

A night of military mayhem

Despite the sombre spirit of the evening's theme, Parramatta managed an upbeat evening of Toastmaster shenanigans.

As always it was an evening packed with good humour, fun, and even a few nerves—and as always there were some standout moments.

President Dave opened the meeting with a little authentic military banter—resisting the urge to break into an “Army story fest”

We had a very animated Chairman I in John Nichols and an inspirational from Kirisha, who gave us a little educational on Two-Up. Interesting was Kirisha's surprise that so many of us knew the connection between Two-Up and the phrase ‘come in spinner’, and that two-up can only legally be played on Anzac day—what many of us didn't know was that Broken Hill is an exception to this rule. If you want to play Two-Up really bad, grab a couple of twenty-cent pieces, and head on out to Broken Hill, any day of the year!

The Table Topic session saw Sam lead us through the case of the missing Easter Bunny—a cleverly constructed series of twists and tails! Whilst our membership was further strengthened this week with the induction of two new members, Mrinal Sakar and Mandy Myburgh—Mrinal and Mandy have both shown great enthusiasm over the past months, we welcome them most heartily, and of course look forward to playing a part in their development over the coming months.

Of particular interest in this weeks meeting was the business session. At our last meeting, Alicia raised what was intended as a ‘frivolous’ motion, regarding the financial support of members attendance at the District 70 conference. The motion was unexpectedly passed, and meant that the club was potentially going to be paying conference fees to the tune of \$6000 in support of members—a great deal of money for a non-profit organisation!

In the two weeks between the last meeting and this one, the Executive worked hard to find an acceptable (and ‘legal’) way through this dilemma—and it was ultimately deemed in the interests of all members, and the club, that if support should be given, it should be given on a percentage basis (i.e. percentage of what the member would be paying themselves), this would still work to encourage members to attend the conference, support the member, but tie the value of that support to the member own investment in themselves (i.e. Attendance at the conference)—and ultimately be much more affordable.

To achieve what the Executive hoped would occur, required first a rescinding of last weeks passed motion, and the raising of a new motion to the above effect. The task of directing these machinations fell to Ian Chick as the evening's Chairman II. There was some lively debate and an interesting result, what came to the fore was a general belief by members that if money was going to be spent, it best be spent on development of the club—this was reflected in the voting. The first motion was indeed rescinded, whilst the second motion was voted down, meaning of course there would be no financial support for members to attend the District 70 conference, and instead the club finance would be saved for a rainier day. This proved to be a great exercise in meeting procedure, club by-laws and general Executive and member involvement.



And so begins their Toastmaster journey—An enthusiastic Mrinal Sakar and Mandy Myburgh inducted this week

New club on the up and up

There's a new club in town, called UP UP Toastmasters—we sought out the VPE Margaret Kravchenko for a little information, and here it is:

The newest club in Area 13 is UP UP Toastmasters, affiliated with the Down Syndrome Association of NSW: www.dsansw.org.au

Following a demonstration meeting in September last year, the group have enthusiastically embraced Toastmasters, meeting monthly with themed meetings including ABBA, the Movies, Christmas, Australia Day, Valentines & My Heritage.

With charter strength achieved almost immediately, the club will celebrate it's charter meeting on 30th April 2011 at the Rosehill Bowling Club from 10.30am - 12.30 with a shared lunch afterwards in the bistro.

Members are mainly young adults with Down Syndrome, developing Toastmasters skills to help them at work and socially. They are supported by members who are staff at the association or dual club Toastmasters.

Regular meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month at the Down Syndrome Association offices in Harris Park but we are fast growing out of our meeting room and are looking for the ideal venue!

You're most welcome to visit sometime; you are guaranteed to feel up UP!

*Regards
Margaret Kravchenko
Vice President Education for UP UP
Club Mentor*

We encourage any members with a little time up their sleeves to visit, UP UP will value the support and encouragement!

Natta Photos (mostly) by *Suben Subenthiran*

From the Vault

In the last two week two very interesting items were extracted from the Parramatta Toastmasters vault, two items we thought well worth publishing for the interest of our member (and readers)!

#1—The Year Parramatta won the Oscar

The first little treasure is the photo you see here—a few weeks ago we held a special meeting, our own local version of the Oscars, during which Gary Wilson took the time to tell us a little of Parramatta's very own Oscar award (this was recalled in the Natta that followed that meeting—Issue 19). The photo featured here shows a very stylish (and most would agree not bad looking) Gary Wilson accepting the Oscar from District Lt-Gov. Monty Monteith in 1973. In Gary's own words:

"Monty was our club's charter Secretary in 1966 and 2nd President and was regarded as the "father" of our club, being responsible for establishing our culture and our pattern of winning the club championship so often."

#2—Lady delighted by the 'charm' of an all-male club

The second items of interest drawn from the vault this week is a letter that was written by a lady visitor to an all-male Parramatta Toastmasters, back in 1983. Not everyone is aware that Parramatta Toastmasters was once an all-male club—hard to imagine today. This letter was published for the first time in the District 70 Newsletter in February 1983—and has been reproduced here:



It was suggested to me that certain All-Male Clubs in our District had the most ribbons pinned to their banners. Can this be a substitute for Women? I think not.

Having received a warm invitation to Parramatta Club, I decided to investigate one of the all male domains.

The Lady Toastmaster visitors were warmly welcomed and there was no chauvinism. The speeches were of a similar standard to most clubs. The Business Session was conducted in the same fashion as other Clubs (not quite perfectly). I had been told by various District Governors of late that their Club is perfect. Don't you believe it!

Parramatta Club is a happy, healthy, energetic Club which has earned its ribbons. Good luck to them. Thankfully, for us of the mixed clubs, they are not perfect, so we have a chance of covering our banners with ribbons too—if we work as hard as they do.

Happy Toastmastering!

Joy

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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