

Club set to Exceed Expectations

It was a night that contained a hint of sadness followed by a big dose of renewed vigor and enthusiasm. It was Parramatta Toastmasters annual changeover meeting, and all present would undoubtedly agree that it was a great success. There were not just Toastmasters in attendance, but wives, fathers, mothers, daughters and even a wife's wife – we witnessed a world-class speech, a nail-biting last-minute vote for an executive position, some theatre and a cadre of awards!

This evening marked the end of the year for the incumbent executive, and the beginning of the year for a new executive. It really was a big night, and thus difficult to pick only one or two highlights, but certainly at the top of the list was the farewell address given by Demian, and the inaugural address given by Dave; both deserve a little attention here.

From Demian we heard a little of the history behind the selection of the executive he led. Parramatta has been a strong club for a long time, with a strong set of leaders—those leaders however had started to wonder however, who the next leaders would be. Demian's executive was put together with a view to development of a pipeline of future club leaders - people who had not been part of the organization for long, but looked like they might be.

We heard that the success of an executive is measured by what happens in the year after their tenure. On this count, tribute was paid to the previous executive, and we all wait in anticipation to see what happens next year—the year is over for Demian's executive, but it's really only half-time.

Dave's inaugural address was no less inspiring. If we had been left with a touch of sadness and nostalgia by the outgoing president, it was soon replaced with a feeling of enthusiasm and energy for the coming year, by the new president. Our motto for the coming year is "Exceed Expectations", and coming from Dave Griffiths, this is a serious call to action. Dave with his various competition wins this year, being awarded Toastmaster of the year and his generally outstanding performance in the club has led people to expect a great deal from him. From this platform he has insisted that we exceed even these expectations.

The idea that we as a club exceed expectations works on many levels. Our new members are here to test the notion and to discover how Toastmasters will alter their expectations of themselves. This year's executive have mostly had some, but not much executive experience, they have a bar set which they can exceed. The challenge is perhaps most poignant for the very experienced members of our club from who we expect the most in terms of ability and skill, for them like Dave, the challenge is the greatest.



Two beaming presidents Demian Coorey and David Griffiths

New Kids on the Block

The new executive were sworn in by District Governor Ian Chick in the presence of a strong crowd with a number of distinguished guests. They come with a range of pedigree, but they're equal in their determination to make the most of the coming year, not only for themselves, but for the whole club.



The new executive flanked by new and retiring president, from left to right, David Griffiths, Sam Ekinci, Wendy Nielsen, Ferdie Oosterhoff, Peter Steinhour, Suben Subenthiren, Lyndal Eager, Demian Coorey

Craft perfected

Robyn Peck was recognised for her enormous contribution over a number of years to Parramatta's Speechcraft course. Although many other Toastmasters have been involved in and contributed to Speechcraft, Robyn Peck is recognised as the driving force behind it's development and success. Robyn will be turning her attention to new projects, including a new club that will focus on advanced speaking skills.



Robyn Peck

Young Toastmasters beg forgiveness

Two young members of Parramatta Toastmasters made a very public and desperate plea for forgiveness after behaviour that left their membership in doubt. Toastmasters Raj Velu and Laurance Nichols both used poor grammar in a table-topics session, Raj used a double-negative, whilst Laurance repeated a filler word three times. They were made aware of their lapses by the same Table Topics evaluator as they were both 'odd speakers' - and both appeared very to be shaken by the news.

Raj and Laurance's pleas seemed genuinely sincere, and have been assured that so long as it doesn't happen again, they will be allowed to remain members of the club.

Two of the best

The speaking program proved to be a true showcase; there were only two speakers on the bill, two speakers at very different positions on their Toastmasters career timeline, but two speakers that both had something very valuable to offer.

A major highlight of the evening was the keynote, delivered by Greg Kenney. Greg won the 2010 District 70 International Speech Contest and will soon be off to California to compete in the Inter-district competition. We were most fortunate to have Greg deliver this winning speech for us, and wish him all the best for the next stage.

The second speaker for the evening was our very own Kirisha Thanapalasantheram. Kirisha who only joined PTM recently after a speechcraft course, with her natural confidence and ability Kirisha shows great promise. Maybe we will see her stand alongside Greg in an international competition before too long.



Move over, that stage is mine—Greg and Kirisha



Laurance and Raj say sorry

Never wins anything, until now

Wendy Nielsen will no longer be able to make the claim "I never win anything" after winning big at the changeover meeting. Wendy took home the Presidents Encouragement Award. Wendy certainly deserved this award after a year of enormous growth and development.



Wendy Nielsen, now a winner

A-Listers come to Parramatta

The annual change-over meeting was elevated to 'red-carpet' status with the attendance of some very-welcome guests. We are always grateful when visitors make the effort to join us. When those visitors are fitting us into already busy Toastmaster schedules, it's extra special. Thanks to all the following for helping to make our changeover meeting a special one.

Ian Chick DTM
District Governor

Phillip Bendeich DTM
Lt Governor Education & Training
District Governor Elect

Kaylene Ledger DTM
Lt Governor Membership
Lt Governor Education & Training

Jan Vecchio DTM
Past District Treasurer
Lt Governor Marketing Elect

Debbie Tibble ACG
Hawkesbury Division Governor

John Inglis DTM
Immediate Past District Governor
Area 16 Governor

Ron Marriott ACG
Area 13 Governor
Western Division Governor Elect

Greg Kennedy ATG
Winner of D70 Int. Speech Contest
Miranda & Sydney Travel TM

Daniel Tucker DTM
President Hunters Hill TM

Darren Gilchrist ACS
D70 Promo. Officer Cum. Forest TM

Elizabeth-Anne Weave TM
President Elect Cum. Forest TM.

Rhonda Hookham DTM
Past Parramatta TM
Stage time, Wattle Grove
Fairfield TM
Sydney Travel TM

Mike Van, Wei Sun (Speech crafter)

Vicki Boler, Lisa Boler

Corine Quch, Rachel Peterson

Pascaline Etter, Tone Dunn

Omar Flores, Carmen Silva



Esteemed guests, making it extra special

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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 Email: info@parramattatm.org.au

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.

Contact one of our club officers or enquire about a Speechcraft course to find out how!

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.

Public speaking skills are always highly valued in the workplace, so if you're after a new job or seeking a promotion, it's a guaranteed way to separate you from the pack.

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**

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