

## Old wives gather as Toastmaster year draws nigh

The end of the Toastmaster year brings a rainbow of sentiment—excitement, anticipation, competition, good cheer, and even some relief. At this point when the new Executive have been voted in, but not yet assumed their mantles, and the changeover festivities lie just around the corner, even an 'ordinary' meeting such as last Thursday's becomes infused with the excitement of the new beginnings and adventure. And so it was last Thursday, as David fresh from his District win, and staring down the barrel at the end of his Presidency, kicked off another high-energy evening at Parramatta RSL.

After a few meetings that saw some focus on our newer members, this week saw something of an adjustment, with a line-up weighted by longer-standing members.

The first half of the meeting saw some fine presentations, including a rousing inspirational from Linda Clark, and a suitable toast from Michael Said—but the great feature of the first half (and perhaps the entire evening) was a presentation by the District 70 Leadership Institute Chair Eric Pace. Eric led us through a half hour interactive educational session on human Representational Systems, a "neuro-linguistic programming model that examines how the human mind processes information". By recognising the existence of these modalities and our tendency to operate in one of them, we stand to greatly improve our public speaking—by harnessing and practicing the modalities that are unnatural to us, we can develop a toolbox of techniques to more powerfully engage our audiences and convey our message.

The second half was opened by Nirish Shakya, who has now proven himself to be one of the funniest members on the roll—as Laughmaster for the evening Shakyar tried to convince us that 'man's best friend' was a superior companion over 'man's oldest friend'.

The club was treated to a great line-up of speeches in the second half. Mrinal Sarkar talked about directing our energy into the things that sat inside our circle of influence—Amanda Myburgh followed up her very impactful Ice Breaker with another hard-hitting tale of inspiration, Amanda is setting a high bar for herself with two very strong first speeches.

Chery Piper and Joan Abela also both delivered true to form with explorations on the nights theme, before Ferdie Oosterhoff did his best not to send the room to sleep with an 8-10 minute technical presentation.

### DONT FORGET!

- Club Changeover meeting—23 June
- District Changeover dinner—23rd June, contact Wendy Nielson at [vpm@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:vpm@parramattatm.org.au)

Natta Photos (mostly) by *Suben Subenthiran*



I did it my way—Dave Griffiths giving a rendition of the Frank Sinatra's anthem at the District 70 Conference

## Meeting Procedures no longer a mystery

The Thursday subsequent to our last meeting saw the second delivery (in recent times) of Gary and Elizabeth Wilson's Meeting Procedure Workshop. It was an evening of high-quality content, delivered by a local master.

Attendance was high with approximately 60 attendees—Gary ran the workshop with the assistance of 5 experienced coaches, the delivered content was broken up by a series of well-placed practical sessions—these sessions included role-plays and rehearsal exercises designed to illustrate the material, and make the sessions more fun.

Some of the concepts covered included chairmanship, various types of motions, amendments, stages of a meeting and points of order. It was an extremely informative and well-paced session—with many participants expressing their very high level of satisfaction with the evening.



Meeting Procedure Workshop—led by local master Gary Wilson

### Meeting Details

Parramatta Toastmasters meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at the Parramatta RSL  
6pm for a 6:30pm start  
Dinner is available during the meeting  
Guests and visitors are always welcome

### Enquiries / Correspondence

Email: [info@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:info@parramattatm.org.au)