

Toastmasters The Next Generation

Gary and Elizabeth Wilson are household names in the Toastmasters scene, with many decades combined membership and experience. Perhaps hundreds of people have benefited from their experience and generosity, and they are widely acknowledged as being instrumental in the success of the Parramatta club. So when grand-daughter Melanie Wilson put her hand up to join Parramatta Toastmasters a shudder of fear resonated right through the club.

Why fear you ask? Well like all clubs Parramatta runs a few contests per year, and of course members enter these contests in a spirit of good-natured competition—we are all there to learn, and the experience of any contest is really what counts, not winning....at least that's what we say. In actual fact, underneath the chummy good-spirited encouragement of Parramatta Toastmasters, is a cold-blooded and ruthless quest to be number one. No competition is entered by any member without an underlying bloodthirsty desire to win, and ultimately look down across the room at all other members as we hold aloft our molded plastic gilt-covered trophy. And where do members look to get the competitive edge on each other—well they look to Gary and Elizabeth Wilson.

Gary and Elizabeth's many years of experience have led them to be the ultimate source on form, strategy and inside information in preparing for a contest. They will sometimes will deliver an educational directed at helping members to prepare for an upcoming contest, and when they do, members listen.

What Melanie Wilson will have of course, is direct and unfettered access to this valuable resource—being the grand-daughter of Gary and Elizabeth she will be able to ply them for information at family barbeques, at weddings, funerals, even those quiet afternoons when families get together for no particular reason at all.

This is why so many members trembled with fear last Thursday night—this is why the face of competition in Parramatta Toastmasters may never be the same again.



Has my time at the top come to an end?—A nervous David Griffiths stands by his newest and oldest members.

Dread Giving a Speech?

You are not alone! Here are time-tested tips on how to overcome your fear of public speaking.

- Don't procrastinate!
- Always look for a speech topic
- Choose a topic you care about
- Organize your speech in a logical sequence
- Create an attention-grabbing opening
- Rehearse!
- Visualize success
- Know your equipment needs
- Familiarize yourself with the setting
- Wear comfortable and professional-looking clothes
- Concentrate on the message; not the audience
- No matter how nervous you may feel, don't tell the audience!
- Use visuals and stories relevant to your topic
- Speak clearly and audibly
- Stay in Toastmasters!
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Read the rest of this article at:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/MainMenuCategories/FreeResources/NeedHelpGivingaSpeech/FearFactor/DreadGivingaSpeech.aspx>

DON'T MISS!

- **Speechcraft—Support your Speechcraft coordinator Peter Steinhour.**

Natta Photos (mostly) by *Suben Subenthiran*

Member Remember #1

From the VPE's desk

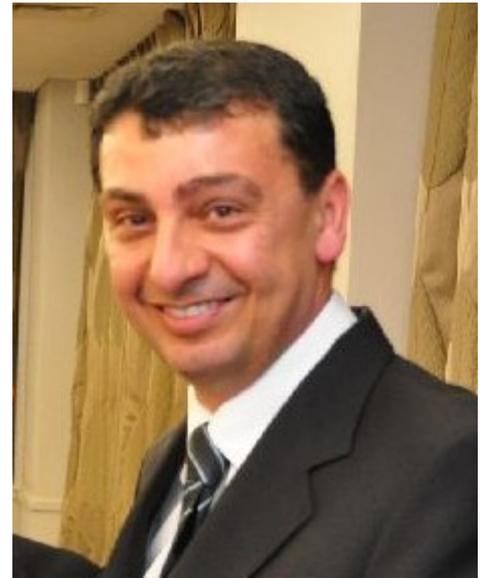
Over the next few issues we will be presenting a series of short articles from the VPE on meeting and educational requirements, the segment has been titled "Member Remember", and this is the first in the series.

BEING A MEMBER

Parramatta Toastmasters maintains a high standard of performance and has a culture of achievement. This is made possible with implied and expressed expectations from each member to commit, communicate and contribute towards the clubs culture of Standards.

Good planning and communication is the key to the success of any voluntary organization. It is not the sole responsibility of an individual or of the Executives to manage the commitment of each member. You are the master of your own destiny and your path of development will reflect in the choices that you make as you utilize the tools available to you in our Club.

Team work and team culture is also reflective of the courtesies we extend one another especially when there are so many demands that are placed on us with work, family, friends and other commitments and as such I have listed here under a set of guidelines to allow each one of us to maximize our Toastmaster experience.



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

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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**