



PARRA NATTA

Newsletter of Parramatta Toastmasters Club No 2274, Area 13, Western Division, Dist.70

Meeting no 1254

23 Jan 2014

THEME

'A Stch in Time Saves 9'

AWARDS

Best Speech

Monique

Best Table Topic

Tom Woods

Best Evaluator

Alicia Denis

WELCOME VISITORS

Elaine Woods

Sue

Roy

Eliza,

John Turner

Wesley

The Mission

of a Toastmasters club is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Contact

To share any exciting news or to submit an article for Parra Natta, contact:

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Gary Wilson DTM Awarded

'Order of Australia' Medal (OAM)



It is always a delight to report achievements and awards of our club members but this Australia Day's breaking news about Gary Wilson DTM is without a doubt the biggest and BEST news that we have ever had to announce to the Club. Gary Wilson was announced as a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) 'For service to the community, particularly through Toastmasters International'.

This is a huge achievement. To paraphrase the words of Peter Allen, they've realised something we've always known. That Gary is a remarkable, hard working, selfless and inspirational individual.

Today Gary is receiving the recognition he deserves for his outstanding achievement and service. The Order of Australia Medal is the ultimate honour and all of us as Australians today celebrate and appreciate the exceptional contributions of the great Gary Wilson.

Here are just some of Gary's many notable achievements for TM Organisation, our Club and the overall community we all live in:

- ◆ Joined Toastmasters International as a Parramatta TM member in Jan 1970
- ◆ President Parramatta TM Club 1972, 1992 and 2000
- ◆ Parramatta TM Club Webmaster 1998 to present.
- ◆ Winner of Dist70 Club Championship
- ◆ Area Governor, 1974-75 & DTM #317, 1975
- ◆ Dist70 Parliamentarian, 1974 - 1981
- ◆ Australia Day Public Speaking Contest - Organiser and NSW Chairman 79-81 - National Coordinator 1980-82
- ◆ District 70 Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year 1979 (first recipient of new award)
- ◆ Dist70 Evaluation Contest winner '80
- ◆ District 70 Governor 1982/83 & Presidential Citation 1984
- ◆ Top 10 Dist. Bulletin award 1985/86
- ◆ International Director-at-Large 1986/88
- ◆ Creator and maintainer of District 70 website 1999 - 2010
- ◆ Dist. 70 Statistician 1996 to present
- ◆ Dist. 70 Finance Chairman 2001-04
- ◆ District 70 Supplies Officer (with Elizabeth), 2007 to present

Club President Alicia said 'While all of these achievements are tremendous, I feel the main reason the award was handed to Gary is because of him, who he is and all he does and has done for so many people. Gary is a humble man but do not underestimate the privilege and selection process that is undertaken to award an Order of Australia Medal.

When asked how he felt about the award Gary replied:

"While I am both proud and humbled to receive this award, I am prouder of what it means to Toastmasters. There were less than 70 clubs in Australia when I joined 44 years ago. Now we are approaching the 700 mark.

The fact that a member can be honoured with a national award like this for essentially local community service is an indication that Toastmasters is now a recognised and important organisation in the community.

'I must also record my great debt to my wife and soul mate Elizabeth. Without her support and encouragement I would never have either joined Toastmasters originally or continued to be so involved for so long. I was involved in new club for-



Elizabeth Wilson

mation in the 70s which increased after she became a Toastmaster when I was District Governor. I was then able to support her endeavors as she went through to District Governor. Then as Past International

Director/Past District Governor we spent over 20 years together heavily involved in training, presenting many seminars, workshops and sessions within Toastmasters and in the wider community, including presenting a session at an International Convention.

It is a happy coincidence for me to receive the award on Australia Day, since I spent a number of Australia Days in the past coordinating the National Finals of the Open and Youth Australia Day Public Speaking Contests on behalf of Toastmasters and the National Australia Day Committee".

Thank you Gary. It is because of people like you that Toastmasters is a thriving and growing organisation. Once again congratulations to you and the Wilson family. Enjoy your celebrations and we look forward to hearing more about your award.

What Happened at Our Last Meeting?

With meeting theme 'A Stich in Time Saves 9', **President Alicia** welcomed everyone with her own explanation of this popular proverb. As a parent of two children, to her it means 'short term pain equals long term gain' to which all TM parents unanimously agreed.

In his Point of View, **Andrew Iverson** told us that he knows more about his fellow TM club members than his own community. His message to us all is to get out there and interact with our neighborhood.

With Australia Day around the corner, **Toast by Ron** was appropriately to Peter Dodds McCormick, author of our National Anthem Advance Australia Fair. Cheers.

Table Topics (TT) by **John New** was a goldmine of Proverbs. With dogs

of his own **Tom Woods** was asked about 'Dog is a Man's Best Friend'. His answer was so good that members awarded him with the Best TT award of the night. **Rob's** 'Journey Begins with a Single Step' was all about bush walking. **Alicia** got 'Boys Will be Boys' but really John wanted to know shy it shouldn't be 'Girls Will be Girls'. With four brothers and the only sister, Alicia had plenty of mischievous boys stories to share.

Our newest member **Ralf** was challenged with 'Prevention is Better Than the Cure'. Project manager **Rudolf** was appropriately given 'Rome Was Not Built in a Day',

Desiree with 'Early Bird Catches the Worm', Jeeven 'No News is Good News', Melanie was the mouse in 'When the Cat is Away, Mouse will play' and finally Linda explained why 'Youth is Wasted on the Young'.

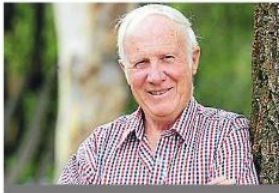
In the second half of prepared speaking segment, TM **Michael**



Said introduced his wife **Linda** with speech title '**My Husband is Perfect**'. Well not quite, just wishful thinking on Michael's part. As everyone got excited, we discovered that the real title was '**The Leader is You**'. Nevertheless it was an enjoyable educational speech from the Advanced Communication Manual by our Southern Division Governor. Her goal was '*at the end of my speech, everyone in the audience would believe that they can become a leader*'. Judging by her polished presentation, she clearly is a Leader and persuaded everyone to have a go.

Putting others first makes all the difference

Meet the local recipients of the Australia Day 2014 honours:



Former Holroyd City mayor Allan Ezzy was "awe struck" to be appointed as a Member in the Order of Australia. "It is a great honour," the former Holroyd Rotary Club president said. The Greystanes resident, 71, said he appreciated those who nominated him. "Knowing that people thought enough of me and what I've done humbled me greatly," Mr Ezzy said. "I'm thankful to my wife Patricia, my



For more than four decades **Garry Wilson** has helped people to reach their lifelong goals through a mentorship program. On Sunday, Mr Wilson's volunteer work within the community was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal. Mr Wilson said he felt "humbled". "You are working for something that you enjoy and helping other people, and you don't expect an award for doing



Imad Eltenn didn't let civil war stop him from travelling on dangerous roads to reach remote villages that needed his help in Lebanon in the 1980s. Dr Etenn migrated to Australia in 1988 and opened a dental practice in Merrylands. Although busy catering to residents' needs, Dr Eltenn continues his work in West Bakaa through the Saghbine Charity Association.



Tim Hawkes was a second-year student at Durham University when a professor encouraged him to be more academic. Nowadays Dr King is the headmaster of The King's School, Parramatta. He received a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to education and professional organisations such as the Australian Boarding Schools Association, of which he is chairman. "I feel enormously privileged,



Medal of the Order of Australia recipient **Ian Baguley** is still as passionate about brain injury rehabilitation as he was on his first day 20 years ago. A senior specialist at Westmead Hospital's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, Dr Baguley helps people recover after physical trauma. He's also a research team leader and is investigating how botox can be used to help people recover movement after



Read All About It! Gary Wilson in the News

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The Oatlands resident started being a mentor after joining Toastmasters – a non-profit training organisation that focuses on communication and leadership development – in 1970 after his wife, Elizabeth, suggested he join.



Last Meeting Cont.

When **Monique** presented her speech titled **'The Parental Effect'** from The Entertaining Speaker Manual, the first question on everyone's mind was 'What does **she** know about parenthood?'. She agreed and wondered if there are classes or books people read to learn about parenthood.

For Monique, it's no laughing matter when confronting a 'little child with dirty, sticky fingers' especially wearing her new gleaming white dress. If we get a cough, cold or pain, then somehow mum thinks it's the end of the world and will consult google for the remedy!

Three things she learnt about parenthood are: 1. Nothing is ever a child's fault. 2. No matter how old, they'll always be children. 3. And of course there's always Google!



From Children to **'Space Monsters'**, (no connection) our Speechcraft liaison officer, **Tom Woods** told us a story with a moral. Recalling Orson Welles 'War of the Worlds'. Tom warned us that aliens are on their way to planet Earth. But these are no ordinary aliens, they grow, repair and fuel themselves by consuming and digesting other life forms. So watch out guys, you have been warned. Sounds like a call to action. Get out those rusty 'Space Invaders' video games and get some practice in shooting down these nasties!



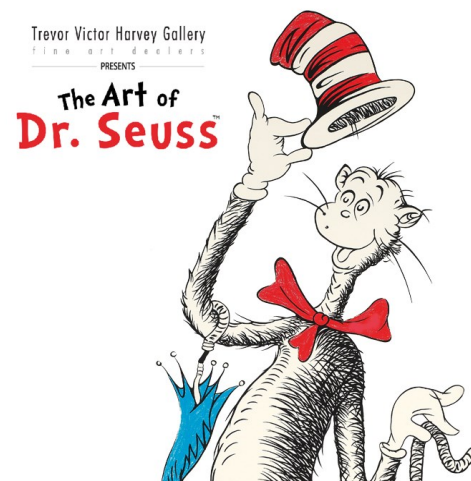
Rob T was up next with **'It's a Small World After All'**. He opened with 'Some people don't believe in coincidences, but rather that such occurrences are just lady fact showing her hand'. He's not sure what to believe but he shared with us three real life stories of strange coincidences. Is that a fact or coincidence, he asked the audience afterwards. I'm sure we've all experienced similar occurrences in our lives Rob!

Final Speaker for the night was **Wendy** working her way through her 4th Competent Communicator Manual. Clearly she is a skilled speaker. Tonight she was 'Getting to the Point' with her speech **'Make a Difference'**. She certainly didn't waste any time when she asked us 'Have you ever had the chance to make a difference to someone else's life?' or 'Have you had the opportunity to change someone's quality of life?' She certainly had and told us a motivational story about her dad facing renal failure. How she offered her



own kidney but 3 days before the operation a donor was found. A donor who gave her dad and others a new lease of life. She encouraged us to tick the 'donor' box when renewing our driving licenses. After all the person you help could be you family or friend!

And Don't Miss Our Next Meeting!



If you are a perfectionist like me, then don't miss our next meeting on Thursday 6th Feb when the theme is **Dr Seuss**, author, perfectionist and master of children's books. Also known to have said 'Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened'. Could he have been referring our club meetings? Everyone certainly leaves the room happy and on a high note!

Also many of our members are returning from holidays; Gary ready to dish out his 'best medicine' as Larfmaster, Peter Steinhour with 'Did you Know?' perhaps from his overseas trip! Desiree is Chairman1 for 1st time, Andrew presenting his 2nd speech after that amazing Ice Breaker at our X-Mas party.

Plus we have senior members Elizabeth, Ian & Robyn and John Taylor also back to help our newer members. get to speed.

Should be another action packed meeting, don't miss it!

'Open to Everyone'

By Michael Said

For two periods each Toastmaster year, our District provides training for club officers. And by having 4 club officers trained in both periods, your club receives 1 point from the 10 points available in the Distinguished Club Plan. There have been people in the past who have attended training to get the "tick in the box". However I have observed a phenomenon of late. People are going to training because they want to be there and they want to be trained.



Every year the training has evolved, building on the back of the initiatives and resources of previous District Club Leadership Trainers and Co-ordinators. The training presented at our district now, is so involving and motivating, that participants receive skills that they can use in other walks of life, not just at Toastmasters.

Last Sunday, I was lucky enough to be at the Southern Division training session. Like other Division Governors, the Southern Division Governor had got to the venue early, was well prepared and resourced and ensured everyone assisting was also well prepared. Those who attended were welcomed to a pro-



fessional looking room, where everything was laid out. All they had to do was participate and enjoy the learning. At the end of the three hours, everyone there was in awe of what they had experienced. They were 'bouncing off the walls'.

At the end of the day, everyone was asked to write brief words to best describe the training. Here is a snapshot of these comments:- Engaging, fun, inspiring, relevant, on-time, well-organised, informative, creative, interactive, insightful, motivational, interesting, participative, encouraging, supportive, delightful, great presenters,

Participants were also asked to write down something that they learnt. Here is another snapshot:- Fostering a growth mindset in myself and club members, Club meetings including variety and education, Importance of mentoring, Modelling on the success of others, Excellent on-screen demonstra-

tion, How to track what advanced manuals awards submitted, How to solve problems, Ideas to improve club meetings. There are three hooks to all of this: **This training is free!. It is open to all Toastmasters, not just club officers & there are many sessions to chose from!** Here is a sample of the upcoming sessions:- for Sun 9 Feb 1 to 4pm – The Hills Club, 2 Jenner St, Baulkham Hills Sat 15 Feb 2 to 5pm – Parramatta RSL, 2 Macquarie St, Parramatta Sun 23 Feb 1 to 4pm- Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. to book your seat. <http://www.d70toastmasters.org.au/club-leadership-training-sessions/>



Take advantage of some of the best training that is available. And then tell all of your Toastmaster buddies of the experience you had. You will come away enriched and inspired, with endless possibilities for the future.

Footnote: The Southern Division Governor is Linda Said, a member of Parramatta Toastmasters

(Thank You Michael - Ed)

Tips for Effective Evaluations

One of the most common mistakes in Evaluations is to use the word 'BUT' when transitioning from COMMEND to RECOMMEND. The problem with BUT is that the speaker will most likely remember the words following the word BUT instead all the good points mentioned beforehand. Instead of BUT or other judgmental words like SHOULD, try using words on right.

Also do not repeat a point once it is made. Repeating is just that, it has no real value. **Good evaluations!**

Substitute **judgment** words with those that describe your reactions

I got
Lost
when



I was
distracted
by

I would like to
see more ...

It would have
worked better
for me

For Your Diary

There is so much happening at the moment in the TM calendar; at club, area, division or district level. Something for everyone! Pick and choose from below.

- ◆ **Speechcraft:** starts on **Wed 5th Feb** at Rowland Hassall Public School. Contact Liaison Officer Tom Woods if you'd like to help out.
- ◆ **Evaluations Workshop:** **Sun 9th Feb 1-4pm.** At Georges Rivers Sailing Club. Run by the very best, two District Evaluation Champions, David Griffiths and Greg Kennedy. Contact Linda Said, Southern Division Governor on 0421 444 976 for more details and to register.
- ◆ **Club Officer Training:** Free course, open to every member of TM and compulsory for all Club Officers. There are a number of dates available. For a full list you can check out the District website:

<http://www.d70toastmasters.org.au/club-leadership-training-sessions/>. At least attend on Sat 15th FEB from 2pm at Parramatta RSL in the Linden Room.

- ◆ **Area 13 Contest: Sat 1st Mar.** Why should you attend? To support David Griffiths and Michael Said, our Parramatta Toastmasters winners, as they battle it out against the Club champions from the other clubs in our Area. A high quality afternoon of International Speeches and Evaluations.
- ◆ **Sunday Seminar and Speakers Forum: on 16 Mar** is another great event to learn more and to deliver a speech to a brand new audience to be evaluated by from outside our Club.

Club Executive Officers for 2013/2014

President: Alicia Denis **VPE:** Ian Lipski **VPM:** Monique Tonna **VPPR:** Malkit Banwait **Treasurer:** Tom Cummins
Secretary: Mrinal Sarkar **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Desiree Eddigehausen **Webmaster:** Gary Wilson
Speechcraft Liaison Officer: Tom Woods **Executive Support Officers:** Melanie Wilson, Natasha Chan,

Join us for our Next Club Meeting with theme 'Dr Seuss' on 6 Feb 2014



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS
CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE