



PARRAMATTA

Parramatta Toastmasters Club No 2274, Area 13, Western Div, Dist.90

MEETING No:1315

April 20, 2016

Congratulations on a well run District 90 Annual Conference



April 29 to May 2 saw the very first District 90 annual conference. Congratulations to Alicia Denis and Sean Leise from Parramatta Toastmasters who co-chaired the event and made it a huge success. The event also saw a large Parramatta presence with David Griffiths presenting an educational, Monique Tonna being the Toastmaster for the international speech contest. Nick

Bertram also from our Club was the test speaker for the evaluation contest. At the Business session Michael Said was elected the Dist.90 District Director for 2016-17. Elizabeth Wilson and Joan Abela sold raffle tickets to raise money for the International speech champions's trip to the USA for the finals. The winners of the raffle walked away with paintings by Elaine Woods, who is a regular visitor of the club.

Michael Said Elected District Director

Michael Said is a beloved member of our club and also the entire toastmasters community. He will be the District director for Dist. 90 for 2016-17. District 90 is going to reach new heights under his leadership and vision, but most importantly his passion for Toastmasters and inherent desire to help others grow and reach their best. His vision is to be accessible to every Toastmaster and to have every member receive the maximum from their Toastmasters experience. We are so proud of him and wish him all the best.



PR Awards

Parramatta Toastmasters won 4 out of the 7 PR awards that were given out on Saturday at the annual conference

Best website

Gary Wilson has been receiving the award as the best Webmaster for a few years now and we continued the tradition.

Best Media Campaign

Toastmasters spread the word of Elizabeth Wilson winning the Medal of Australia awards through the newspapers generating a very positive impression of Toastmasters through out the community. We were awarded with the Best Media Campaign award for that effort.

Best PR Event

For our efforts in conducting and coordinating Speechcraft course which results in new members joining Toastmasters, we won the Best PR Event award. Big congratulation to everyone involved in running and helping out with Speechcraft

Talk of the Town – Best Press Release

Michael Said gave an interview at 2GB AM to Susie Elelman on 12 March 2016 about Toastmasters. He also answered questions from callers. For his efforts we won the Best Press Release award.

Why Contests Bring Out My Best

David Griffiths



It's no secret that I've always been a strong advocate for our Toastmasters contests - since joining Parramatta Toastmasters 10 years ago I've spent more than half of that time as an "active contestant". I frequently encourage Toastmasters of all experience levels to be involved in contests so that they can take advantage of the incredible opportunity competition offers to achieve greater development and confidence as a speaker. Being pushed to seek out my best possible performance and to deliver under pressure in front of unfamiliar audiences is the reason I'm the speaker I've become so far.

But that's not the best thing about contests.

I recently competed at the Philip Division (D70) International Speech and Evaluation contests. The contestant briefing was the usual mix of experienced speakers and wide-eyed newcomers - even if you've never met someone before you can spot the relaxed demeanour of a contest veteran and the intense focus of a speaker at their first division event.

After the briefing finished, I noticed one of the others pacing back and forth near the stage, nervously running her speech through her mind. I could tell it was her first time so I thought I'd offer some encouragement. When I asked her how she was feeling she seemed genuinely shocked that another contestant would want to wish her well. For a moment I could see the question flash across her face "Is this a trick? Some kind of mind game to make me doubt myself?" I did my best to make her feel good about getting up on stage - I told her that I was there because I wanted to see her at her very best.

I've been like that Toastmaster before: so wrapped up in the idea of competing and trying to be the best that I want to shut myself away until it's my turn to speak. I would put on a pair of headphones and listen to music or a recording of my speech so that I could concentrate on what I had to do and make sure that nobody could intrude on my preparation. And although I still like to have a bit of music to rev me up before a big speech, I've since learned that the most important thing I can do at a contest is to be there just to see others at their very best.

At Philip Division that same afternoon, I was wrapping up my speech in the international contest. I had done well - I remembered my lines and (believe it or not) finished within time. With the audience's applause I could feel that I had made a good mark. As I left the stage the next speaker was almost ready to go on - the sound team was fussing with her microphone. The smile she beamed at me almost cracked her cheeks and as I approached she mouthed (to keep the judges' silence) "AWESOME - WELL DONE"!!

I didn't know Angela at all before then - she may have been a Toastmaster for a while but I had never met her or seen her at a conference. Those hushed words and bright encouraging smile meant more to me than the loudest applause - in that moment she was facing the challenge of taking the stage after my performance, but this could not subdue that most important Toastmaster trait; the desire to see others achieve their best.

I've wished so many speakers well as they've prepared to take the stage in competition with me; I can only hope that my own smile and hushed assurance has meant as much to others as Angela's meant to me.

It's very easy to become judgemental whilst attending a contest. Who will win? Who gets to represent us at the next level? Was the smooth humour of one speaker good enough to outdo the heavy-hitting message of another? Answering these questions may be the whole reason some people attend contests.

But I am at my best as a Toastmaster when I am encouraging a speaker to their best performance. When I sit in the crowd or stand in the wings with an encouraging smile and a silent congratulations while the judges tally their ballots.

Whether or not you choose to subject yourself to the rigours of competition, contest events offer a great opportunity for all of us to experience what is at the very heart of our organisation - we want to see people at their best. Not for us - for them.

David is competing in the final of the D70 International Speech and Evaluation contests on 21-22 May at Bankstown Sports Club. For details and to register: d70toastmasters.org.au

Meeting themed : Accept the challenge

We had another fun filled meeting and the nominations for the next executive session was put forward. Club elections will happen next meeting. It was an exciting business session, with a seasoned toastmaster Demian Coorey as Chairman 2. It was probably the first time that the stirrer's spoon was awarded to people on an entire side, instead of just a person. He claimed that every one on his right did their best to trouble him hence awarded the spoon to the entire right side. We also had a District governor from Canada on visit. She was so impressed by the club that she was busy scribbling notes on the agenda. She left with the promise that she was going to try and implement a lot of things she learnt at our club, at the clubs in her district. Andrew Iverson won the Best Speech , David Griffith was the best evaluator and Robyn Peck gave the best table topic answer.

Best Speech – Andrew Iverson

Best Tabletopics – Robyn Peck

Best Evaluator – David G



Mark your Calenders

5th May 2016 - Meeting themed : Time for a Change

19th May 2016 - Meeting themed : Pets

20- 22 May 2016 - District 70 Annual conference

Venue : Banktown Sports Club

Support David Griffiths at the International Speech Contest.

Find more details on their website : <http://www.d70toastmasters.org.au/>

3rd may - 7th June 2017 - Speechcraft

Speechcraft runs every Tuesday Night from 3rd May at Rowland Hassal School from 6.30pm
Come along to help out and also get your CL manual assignments ticked off.