



PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1261

1 May 2014

THEME

'Democracy'

AWARDS

- ◆ **Best Speech**
Mrinal Sarkar
- ◆ **Best Table Topic**
Alicia Denis
- ◆ **Best Evaluator**
Wendy Nielsen

WELCOME VISITORS

Dr Kinnar Shah
Yash
Vipul
Karl
Amutha
Samatha
Jessica
Ells

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:

Malkit Banwait

Vice President for
Public Relations at:

vp@parramattatm.org.au

'A Proud Moment'



You may have noticed that **Gary Wilson** was absent from our last meeting. There was a good reason for that! In January we reported that he was a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) 'for service to the community, particularly through Toastmasters International and as Past International Director and Distinguished Toastmaster.

On Thursday 1st May, **Gary, Elizabeth, and Melanie** Wilson attended a luncheon by The Order of Australia Association with OAM recipients from NSW. They enjoyed mingling and hearing inspirational stories. These recipients volunteer their time in areas such as medicine, the arts and more. Every recipient is an example for all Australians to emulate.

Then on Friday 2nd May 2014 at Parliament House, Sydney, Gary Austin Wilson OAM was invested with the Medal of the Order of Australia.

He attended the event with his wife **Elizabeth** Wilson, his son **Michael** Gary Wilson, and his granddaughter **Melanie** Suzanne Wilson. Of course, as we all

know, Elizabeth and Melanie are also club members.

From all your fellow club members, hearty congratulations Gary. It is truly a proud moment for you, your family, your club and of course Toastmasters International.

Melanie reported the events beautifully in her blog at [OAM Investiture 2014](#) and included on page 4. She wrote:

'Her Excellency, Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, gave closing remarks to again confirm how proud she was of everything the recipients had done. All awardees had demonstrated years of brave and selfless assistance to the community.

The luncheon and investiture were delightful. Gary Austin Wilson OAM is a humble dedicated leader. He is indeed following in the footsteps of his father Sir Austin Wilson'.



Democracy in Action!



With the theme **Democracy**, there was no shortage of speakers ready to deliver their pitches and fire questions at our last meeting .

President **Alicia**, in her opening address, reminded us that such is the level of dedication of our members, that after working hard all day in Brisbane, **Michael S** caught the flight back specially to be at the meeting!

Chairman **Ron M** opened with Winston Churchill's 1947 famous quote 'Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time'. Perfect timing, since he just lost the election, after winning the war!

To raised eyebrows, **Wendy N** evaluated **Tom's** blog 'Does size really matter?' Quoting Mark Twain, 'It is not the size of the dog in the fight, it is the size of the fight in the dog', Tom reminded us that the size of a person's desire, conviction & beliefs will determine the outcome of most confrontations.



At TMs Question Time, our Chief Whip **Rob T**, fired 10 TT constitutional questions left, right & centre at unsuspecting TMs. Questions ranged from 'Is it OK to vote for yourself?' to

'If your dog could vote, who would it vote for?' and 'Should prisoners be allowed to vote?'. Glad to report that no one was thrown out of the meeting.

In his Icebreaker, we discovered that our newest member, **David Gane** is training to be a marriage celebrant. With so many members tying the knot, David has certainly picked the right TM club and is sure to be kept busy once he qualifies. He is born and bred in Guildford, and took us on a colourful journey from printing, catering, ceramic moulding and courier. Talk about 'Jack of all Trades & Master of One - marriage celebrant!



In her second CC speech, **Kumi** was learning the skill of 'organizing her speech'. Coming from Japan she picked an interesting topic often in the news, and which everyone wants to grasp; that of Japanese whaling. In '**Is it an Experiment or Commercialism?**' she gave us the background to why Japanese eat fish and the pros and cons of whaling. To our diplomat Kumi, the whole issue is quite simple, Japanese Government must learn to communicate better. Kumi's solution is for them to join TMs. Only recommendation for Kumi, it should be the Parramatta TM Club!

Andrew Iverson in his 4th CC Speech, I'm a Raw Beginner' or was it '**Being a Star**'. With **Peter S** as the TM for the night, we got plenty of surprises, and larfs. In his own version of '15 minutes of fame', Andrew told us what it means to him to be a star. Andrew entertained us once again with funny stories of his time in the military. Bottom line, we are all stars!



In **John New's** speech on '**Skepticism**', we learnt that being a sceptic was a dangerous business, especially in the middle ages. People got locked away or burnt just for speaking their mind. Thank God for Democracy & Freedom of Speech.



Finally, the winner of Best Speech was **Mrinal Sarkar** with an interesting speech titled '**The Hidden Gem**'. It was a moving history lesson on India's Andaman Islands. He told us about India's struggle for freedom and the Freedom Fighters detained in the Central Jail. '**In a world where we take our smiles for granted, we must spare a moment and acknowledge those people who sacrificed their lives so we can smile!**'

OAM Investiture 2014

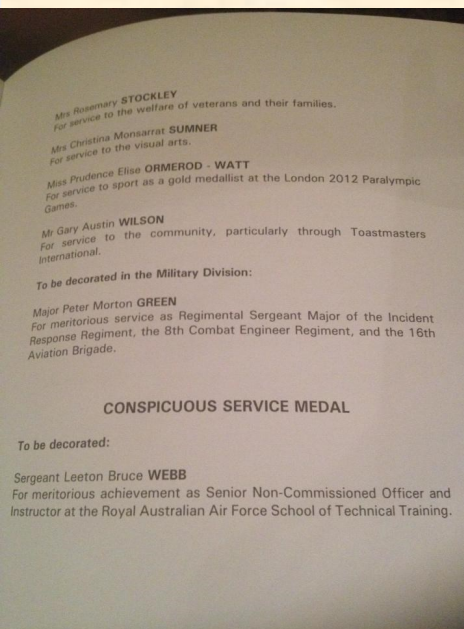
by Melanie Wilson



Gary Austin Wilson OAM was invested with the Medal of the Order of Australia on Friday 2nd May 2014 at Parliament House, Sydney.

Gary is a recipient for his involvement in Toastmasters International as Past International Director and Distinguished Toastmaster. Gary attended the event with his wife Elizabeth Wilson, his son Michael Gary Wilson, and his granddaughter Melanie Suzanne Wilson.

A flautist and clarinetist entertained guests as they were seated before the official program. The beautiful decor in Parliament house formed the perfect atmosphere for guests.



Attendees arrived at 2pm, to be seated at 2:30pm and to commence the investiture at 3pm.

Sir Nicholas Shehadie entered the Ballroom first. Sir Shehadie is the husband of Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales. The Official Party then entered the Ballroom. All stood to see the arrival of Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales as she entered the Ballroom.

All sang the first verse of the Australian National Anthem, led by the Governor. Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales gave opening remarks to



congratulate recipients for their contributions to the community.

Recipients were invested one by one. A military MC announced each recipient by presenting, from the lectern, ninety second descriptions of achievements. Her Excellency presented the medal for recipients to attach to their lapels. Her Excellency gave closing remarks to again confirm how proud she was of everything the recipients had done. All awardees had demonstrated years of brave and selfless assistance to the community.

Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas Shehadie, followed by the Official party, moved to the Colonnade. All guests mingled with the Official party over white wine, salt and pepper snapper, smoked salmon sandwiches, and other refreshments.

Gary Austin Wilson OAM and Melanie Suzanne Wilson spoke with the Governor of New South Wales. They expressed sincere gratitude as she took



time for this special day. Protocol was ensured with the assistance of Rick, Lieutenant Commander Rick Stone, RANR. Rick was a friendly companion to all the guests. He congratulated Gary for the involvement in Toastmasters.

Gary introduced Melanie as an involved member of Toastmasters. Her Excellency Marie Bashir was a delight to speak with. She is relatable and extraordinary. Melanie Wilson was in awe of the work Bashir achieved in community mental health.

The luncheon and investiture were delightful. Gary Austin Wilson OAM is a humble dedicated leader. He is indeed following in the footsteps of his father Sir Austin Wilson.



Club Executive Officers Elections for 2014/15

New Member Induction

Senior member **John Taylor** conducted the elections for Club Executive Officers for 2014-15 .

Following officers were elected.

President: Ian Lipski
VPE: Peter Steinhour
VPM: Wendy Nielsen
VPPR: Melanie Wilson
Treasurer: John New
Secretary: Malkit Banwait
Sgt-at-Arms: Steven Cox

Congratulations to them all and do join us on **19 June** as we celebrate the **Achievement of current executive and welcome the New Executive**. You will also be entertained by the newly crowned Dist70 International Speech Contest Champion.

At our last meeting we also had the pleasure of inducting a new member **Amutha** to the club. Amutha is a nurse and graduate of our latest Speechcraft course. She visited our club before and after Speechcraft and then decided to join Dural - oh no!. But later realized that it is better to join Parramatta Club as well because **'it's more challenging and scary here'**. Thank you Amutha, we take that as a compliment. A big warm welcome to you and enjoy your TM journey with us.

Business sessions can be serious affairs, and often the most procedural part of the meeting. But with **Melanie Wilson** in Chairman 2 seat, it was sure to be a lively session with everyone having a fun time, while still attending to important club business in hand. She gave us a lesson in how to

conduct a meeting **enthusiastically**, while keeping all the 'trouble makers' contending for the wooden spoon at bay. Looking around even our eight visitors were enjoying it. So much so that at the end of the meeting, visitor **Ells** remarked how she loved how everyone enthusiastically shouted 'yay or nay' although she had no idea what they were voting for!

2nd time visitor **Dr Kinnar** commented that he found it fascinating that everyone gets evaluated in TMs, even the evaluators. Not quite Kinnar. The General Evaluator doesn't get evaluated. He/she always gets the last word! But you'll have to wait a while before you get a chance for that role. It's normally reserved for TMs who have completed a few manual speeches. But you will definitely get your turn - once you join the club!

For Your Diary

- ◆ **Thu 22 May & Sat 24 May:** **Brazilian** special theme meeting followed by a **Brazilian Social Mixer** at Tom & Elaine's House. Come dressed in **Brazilian World Cup** football colours or show off your Samba dancing steps ([see Flyer at end, don't miss it!](#))
- ◆ **Sun 22 June 1-4pm:** **Next Sunday Seminar & Speakers Forum** at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Another great event to learn more and to deliver a speech to a brand new audience to be evaluated by from outside our Club.
- ◆ **16 - 18 May 2014:** **District 70 Annual Conference**. Same but different: The value of communication at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Save the dates Sat 17th May 6:00pm

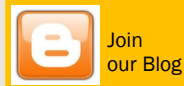
International Speech Contest & Sun 18th May Evaluation Contest. Support our Western Division champions Tom Cummins and Wendy Nielsen as they battle it out against the other Divisions in District 70. <http://annual2014.d70toastmasters.org.au/>

- ◆ **Speechcraft Update:** 6 weeks commencing 6th May to 10th June, each Tuesday 6:30pm at 'Roland Hassall Public School' - Hassall St Parramatta. Parramatta Toastmasters club members are encouraged to assist in running the speechcraft course - contact Wendy Nielsen (Speechcraft co-ordinator M 0439 614 214). Take the opportunity to put into practice your communication and leadership skills by helping new Speechcrafters achieve their public speaking goals.

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:** Wendy Nielsen **Webmaster:** Gary Wilson
Speechcraft Liaison Officer: Tom Woods **Executive Support Officers:** Melanie Wilson,

Join us for Next Club Meeting Thu 15 May 2014 Theme 'Video Killed The Radio Star'



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil



With the 2014 Carnival over & the Soccer World Cup about to start, its time for Parramatta Toastmasters to celebrate Brazilian style!

Brazilian themed Club meeting:

When: Thursday 22nd May 6:30 - 9:30pm

Where: Linden Room, Parramatta RSL Club

Brazilian themed Social:

When: Saturday 24th May

Where: Tom & Elaine's, 61 Antoine St, Rydalmere

Cost: \$25 (inc Brazilian BBQ, desert, soft drink)

BYO alcohol

RSVP: before 19th May to Monique on 0400 588 557



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