

Parramatta back to business

Parramatta Toastmasters crawled out of their Christmas caves, into the light, and made their way back to Parramatta RSL for the first meeting of the year last Thursday night. Despite being so early in the New Year there was a full complement of members and guests, which says one of two things—we are a bunch of nerds with nothing better to do in the holidays...or, despite everyone wanting to stay in their caves, the lure of the thrill and energy of a meeting was too strong to resist. For those of you who don't know which—come along on the 20th of January and find out!

Dave delivered a rousing welcome which turned out to be the start of an evening of quality content, with some good laughs from Kirisha, some poignancy from Ian Chick and some great imagination from John Taylor.

Perhaps the two biggest highlights of the evening were the induction of this year's first new Toastmaster Victor Lee and the evaluation educational given by Gary Wilson.

Victor worked his way recently through a Speech Craft course and has shown keen enthusiasm since—we are very glad to welcome him into the Parramatta family and look forward to watching him develop.

With the approaching Evaluation contest Gary generously gave of his deep well of experience and gave us a little session on how to best prepare ourselves for the contest. The ultimate source of this sage advice was Mr Ralph Smedley himself—we were informed that in 100 years of Toastmasters there hasn't been a more solid set of evaluation guidelines than those offered by Ralph himself.

The night was capped with another high-quality speaking program which saw a great variety of topics from Joan Abela, Ron Marriot, Kirsten Linklater (complete with Paramedic glow-vest) and the inimitable Michael Said.



If you can recite the Toastmasters Promise before a room full of people without feeling silly, you can achieve anything—President Dave Griffiths and our newest member Victor Lee

Parramatta website catapulted into 21st century

Those of you who woke on the 6th of January and browsed to the Parramatta Toastmaster website—perhaps while you were eating your Corn Flakes—would have been forgiven for thinking you'd accidentally typed in the wrong URL.

Gary Wilson, who has been quietly beaver away in his Webmaster's den emerged a few weeks ago after posting a new version of our website—the critics have been raving ever since.

Gary has really done a spectacular job in creating a website that is modern, intuitive and packed full of valuable content. The club is extremely grateful for his hard work, and proud of what is for many people, their very first impression of the club.

We urge you to get online and take a look:
<http://www.parramattatm.org.au>

Congratulations Gary and thank you!



Welcome to the 21st Century—the new Parramatta Toastmasters website

DON'T MISS!

- Club Evaluation Contest—20 January!

Natta Photos by *Suben Subenthiran*

Toastmasters Then...And Now!

Article from Toastmasters International Website: <http://www.toastmasters.org>

Then...

When people hear the word "basement," they're not likely to picture the home of a global communication and leadership-development organization. But a basement in the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), in Santa Ana, California, is exactly where Ralph C. Smedley held the first meeting of what would eventually become Toastmasters International.

The date was October 22, 1924.

Smedley began working for the YMCA after he graduated from college. Observing that many of its young patrons needed "training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings," he decided to help them with a training format that was similar to a social club. During the early 1900s, the word "toastmaster" referred to a person who proposed the toasts and introduced the speakers at a banquet. Smedley named his group "The Toastmasters Club" because he thought it suggested a pleasant, social atmosphere that would appeal to young men.

At that first Toastmasters meeting, members practiced speaking skills in a supportive, informal atmosphere. The seedling club blossomed...

Read the rest of this article at:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/MainMenuCategories/WhyJoin/SuccessStories/>



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

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**