

## Steinhour comes the raw prawn

**Peter Steinhour**

It was a meeting I'd been looking forward to, and the Julie Andrews deep within me was ready to burst forth! I had even travelled to the country and roamed the hills to gain inspiration, in the guise of an executive committee meeting at Wilberforce. I had even resurrected an Austrian pie recipe to internalise the Sound Of Music—but alas it wasn't to be. Due to a busted hoover-valve on my moped, I missed the sounds of music, and the glory.

I am reliably led to believe that the meeting started on time, and that President David Griffiths gave a fantastic overview of music, what it means to him, and even to humanity. David told us that music, at some point in the distant past, was not on compact discs, but on things known as tapes and vinyl (John Nichols was heard to mention something like "I've still got my 78's", only Gary Wilson and John Taylor seemed to have a clear understanding, everyone else seemed to miss the point). Our President spoke of the record player at his home, and how when the volume was turned down the music could still be heard by placing your ear against the needle (I tried this with my dad's favourite record, and my head knocked the needle right across the album—it's a really short album now).

Joan was Chairman I and was pleased to be back amongst friends after enduring yet another holiday overseas with family.

Kirsten welcomed 14 guests, the final two introduced on the run, a bit like Table Topics—in the dark 'til it happens.

Alicia did the weak word—'brought' and 'bought', she defined the difference, 'brought = bring' and 'bought = buy'. Our general evaluator Gary gave Alicia a cross-court serve stating that E.S.L. people who learn the finer points of a language always seem to correct (New Zealanders) him.

Wendy introduced us to Mike Stein, an interesting chap of dual-membership, who has not done a day's work for over three years!

Selvi was an inspiration with her inspirational!

Kirsten gave our toast (which was warm with melted butter).

Elizabeth ran our Table Topics session and played a variety of compositions, asking each member to recall what the composition meant to them. Gary got the 'last dance' song, and with appropriate amounts of romance managed to snatch a kiss from Elizabeth on the return journey to his seat.



**Enthusiastic contributor—Peter Steinhour**

John Nichols as Chairman II conducted the business meeting seated (he did this very well). His chairmanship was challenged and Dave Griffiths took over, the gavel :- John was eventually reinstated (he remained seated throughout the ordeal).

David Griffiths opened the second half with disturbing news for some (others seemed to accept the news with knowing nods) - having spent time over the weekend with one of our colleagues Dave noted the attire of this member would invoke the theme music, "It's Raining Men" - nice outfit Demian!!

Steven our Laughmaster gave us jokes about drums and drummers before Michael Said as Toastmaster introduced some wonderful speakers.

Alicia told us about how she dances and rubs up to 60 year old men, and Kate told us that everyone has a chance, even Cyril, a French weirdo.

Winners of the evening as follows:

*Best Table Topic—Wendy*  
*Best Evaluator—Peter*  
*Best Speaker—Kate*  
*Wooden Spoon—Michael Said.*

Natta Photos by *Suben Subenthiran*

## Postcard from Speechcraft

**Peter Steinhour**

Peter Steinhour, our Speechcraft coordinator commenced the six-week workshop with fourteen eager participants. Week 1 started with 'How to Prepare A Speech' and their Ice-Breaker presentations. From Week 1 it was evident this was going to be a special class—the interactions and friendship were building from Day 1.

The participants shared various parts of their lives, from children to pets, to sports and hobbies. In Week 3 the participants were growing and gaining in confidence.

One discussion went like this, "have you noticed lately, even at work you are more confident after just two weeks at Speech Craft".



Speechcraft coordinator showing the way, and promising graduate—Peter and Daniel

The group was refined as we lost three participants over the ensuing weeks, but in Week 6 eleven participants graduated.

This group will likely yield three to four members over time to Parramatta Toastmasters Club—and once again Speech Craft proves that there is a huge need in our community for self-improvement courses, and we have a great product!

### DON'T MISS!

- **The Toastmasters International Speech Contest Thursday 2 December**
- **Parramatta Toastmasters Christmas Meeting Thursday 16 December**



The full compliment of graduates, the monstrous smiles testament to the quality and value of the Speech Craft course

## Publication starving for contributions

The Parra-Natta has been in publication for a long time, and over the years it has developed as a veritable bulwark of the Parramatta Toastmaster Clubs reputation—the importance and reach of this apparently humble little publication is often underestimated.

Vital in maintaining the richness and variety of the Natta's content is a steady flow of contributions from members—it is in this respect that we have had a problem in recent times. Regular readers of the Natta would have noticed in recent months, a narrowing of style...a diminished richness in the content (you may have noticed this issue is almost entirely dedicated to Peter Steinhour). This is due to a steady decline in contributions by members.

We would therefore like to heartily remind and encourage all members to get involved in the Natta, by writing an article of some sort and submitting it to the Vice President of Public Relations (Ferdie), at:

vppr@parramattatm.org.au

The rules regarding content, are minimal—in fact there are no rules (however the editor does reserve the right to remove anything that might offend). Here are some examples of content type that would be accepted gratefully:

1. Educationals
2. Speech/assignment transcripts
3. Special Interest Pieces
4. Stories (fictional also good)
5. Haiku's

If you are asking yourself, "what do I get out of submitting articles to the Natta", well the benefits are many:

1. Publicity (your name up in lights)

1. Writing (creative or otherwise) practice
2. A sense of self-worth
3. A strong feeling of satisfaction
4. Greater attention from the opposite sex

If you're still not convinced, consider this—without a healthier pipe-line of contributions, the Natta will inevitable all look like this one, i.e. Peter Steinhour will either feature in, or be responsible for writing, nearly every story!!

Great appreciation and thanks goes out to the following people for their contributions so far this year:

1. Suben Subenthiran
2. Robyn Peck
3. Wendy Nielsen
4. Ian Lipski
5. Demian Coorey
6. Sam Ekinici
7. Suzanne Berkeley
8. Lyndal Eager
9. Kirisha Thalapanasuntheram
10. Ray Shina

...and of course...

Peter Steinhour!!



Just for good measure—Peter Steinhour

## 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.