



## Kew Toastmasters

Club No. 3270

Area E15 Eastern Division  
District 73

## Newsletter Release Date

Published Quarterly  
17/10/2020

## Important Dates

E15 Area Contest:  
07/11/2020

Eastern Division Contest:  
20/02/2021

## Public Speaking webinar recordings

[Lose the Fear, Learn the Relevance](#)

[Speak for Yourself!](#)

We meet every  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of  
the month:  
7:30pm to 9:30pm  
Zoom Online Meeting

For more information,  
visit our website  
[www.kewtoastmasters.org](http://www.kewtoastmasters.org)

## Editorial

*Byron Tang, VPPR*

Welcome to our latest edition of our OnCue Newsletter. After a long hiatus it's good to be back. Our executive committee has made a decision to produce a quarterly newsletter to keep us informed on What's Happening at Kew Toastmasters.

This newsletter will highlight some of our member's contributions during our recent club contests and a few personal stories.

A special thanks to everyone who participated or had a role to play in our club contests. We will all be cheering on our recent winners at the next stages of the competition and hopefully they will take us to the next level in representing Kew as 'The best club in the World'.

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## Contest Summary

*Sam Hall, VPE*

Speech contests represent the very best that Kew Toastmasters has to offer and our ability to show off to the Toastmasters world. But like almost everything else in 2020, our speech contests were going to have to be a little different. After our initial lockdown in April, it was always a possibility that we'd have to face the possibility of speech contests over video. Once we got to August it seemed like a certainty. As the newly installed Vice-President Education, I put my hand up to organise all of Kew's contests for this year. It seemed a daunting task at first, but our President and Area Director, Janine Wan provided more than ample support to help all clubs in our area put on contests in this challenging environment.

Almost everything had to be different. There were new rules for Toastmasters HQ, there were rules we had to create for Contestants dropping out during a speech, handling of timing if there were issues there, making sure contestants weren't on mute while delivering their speeches, breakout rooms for Table Topics and Evaluation contestants, Zoom Masters, judging and ballot counting. Almost every part of a speech contest had to be thought about re-engineered into a workable way for this way of working.

Thankfully, Kew Toastmasters proved more than up to the tasks. All four of our contests went off without a hitch. Thanks to the effort of all our contestants, helpers, organisers and all those with roles throughout the contests, every contest ran more smoothly than I could have hoped for.

Our first contest saw the Humorous and Table Topics contest both won by the esteemed Elaine Doyle with Byron Tang, Brendan Millane and newest Kew Toastmaster Helen Cai picking up minor placings! Kamilla Zwolak as contest chair gave us everything we could have hoped for delivering humor to warm us up for the humorous contest and a very challenging Table Topics in asking contestants to tell us about a defining moment in their life.

The second contest was no less ably chaired by Abhijit Naik and no less competitive with Eamonn Moran taking out the International Speech contest and Elaine Doyle coming second but winning the Evaluation contest with newly returned Jinn Kan and Byron Tang taking out the minor placings.

All in all, it was another fabulous contest season for Kew Toastmasters! I'd like to personally thank all of the contestants and helpers for helping us all achieve such success!

Please join me in cheering on our contestants in the Area-level contests on 7 November!



## Humorous Speech and Table Topics

What a pleasure it was to be part of a high calibre contest this week! The contestants were classy, the officials were organised and the audience was amused and appreciative. Thank you so much to everyone for your preparation before the day, for arriving early and for turning on a terrific night. Kamilla warmed up the audience and Sam wrangled the judges, counters, timers, and ushers. All contestants gave high quality speeches and Table Topics responses.

Congratulations to all contestants!

	Humorous Speech	Speech Title
1 <sup>st</sup>	Elaine Doyle	I have been doing it wrong all along
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brendan Millane	Living with a Plague
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Byron Tang	Stages of Dating

**Speech Question:** *Please share a defining moment in your life*

	Table Topic Contest
1 <sup>st</sup>	Elaine Doyle
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Helen Cai
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Byron Tang

## International Speech and Evaluation Contest

Our club contests concluded with warm and wonderful speeches from two of our highly skilled members, DTMs Eamonn and Elaine. Eamonn shared with us some of his thoughts and feelings about the very different year we're having in 2020 and Elaine inspired us to try 'awe walking' – to walk mindfully in nature and feel the benefits for our physical and mental health. Thanks, Eamonn and Elaine for giving us high quality speeches which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We were then treated to a storytelling speech from our Test Speaker, Clea, about her grandfather Max. Our evaluation contestants all gave evaluations that affirmed Clea's strengths and gave her some suggestions for improvement, as all good Toastmasters evaluations do.



	International Speech	Speech Title
1 <sup>st</sup>	Eamonn Moran	Happy New Year
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elaine Doyle	A tonic to take regularly

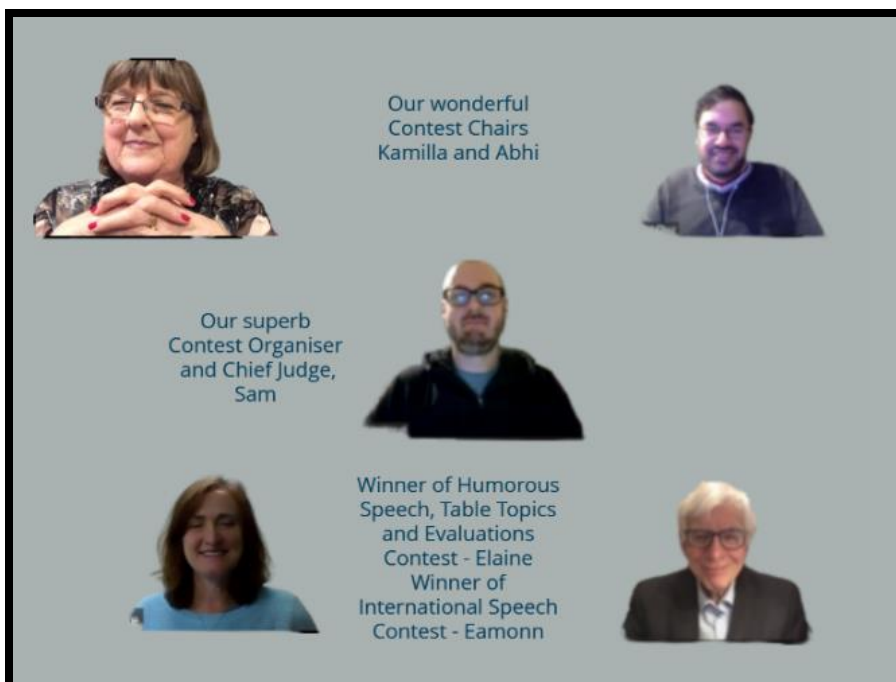
**Test Speaker:** Clea Westenberg  
**Speech Title:** Lessons from another life

**Contestants:** Elaine Doyle, Jinn Kan, Byron Tang, Varun Karthik, Helen Cai

	Evaluation Contest
1 <sup>st</sup>	Elaine Doyle
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jinn Kan
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Byron Tang

The winners of each contest represent Kew in the E15 Area Contest on 7 November.

A huge thank you must also go to Sam Hall, our VPE, for his excellent work in organizing these contests – it’s a big job! Thanks also to our judges from the other E15 clubs, our Test Speaker, and to our club members who helped with other roles including Timers, Counters and Ushers. Abhi hosted the night beautifully as Contest Chair while I took on the online contest role of Zoom Master. All in all, it was a great team effort from a champion team!





## **Interview with the E15 Area Director**

*Janine Wan, President*

### ***Why did you put your hand up to be Area Director?***

I thought it was important to have someone in the role who would act as a coordinator for the E15 clubs, particularly to help clubs with organising judges for club contests. I had an idea of how it could be done, based on my experience of organising Kew's club contests in 2019, so I thought that I could do it.

### ***What does an Area Director do?***

The E15 Area Director liaises between clubs in the E15 Area and the District 73 leadership team. As E15 Area Director I attend meetings with the Eastern Division Director and other Area Directors in Eastern Division, as well as some meetings of all the District 73 leadership team. Area Directors receive many updates about District events such as training sessions, which they pass on to club leaders.

Area Directors also visit the clubs in their Area at least twice a year and submit club visit reports which are read by the District leadership team. In this way, the District leadership is kept in touch with the issues currently affecting clubs and can respond appropriately. For example, if clubs request more training about how to use Social Media effectively to attract new members, District 73 will then respond by running training sessions focused on this issue.

The Area Director is also responsible for organising Area Council meetings, the Area Contest and assisting with the organisation of the Division's Club Officer Training sessions.

### ***What has been the most surprising thing about being AD?***

My first ten weeks as Area Director have felt like my first swimming lesson, when I jumped into the deep end of a pool... On that occasion I was fished out by the teacher using a large pole! As an Area Director I've found guidance from D73 training sessions, and my peers Noel McDonald (E14 Area Director) and Jo Evans (M22 Area Director).

It has still been a very steep learning curve and quite time consuming. I started late in the role (August rather than July) and quickly completed my first visit to all five clubs in E15 before club contests started. I've since attended eight club contests in E15, and an additional three contests outside of E15 to broaden my experience.

I'm surprised by how much I've learned and how I've been able to rise to the challenges of the role.

### ***Would you recommend it?***

Yes, I would recommend taking on the role of Area Director. It's a great opportunity for personal development and to improve your leadership and communication skills. There are many people in District 73 who are inspirational role models, and many different styles of leadership to observe.



## Book Review Corner

*Grey Bailey*

"A Gentleman in Moscow" was one of the most beautifully written books I've read. I just loved the words.

I really enjoyed "Boy Swallows Universe", the first novel by Trent Dalton, a journalist on the Weekend Australian. Its plot was unique. Look out for his next book called "All Our Shimmering Skies".

I loved "Dark Emu" - enlightening and wish I could go back to high school to hear what's covered in history now!

"The Ruin" is the first of three books which need to be read in order. It's a Crime thriller / mystery set in Ireland. The author Dervla McTiernan moved from Ireland to Australia and now resides in WA.

"Long Petal" got better as it went on and it has prompted me to do brief checks on Franco, Allende and Pinochet.

I've also read "Gorky Park", which was written in 1981 so I had some catching up to do! Good book...

Lastly, I always keep up to date reading all the Michael Connolly, Lee Child and John Grisham books as they're released.



## The HEART of KEW

Kew Toastmasters were delighted to mark our 40th anniversary in May this year with a celebratory Zoom meeting. We were led by Toastmaster Eamonn Moran, who reminisced about the early days of Kew Toastmasters, when they met at the Guide Dog centre. Kamilla Zwolak read a message from Jock Elliot, a former member and past winner of the WCPS (2011) and told us about the properties of rubies, which are said to encourage joy, spontaneity, laughter, courage, and confidence. We see all those qualities regularly in our club meetings at Kew!

At Kew we are proud of our club's history and thankful for the contribution made to our club by our experienced members. Would you believe we currently have five members who are DTMs and who have a combined 100 years of Toastmasters experience between them? We are fortunate to benefit from their skills and experience. They make speeches, mentor new members and model meeting roles, so that our newer members see these roles done well and learn from their example.

Our wonderful DTM's are the HEART of our club. Here's what we love about them...

### **Humorous:**

Noel McDonald is a natural raconteur, who always makes us laugh and smile with his quick wit. He brings great energy and vitality to our meetings and works hard in his leadership roles for the benefit the club and Eastern Division.

### **Eloquent:**

Elaine Doyle is a two-time DTM and a wonderful speaker who loves to bring a character to life. She contributes excellent evaluations that give explicit feedback about the skills and techniques that go into a good speech and is a deft debate moderator.

### **Analytical:**

Brendan Millane is another experienced Toastmasters who can be counted on to contribute to meetings. He is a very analytical thinker and his evaluations always give specific feedback to a speaker, to help them improve.

### **Refined:**

Eamonn Moran joined our club in 1985 and is a past District Governor and Parliamentarian, who guides us in procedure. We always enjoy his speeches and Table Topics, delivered oh so smoothly in his delightful Irish accent!

### **Trail blazer:**

Kamilla Zwolak has provided great leadership to the District including as a Division and Area leader, served in club leadership roles at Kew countless times and is another two-time DTM. She mentors new members and is encouraging and supportive to everyone



## Learning the Ropes

*Byron Tang, VPPR*

Challenge yourself to prosper!

Over the last couple of years I have challenged myself with new goals. I have switched the notion of putting things aside for another day, and committing myself to saying 'yes' when the opportunity raises. None more so than at toastmasters. Being true to yourself and following through with preparing a speech to the best of your abilities can be challenging. I honestly don't enjoy preparing speeches but I look forward to the thrill of standing on stage (or Zoom) and performing! I get an amazing rush. My endorphins levels go through the roof. The next couple of days I'm still feeling buzzed from participating and connecting with everyone. Each one of you has made my life better one way or another.

I encourage everyone to do more speeches since now contests are over. Not only will you see yourself improve but it will have positive benefits on other parts of your life. I am going to focus on getting through my pathway since I know it will take me out of my comfort zone at times. I will be better for it. I'm always up for the challenge and hopefully you will be too!







## Spotlight on Seddon

*Sam Hall, VPE*

I have been walking around my new home of Seddon an awful lot over the last 2 months since we moved in. I've come to know it very well. Yes, I've walked down every street, but I'm still exploring laneways and finding nooks and interesting things to see and look at. Multiple spoon gardens have cropped up. I know which cafes are still open for takeaways and which aren't. I know where I think the old Seddon Post Office used to be. I've seen empty parks, churches, schools and even our local Trugo Club. I know all the places I can see a freight train entering or exiting the tunnel under Footscray Station. I know where the old ETA Foods commemorative mural is. I've walked many times past the old bus depot. It's been lovely getting to know my new surroundings and I'm not even close to sick of it yet!





