

## 'Looking back' takes the cake

It was a full house last Thursday night as members and a possibly record-breaking number of guests attended the Parramatta annual Humorous Speech Contest.

When our president Dave Griffiths opened the meeting, the room was full, executive members tripped over themselves to find chairs as guests continued to pour in. However, by the time Gary Wilson presented himself as Chairman I and banged the gavel, the room took on an air of quiet expectation, and the Comedy Club shifted into second gear.

The first half of the meeting saw an assortment of speaking delights—Karl Winter toasted the Two Ronnies and got us chortling in reminiscence of Piggy Malone—Michael Said had us chuckling with his travel tips and his suggestion to 'love the one your with'—and Elizabeth Wilson's contestants elect, led us on a rendition of Thank God You're Here.

All good fun, and all delivered true to form, but it was all just a warm-up for the main event of the evening, the Humorous Speech Contest. After a side-splitting gag, delivered by stand-up rookie Laurance Nicolas, Nine eager contestants shifted in their seats before being called upon one-by-one to take the stage, and serve up 5-7 minutes of giggles, grunts and guffaws.

Each of the contestants put on a fine show—amongst other things we heard about Kirisha's 'flood of duds', Lyndal pulled back the kimono on Little Red Riding Hood, and Barbara introduced us to the junkie in her life. But it would be a very surprised Ferdie Oosterhoff, on the back of a pair of tennis shorts, that would take the (big) golden trophy in his hand, and say to his club, "who...me?", whilst Alicia Denis took the runners-up trophy, and Barbara Beveridge took home third place.



A surprised and very happy *funny-guy*—Ferdie Oosterhoff flanked by President Dave Griffiths and Chief Judge Steve Thomson



A full house, and then some—The Humorous Speech Contest at Parramatta Toastmasters

### DON'T FORGET!

- **9 September — Meeting Procedure Workshop**  
Contact Robyn Peck  
email : [robyn70@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robyn70@optusnet.com.au)  
phone: 0408444572
- **16 September — Anniversary Meeting**
- **23 September — Area 13 Humorous and Table Topics Competition**

A few weeks ago, Wendy Nielsen presented an educational titled "Own the Stage"—due to popular demand we have printed an essay version in this weeks Natta—see Page 3

Natta Photos by *Suben Subenthiran*

## Postcard from Speechcraft

Ian Lipski

Dear Parramatta Toastmasters,

Eleven Speechcrafters graduated tonight on Graduation night of the Speechcraft Course. Graduation night is always an excellent event and tonight was no exception—it was SUPERB! Over the past 6 weeks we have witnessed the transformation of Speechcrafters who entered the course with a variety of public speaking aspirations and who are now leaving the course as more confident public speakers who are also more self aware.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the following Parramatta Toastmasters for their contribution in making the Speechcraft Course such a great success: Alicia Denis, Andy Youngman, David Griffiths, Demian Coorey, Ingrid Hoppe, John Bright, John Nichols, John Taylor, Kirisha Thanapalasantheram, Lyndal Eager, Michael Said, Peter Steinhour, Raj Velu, Ron Marriott, Sam Ekinci, Wendy Nielsen.

This is the 2nd Speechcraft Course that I have had the pleasure of coordinating. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and recommend the Speechcraft coordinator role to all Parramatta Toastmasters who wish to personally grow by challenging themselves to further develop their communication, planning and leadership skills.

Congratulations to all of the Speechcraft Graduates.

Best regards,  
Ian Lipski  
Speechcraft Coordinator



Not a frown for miles—a beaming Ian Lipski, his complement of Speechcraft graduates, and his supportive Toastmaster crew

## Own the stage

Wendy Nielsen

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a sensational speaker, and someone who wins the International Speech Contest? Often, it is specific techniques that are used that appear to make the presenter own the stage. Three specific techniques can be used to greatly enhance any presentation.

### CREATING A TIME LINE

We have been taught from a very young age to read from left to right. As such, we internally process that the past occurs at the left of the stage, moving through the present in the middle, and progressing to the future on the right of the stage. How can you use this to your advantage – by moving with a purpose. For example - to have a greater impact on your audience, move to the left hand side of the speaking area to tell that story that occurs in the past. (Of course, don't forget that this is the left hand side for the audience – not the speaker!). This, for example, could be the start of your Toastmasters career. When you wanted to explain where your journey has taken you currently, move to the centre. Then, when you describe exactly where you want to be in the future – move to the right hand side of the stage.

What you have done is create a far stronger message than just with the words that you have used. The audience has intuitively connected with the timeline as you incorporated the movement as well as the words of your story.

### CREATING A HOLOGRAM

This is another useful technique that can be used to great advantage when referring back to a story that you have told. Once you have told a story at a particular place on the stage – it is as if the story occurred at that precise point. A hologram has been created. It is then possible to physically refer back to the story by using both a visual and verbal call back to that point on the stage. Perhaps at the conclusion of your speech you wanted to refer back to the start of your Toastmaster journey – it is a powerful reference to point back to the position on the stage where that story was told.

This creates a powerful reminder – as it includes both visual and verbal reference to the story that was told previously.

### STEPIING OUT OF YOUR STORY

Another technique that can be used to create impact, is to step outside of your story. If, for example you were reciting a dialogue between characters, you could take a step forward to make a sideline comment, and then step backwards and continue the dialogue.

Used effectively, this shows a strong control of stage usage, and confidence.

I encourage you to try these techniques as the opportunity arises. As you become more confident your state techniques will greatly enhance your presentations, and your connection with the audience.

Good luck - and thanks to Darren LeCroix for his educational package Own the Stage where I learnt these skills.

Wendy Nielsen CC CL



'Own the Stage' author and her inspiration—Wendy Nielsen and Darren La-Croix

## Oath taken by recent graduate

Selvi Jayaganesh was led out of the meeting last Thursday night by the Sargeant At Arms Lyndal Eager, at which time the members present enthusiastically voted to accept her application for membership. Selvi was led back in to the room to a hearty applause, before being formally welcomed as a member of the club.

Selvi completed Speechcraft a few short months ago, and has been a regular visitor since this time. She has shown a keen interest in our program, and has already begun to show promise.

We can't wait for her Ice-Breaker.



Our newest member—Selvi Jayaganesh with President Dave Griffiths



Steve Jobs? No, Andy Youngman—spruiking the iGavel

## Youngman channels Jobs in spruiking iGavel

It is a little-known fact that Andy Youngman, apart from being a Toastmaster, is also a compulsive inventor. He has combined his two loves and produced his latest, and possibly most fantastic invention to date—the iGavel.

Andy Youngman has spent two years silently perfecting a gavel, which is entirely covered in electronic nano-sensors. These sensors sense (strangely enough), the level of enthusiasm generated by the holder of the gavel, and cause the gavel to emanate sound at a volume that is inversely proportional to the enthusiasm of the banger.

Asked where the inspiration for this ingenious invention was spawned, Andy replied—“well I was sitting down the front of the room one night, whilst John Nichols was the Sargeant At Arms. He nearly deafened me calling the meeting to order. I figured there must be a way to prevent this. So I got to thinking, and well, the iGavel is what I came up with”.

Andy has been on a whirlwind marketing tour of Toastmasters clubs trying to drum up interest in his new invention, and we understand it will be available in early Spring 2010.

### 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.

#### 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.

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)