



Berowra Toastmasters Guest Kit

Dear Guest,

Congratulations on taking your first step towards becoming a better communicator and leader!

Berowra Toastmasters is all about fostering fun, friendship, personal development and growth.

We hope you enjoy our meeting and that we see you back again soon.

Please see our Fast Facts, List of Committee Members, Member Testimonials, Frequently Asked Questions, How to Join & Summary of Fees below. If you have any further questions, please ask our [Vice President Membership](#).

Warm regards,

Janine O'Connell
President

Berowra Toastmasters: <http://berowra.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Toastmasters International: www.toastmasters.org

FAST FACTS:

- Toastmasters International is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation dedicated to helping people to become better communicators and leaders.
- There are almost 12,500 Toastmasters Clubs operating in over 105 countries
- Global current membership is in excess of 250,000 members
- Berowra Toastmasters Club has been meeting since 1976.
- In-person meetings are held in the Meeting Room, Berowra Community Centre, Gully Road, Berowra at 7:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month.

BEROWRA TOASTMASTERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS (July 2023 to June 2024)

The committee members are experienced Toastmasters who are responsible for ensuring the success and growth of the club and its members. Feel free to ask them for more information on what their roles involve and how they can help you:

- President: Janine O'Connell
- Vice President Education: Karien Tam
- Vice President Membership: Kate Sheehan
- Vice President Public Relations: Brenden Carretero
- Secretary: Colleen Sam
- Treasurer: Sarah Drake
- Sergeant at Arms: Thomas Armstrong
- Event Coordinator: Anne Murphy
- Immediate Past President: Sharon Natoli

MEMBER TESTIMONIALS:

Karen Lewin
Ask any visitor and you will hear resounding comments such as "Warmest Welcome", "Casual & Fun", "Friendliest" Club they have attended and "I'll be back". Visitors translate into members with a higher conversion rate than other clubs in much larger suburbs.

So why did I join Berowra Toastmasters? The atmosphere was (and continues to be) gold. The welcoming members are so inclusive no one turns up without leaving with a big smile on their face.

I have witness this little club embrace whatever suits a member - those who want to fast track their competent speaker and/or leadership targets. Members build their confidence at their own pace, without judgement. I have seen leaders in action & professional speakers sharing their knowledge. I have been in awe of those who offer their own time after hours to mentor. I have also seen many of us falter as we try to gain experience outside our comfort zone. And yet I have not witnessed anyone feel humiliated. It is just not part of the fabric of this gem of a club! Wonderfully, this club's fortnightly huddle of vastly different people, with varying levels of competencies & personalities, exerts its charm & thrives.

<p> Jackie Beattie 10 reviews ★★★★★ a year ago - </p> <p>I was lucky enough to be introduced to this club 15 years ago. The members are friendly and nurturing, your speeches are evaluated in a supportive and positive environment as they should be at a Toastmaster's club.</p> <p>Twice a month we have meetings and they are so much fun, filled with laughter and good company. Our club suppers are legendary among other clubs in the area.</p> <p>Want to learn how to improve your speaking or leadership skills visit our club where you will have fun learning, all level of speaker welcome.</p> <p>Have visited many other clubs in our area and district but come back home.</p> <p>See you soon Jackie</p>	<p> Kate Sheehan 2 reviews ★★★★★ 2 years ago</p> <p>An excellent Club for improving confidence and public speaking skills. I used to feel sick at even the thought of public speaking but I have improved a lot since joining Berowra Toastmaster's Club. I've found this Club very friendly & welcoming. They are keenly aware of how nervous most people are about standing up in front of others. I've witnessed many incredibly caring and supportive actions. Interestingly, members stay even when their skills improve so they can give back by helping others. I feel energised after each fortnightly Club meeting. It has helped a lot in my work and socially and so I highly recommend it. If you dread public speaking, this is the place to go.</p>
<p> Lickety Split 1 review ★★★★★ a year ago</p> <p>Great club - warm and friendly. Looked at 2 other clubs in the area and chose Berowra. Great decision.</p>	<p> Peter Sheehan 3 reviews ★★★★★ a year ago</p> <p>Berowra Toasties is almost 1000 meetings old.. I have been a member for 12 years.. it took 50 years to face my public speaking demons but the support and comradeship has given me the confidence to not only speak in public but to lead with purpose</p>

[Meet more of our Members](#) and see what they have to say about the Club.

YOUR CONTACT

Your contact for all visitor/new member queries is:

Kate Sheehan, Vice President Membership, Mobile: 0439 604 369

Email: vpm-1879@toastmastersclubs.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do I have to join?

There's no pressure to join. Visit us anytime, as often as you like.

How do I join?

See [more details below](#) or speak to our [Vice President Membership](#).

How much do I have to pay to join?

Toastmasters is a not-for-profit organisation, this means the cost to join is very low. There is a one-off payment to Toastmasters International upon joining, and a semi-annual fee payable twice a year by the 1st April and 1st October, pro-rata if you don't join in these months. ([See the table below](#) for the amount you would pay, depending on the month you join.)

What do I receive if I join?

Once you become a member of Berowra Toastmasters you will receive:

- You will gain access to our comprehensive online learning materials in Pathways – this [video](#) provides a short overview.
- Berowra Toastmasters has an exclusive 'Buddy Program' designed to help new members settle in. You will be assigned an experienced 'Buddy'.

What do I have to bring to the meetings?

As a guest, you are not required to bring anything. However, you may want to make some notes so we recommend bringing some notepaper and a pen.

What do the various Agenda roles mean?

Members of our Club take it in turns to perform each role on the agenda. That way, everyone has a chance to continually take on new challenges.

Chairman: The Chairman's job is to run the meeting from start to finish. They prepare the agenda before the meeting and introduce each role.

Guest Welcome: By the time you read this, the person handling this role should have already introduced themselves. It is their responsibility to speak to guests before the meeting and to introduce you to the rest of the group and tell them what inspired you to visit Toastmasters.

Grammarian: This position is all about listening to language throughout the meeting and pointing out especially wonderful words or phrases in a report. To get us all thinking about language, the Grammarian also presents a "Word for the Night", which everyone is encouraged to use and in doing so, expand our vocabulary.

Mission: At every meeting we are reminded of the Toastmasters mission, to ensure that we are keeping club standards high and to remind us of the importance of what we do in our club.

Surprise: This short assignment provides the opportunity to be creative – you may recite a poem, tell a story, anything really!

Table Topics: This part of the meeting gets everyone to "think on their feet". Topics are presented at random and people chosen to speak for one minute without any preparation time. You never know what might happen in this part of the meeting, but you do know it will be exciting!

Toastmaster: In the second half of the meeting, there are a series of prepared speeches. It is the Toastmaster's job to introduce both the speakers and their evaluators.

Timer: The Timer reminds everyone throughout the meeting to keep to time (notice the lighting system & noise aids) and presents a report on individual times so that people can get used to speaking with a limit.

Evaluators: There are a number of evaluation roles on the agenda. Everyone who comes to Toastmasters is interested in improving, and one of the best ways to do that is to have another member objectively report on the strengths and weaknesses they see in others speaking. All evaluations are positive and recommendations for improvement are always outweighed by encouragement.

Speakers: The speakers are members who are working through projects in their communication manuals. For more information on the opportunities available to members, speak to a friendly member of our club.

TO JOIN OUR CLUB

When you are ready to join our club you will need to complete the [Toastmasters Membership Application Form](#). This is a standard Toastmasters International form so please disregard the US fees calculation and currency shown on the second page. The fees are listed below. When completing this form:

- Our Club Number is 1879 and the District Number is 90
- Complete all details on the front page and sign where required on the second page
- Please note that our club does not accept credit card payments

MEMBERSHIP FEES

There is a one-off joining fee of A\$75, plus A\$120 for each half-year, payable by the beginning of April and beginning of October (pro-rata). For example, to join in August would be A\$75 (one off) + A\$40 (eg pro rata for Aug and Sep), with another A\$120 due for the six months starting in October. Annual fees would be a maximum of A\$315 for the first year, and A\$240 for subsequent years. We believe this is excellent value for money.

You can use the below table to work out fees based on the month of joining. Example is you join any time in the month of July, the total fee would be A\$135:

Month of Joining	Toastmasters Joining Fee	Pro-rata Fees (BTM Only)	Total Payable on Joining	More Club Fees Due on
January	\$75	\$60	\$135	1st April
February	\$75	\$40	\$115	1st April
March	\$75	\$20	\$95	1st April
April	\$75	\$120	\$195	1st October
May	\$75	\$100	\$175	1st October
June	\$75	\$80	\$155	1st October
July	\$75	\$60	\$135	1st October
August	\$75	\$40	\$115	1st October
September	\$75	\$20	\$95	1st October
October	\$75	\$120	\$195	1st April
November	\$75	\$100	\$175	1st April
December	\$75	\$80	\$155	1st April

Payment

Payment is by direct debit into our club's bank account. The details are:

Berowra Toastmasters Club

BSB: 633 000

Account No. 128441631

Please use your name as the reference; so we know who made the payment. Once you have paid, please email a copy of the transfer confirmation to our Vice-President Membership vpm-1879@toastmastersclubs.org and our Treasurer treasurer-1879@toastmastersclubs.org