that served in District positions

Area Governors

	Bert Foley
	Len Newland
1997-1998	Nick Rinaldi
2000-2001	Maria Gesler
2001-2002	Les Miller
2003-2004	Joan Rinaldi

Division Governors

1998-1999	Nick Rinaldi
2001-2002	Maria Gesler
2003-2004	Les Miller
2004-2005	Joan Rinaldi

District Officers

2004-2005	Nick Rinaldi – Lt Gov Marketing
2002-2004	Maria Gesler - Phillip Division Newsletter Editor
2005-2006	Nick Rinaldi – Lt Governor Education & Training
2005-2006	Les Miller – District Speechcraft Liaison Officer
2005-2006	Maria Gesler – District Corporate Club Officer
2006-2007	Nick Rinaldi – District Governor
2006-2007	Les Miller – District Speechcraft Liaison Officer
2006-2007	Maria Gesler – District Enquiries Officer
2007-2008	Maria Gesler – District Club Speechcraft Resource Officer

