

## Ordinary evening extra-ordinary

As the storm that will be August/September starts to build, Parramatta Toastmasters held a meeting without awards, without contests, without costumes, and without International contest-winning guests—but true to form, it was still an evening not to be missed.

Laurance Nichols took up the spirit of the election campaign and toasted our nations leaders.

John Taylor ran a Table Topics session in predictably professional style, and infused an element of the extra-ordinary by providing not traditional questions, but ten paper bags with surprise contents as the basis for the topics.

There was a motion (unfortunately defeated) moved that the Sergeant at Arms wear 'something more distinctive' (English bobbyhat was the preferred item).

And there were of course five memorable speeches with topics that covered (among other things) campfire stories, the male propensity for bug eradication and the influence of Latin on the English language.



Sculpted, polished and buffed, the coolest guy in Toastmasters—JJ T-Master



We needed a photo and she takes a great one—extra-ordinary Toastmaster Ingrid Hoppe, with one arm in the air.

### DON'T FORGET!

- **19 August — Humorous Speech Contest**  
Register as contestant now  
email: [vpe@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:vpe@parramattatm.org.au)
- **9 September — Meeting Procedure Workshop**  
Contact Robyn Peck  
email : [robyn70@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robyn70@optusnet.com.au)  
phone: 0408444572
- **16 September — Anniversary Meeting**

## JJ bangs gavel as part of PR make-over

Resident cool-guy and recently minted Competent Communicator Jeeven Jayanathan stepped up to the plate last Thursday and took up the gavel as Chairman I. This task was not assigned randomly—this was in fact the latest in a series of strategic moves by Jeeven's PR team, to raise his profile and develop his place in the wider Toastmasters community as the *coolest guy in Toastmasters*.

This assignment has been a long-time coming and with his recent promotion to Competent Communicator, it was judged as the perfect time to take the step to Chairman I. The performance was close to flawless and there is no doubt that the strategy will be working.

We have been informed by a reliable source that his PR team are currently developing a branding campaign, that will see the end of Jeeven Jayanathan, and the beginning of his new persona JJ T-Master.

## Postcard from Speechcraft

Ian Lipski

Dear Parramatta Toastmasters,

Weeks 2 & 3 of Speechcraft were fantastic!

The Speechcrafters are now running each Speechcraft session, performing the minor assignments, presenting their prepared speeches and evaluating each other in the process.

You can observe the incremental improvements from week to week.

I would like to thank all of the following Parramatta Toastmasters for their contributions in making Weeks 2 & 3 such a great experience for the Speechcrafters:

Alicia Denis, Andy Youngman, David Griffiths, Demian Coorey, Ingrid Hoppe, John Bright, John Taylor, Lyndal Eager, Michael Said, Peter Steinhour, Raj Velu, Ron Marriott, Sam Ekinci, Wendy Nielsen.

Week 4 of Speechcraft (Tuesday 10th August) will see the Speechcrafters introducing gestures and body movement as they deliver their "Show What You Mean" prepared speeches and practice the art of making the body speak—again, not to be missed!

I look forward to seeing even more Parramatta Toastmasters Club members participating in Weeks 4, 5 & 6 of Speechcraft.

To participate and help in running the Speechcraft course please email or phone the Speechcraft coordinator.

Best regards,

Ian Lipski

Speechcraft Co-ordinator



In times before we knew how funny she could be—Barbara Beveridge



Without his cowboy hat—Speechcraft Co-ordinator Ian Lipski

## Funeral pyre burns for three days

Last Thursday night, one of our newer Toastmasters revealed a comic side that we had not yet seen. Barbara Beveridge took the opportunity of the *Read or Recite* assignment to read a letter from a 'mother to her son'—we have decided to reproduce here for the comic value. Try and imagine Barbara's finely-tuned (impersonated) Irish accent as you read it.

Hello Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. We are all doing very well.

You won't recognise the house when you get home - we have moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Irish family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm don't think it works well though: last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen it since.

Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him. He's cutting the grass at the cemetery.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you are an auntie or an uncle.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days

to put out the fire.

I'm sorry to say that your cousin Seamus was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling.

It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of our chickens laid the same egg four times.

We had a letter from the under-taker. He said if the last payment on your Grandmother's plot wasn't paid in seven days, up she comes.

About that coat you wanted me to send you, your Uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.

Your loving Mum

P.S. I was going to send you some money but I had already sealed the envelope.

## DON'T FORGET!

- **23 September — Area 13 Humorous and Table Topics Competition**

## Parramatta Toastmasters - Club 2274

### Meeting Details

Parramatta Toastmasters meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, in the Linden Room of the Parramatta RSL.

6pm for a 6:30pm start

Dinner is available during the meeting  
Guests and visitors are always welcome

### Enquiries / Correspondence

Snail-mail: PO Box 623 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124 Australia

Email: [info@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:info@parramattatm.org.au)

## Speechcraft Spot

### Do you suffer from human-kind's most common fear?

Public speaking is a fear held by many people. For some it is a mild discomfort, while others break out in a cold sweat at the mere thought of standing in front of an audience!

If you have decided it's high time to break free of the powerful fear of public speaking, Toastmasters may be an excellent place to get the knowledge and practice that will allow you to speak both confidently and competently in public.

Contact one of our club officers or enquire about a Speechcraft course to find out how!

### Looking to advance yourself professionally or personally?

Public speaking is both a skill and an art form. Whether you are a novice speaker or a seasoned presenter, there is always something you can do to improve your skills.

Public speaking skills are always highly valued in the workplace, so if you're after a new job or seeking a promotion, it's a guaranteed way to separate you from the pack.

Toastmasters can show you new ways to invigorate your existing presentation style; to put that sales pitch over the top, help you nail that job interview, or make your daughter's wedding toast worthy of the tears and applause!

### Do you enjoy sharing ideas and meeting new people?

Toastmasters may be the club you've always been searching for. Toastmasters are people from all walks of life, nationalities and professions who are working to better share their ideas with others.

Each meeting provides an opportunity for a wide range of perspectives on any number of topics, and give/receive positive, constructive feedback on how those ideas were expressed.

**Start the ball rolling - come to a meeting or enroll in a Speechcraft course!**  
Enquiries at [speechcraft@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:speechcraft@parramattatm.org.au)