



Guest Welcome Pack

A simple guide for your first Ballito Toastmasters visit.

Welcome

Welcome to Ballito Toastmasters. We are a supportive public speaking club for people who want to become clearer, more confident, and more comfortable speaking in front of others.

You do not need experience to visit. You are welcome to observe, ask questions, and take part only if you feel comfortable.

Meeting details

- Format: Hybrid.
- Venue: Bean There Restaurant, Ballito Hills Estate.
- Arrival: 17:45.
- Meeting start: 18:00.
- Dress: Smart casual.
- Bring: Yourself, curiosity, and a willingness to listen.

What happens in a meeting

A normal meeting includes:

- A welcome and opening from the Sergeant at Arms and Toastmaster of the Day.
- Prepared speeches from members working through Pathways projects.
- Evaluations that help speakers improve.
- Table Topics, a short impromptu speaking session.
- Language and timing reports.
- Guest introductions through our Furbusher role.
- Closing comments and next steps.

Taking part as a guest

You may be invited to speak briefly, but you are never forced to participate.

You can choose to:

- Observe the full meeting.
- Introduce yourself briefly.
- Join Table Topics if you feel ready.
- Speak to a member during the break.
- Ask about membership after the meeting.

The Furbusher session

Ballito Toastmasters Club

Guest Resource



Ballito has a Furbusher role. This person introduces guests and gives them a safe, low-pressure moment to say who they are and why they visited.

If you prefer not to speak, that is completely fine. A simple wave or smile is enough.

Common Toastmasters terms

- Toastmaster of the Day: The person who hosts and chairs the meeting.
- Speaker: A member delivering a prepared speech.
- Evaluator: A member giving constructive feedback to a speaker.
- Timer: The person who tracks speaking times.
- Grammarian: The person who introduces the Word of the Day and comments on language.
- Ah-Counter: The person who tracks filler words and repeated crutch phrases.
- Table Topics: Short impromptu speeches.
- General Evaluator: The person who gives feedback on the meeting as a whole.

During the break

The break is a good time to meet members and ask practical questions.

Good questions to ask:

- How often do you attend?
- How does Pathways work?
- What happens when someone joins?
- Can I visit again before deciding?
- How do speech projects and evaluations work?

After the meeting

A member or officer may check in with you. This is just to answer questions and help you decide whether another visit or membership is right for you.

There is no pressure to join on the night. The best next step is usually to attend again, meet more members, and see whether the club feels like the right fit.

Ballito standard

Guests should feel welcomed, informed, and respected. Our goal is that you leave understanding what Toastmasters is, how Ballito runs its meetings, and whether this could help you grow.