

## Great showing in Area 13

### From the Presidents Desk

A number of our members did us very proud at the Area 13 Contest, not only for entering the contest, but for doing very well indeed. President David Griffiths has the following to say...

Dear Parramatta Toastmasters,

I'm delighted to let you know that our representatives at Friday's Area 13 contest acquitted themselves fabulously! In my opinion, this has been one of the best contest seasons in the last few years for the club – although we can only ever submit 1 person for each of the Area 13 contests, this year has shown that many of our members are committed to getting the most out of the contest experience through other clubs.

In the Evaluation Contest we were represented by Alicia Denis, with Wendy Neilsen and Sam Ekinici representing Western Gourmet and Winners Circle respectively. Bryon Jones and Gwenda Lister represented Parrachievers and Orica Villawood in both contests. I cannot tell you how proud I was of our three members – in my opinion each of them produced their best ever evaluation, and each would have certainly been well in front of the competition in many other area contests. Alicia emerged as the judges' choice with an extremely smooth and well balanced performance – she's learned some wonderful new skills in the last couple of months and these produced a highly empathetic result. Wendy Neilsen tackled what some would consider as very complex and subtle recommendations and turned them into clear advice for the speaker – some real analytical skill displayed. Sam has clearly been working on making his observations more precise and more direct/practical – combined with his usual authority and ease I am sure he would have been given plenty of consideration by the judges. These three evaluators have proven to me once more that the contest experience is a fantastic way to step up with your speaking skills – my sincere congratulations to each of you!

The International Speech contest was nothing to sneeze at either – Lyndal Eager delivered a new format to her speech “The Will” and I trust the many improvements were based upon her experience in the club two weeks ago. Both she and Juliet Lara of Winners Circle had powerful, emotional subjects and did them justice in front of an enthusiastic audience. Juliet took home second place while I managed to put enough polish on my speech to take the prize. Many thanks to the members who gave me feedback on Thursday night – those who were at the contest will have noticed how well many of the ideas worked out for me!

So the end result was that Parramatta TM has won both of the Area 13 contests! This is Alicia's first win at the Area level (in fact I think it may be 1 win from 1 attempt!), and Wendy's second place in the Evaluation is certainly a best ever result for her! Alicia and I will be at the Western Division contests on 19 March – flyers will be posted on the District and club websites very soon. **Please save this date and if you can attend – come along to support us both!** As I've said many times before, contests at this level are a superb opportunity to see the best at work. If you've been in the club for a while – you'll know how much the support means for a speaker. If you haven't been here long – jump start your speaking by looking outside the club at speeches that have been developed beyond what you normally see during a speaking session. The contest is being held in Springwood in the Blue Mountains so if nothing else it's a great chance to take a bit of a drive, visit some of the lovely little villages and then sit down for an evening's entertainment.



**Triumphant at Area, with first place paraphenalia—Alicia Denis flanked by Ron Marriot and Steve Thomson**

Our own Ron Marriott will be chairing the contest in one of his last formal functions as Western Division Governor, so I'm sure he will be thankful for your support also.

Congratulations once more to Alicia and all of our contestants!

Best regards,  
David Griffiths



**Beaming at Area, with second place paraphenalia—Alicia Denis flanked by Ron Marriot and Steve Thomson**

### DON'T MISS!

- **Western Division Contest 19th March**

Natta Photos (mostly) by *Suben Subenthiran*

## Member Remember #3

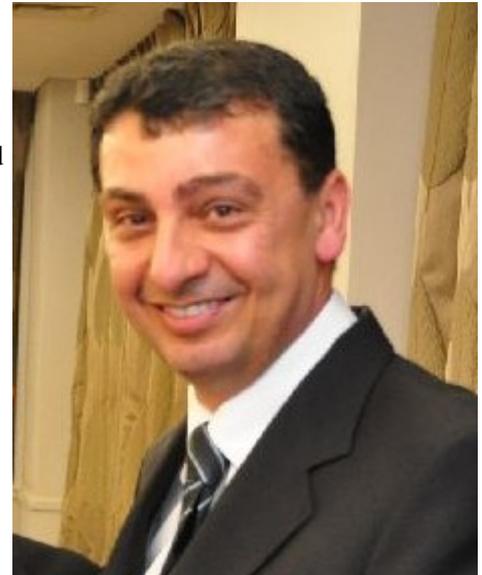
*From the VPE's desk*

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 third in the series.

### ATTITUDE COMMITMENT

Each members level of commitment will be based on their goals and I would ask that you set a 12 month goal at the start of the Toastmaster year and discuss with your VPE to work in partnership to achieve those goals. It is not the role or responsibility of the VPE to manage the member but to provide the tools, opportunities and resources for the member to reach his/her goals. The partnership is a two way approach and failing to honour the commitments will compromise the ongoing commitment to the relationship. It is up to the member to manage their own development consistent with their goals and advise if their circumstances have changed so as to reassess the team effort. Communication is the key to great team work.

Strive to be a great team player.



## The low-down on UP

**Submitted by Ingrid Hoppe**

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'up.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand up, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake up? At a meeting, why does a topic come up? Why do we speak up, and why are the officers up for election and why is it up to the secretary to write up a report? We call up our friends, brighten up a room, polish up the silver, warm up the leftovers and clean up the kitchen. We lock up the house and fix up the old car.

At other times this little word has real special meaning. People stir up trouble, line up for tickets, work up an appetite, and think up excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed up is special, this up is confusing: A drain must be opened up because it is stopped up.

We open up a store in the morning but we close it up at night. We seem to be pretty mixed up about up! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of up, look up the word up in the dictionary.. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes up almost 1/4 of the page and can add up to about thirty definitions. If you are up to it, you might try building up a list of the many ways up is used. It will take up a lot of your time, but if you don't give up, you may wind up with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding up . When the sun comes out we say it is clearing up. When it rains, it soaks up the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry up. One could go on & on, but I'll wrap it up, for now .....my time is up !

Oh...one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning & the last thing you do at night? U-P !

Did that one crack you up?

Now I'll shut up

### **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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