



WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE

SPEAK UP

Hidden value

What is the hidden value of the Toastmasters club?

By Elena Shulyak CC, DL2

We all know how daunting it is to participate in a disorganised meeting: people come late, meeting does not start on time, there is no agenda or it is unclear, there are a few side discussions during the meeting, chairman of the meeting struggling to keep meeting on order and get resolution of the issues this meeting was called for.

Oppositely, at our first visit to our club a lot of us were surprised how well conducted Toastmasters' meetings. However, I was a bit confused and could not understand:

- Why do we check if we have a quorum?
- What does motion mean?
- How an amendment works?

After a few months, I better understood of the meeting procedure but still I could not find an answer to a question

- Why do we spend time on the meeting to conduct a business session?

I think I know the answer now.

Toastmasters clubs have been around for nearly 100 years with the first club established

in 1924. Toastmasters International, as an organisation, grows and evolves constantly with the purpose to give members the ongoing training in communication and leadership skills. The fact that Toastmasters' clubs have been around for so long confirms that a lot of members find it very useful and worthwhile spending time at the club meetings, as well as prepare for them.

The hidden value of the Toastmasters club lays in the improvement of members' skills at every minute of the meeting. We may not be fully conscious that we are learning but we are. All aspects of the meetings are thought through by many experienced Toastmasters and are kept current to help members to gain high valued experience.

Business session and strict rules of the meeting are not an exclusion. We follow rules, so that we learn and practice them in friendly atmosphere. Business sessions allow us to make a democratic decision and let all interested party express their opinions; during

the club meeting the motion raised at the business session maybe minor or fake, as it is not the motion which is important but the process of making a decision by a group of people. Isn't it great to have such skills in your back pocket?

In two weeks we will have a Parliamentarian Contest (28th May) where each member can practice the evaluation of the Chairman's work. Yes, again we are going to do what we love to do in the Toastmasters club: evaluate everything and in this case, we will evaluate how the Chairman followed the meeting rules and how well he/she conducted the business session. One of the best ways to prepare for it is to familiarise yourself with Renton's rule of conducting a meeting ("Guide for Meetings" by N.E. Renton), we have a few copies for borrowing.

So please be prepared, raise your hand to participate and have fun!

P.S. new members can participate as well!





Your article could have been here!

Written by: Club member

Please send me your article related to the Toastmaster club's activities and I will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

We want to hear from you!

*"We want to hear
from you!"*



Meet the members

David Reid

Q. How long have you been with Toastmasters?

One year

Q. Why did you join Toastmasters?

To push myself but mainly to be able to articulate my ideas to others.

Q. Why are you staying with Toastmasters?

Listening, logical thinking and dealing with emotional responses (like fear of public speaking) are not simple ideas but are skills that need to be practiced.

Q. What personal goals did you achieve during the last 12 months?

This points to a major personality flaw; in that I did not have specific goals and goals that I could not put into words.

“Toastmasters gives you the opportunity to perform, make mistakes and do it better next time.”

Q. What are your personal goals for the next 12 months?

My main goal at the moment is to be able to perform well without being thwarted by whatever emotion or mood comes along. I do not know how long this will take or the steps needed.

Q. What was the most challenging thing for you at Toastmasters and how did you overcome it?

To avoid the easy option. Nobody ever fully overcomes this but the knowledge that it leads to stagnation gives you more motivation to avoid it. Toastmasters gives you the opportunity to perform, make mistakes and do it better next time. If you quit there is no next time.

Q. How do you find ideas for your speech?

Ask yourself if I was in the audience what would I like to hear? How would I like the speaker to behave or perform?

Q. How do you write the speech?

There is a technique that is helpful. That is 1-Plan 2-Do 3-Review 4-Repeat.

- 1-Plan your speech
- 2-Write your speech
- 3-Perform your speech (to yourself)
- 4-Review and amend.
- 5-Go Back to 1

The more you do that the better your speech will be.

Q. What are your tips for successful speech?

There is an idea that one of the causes of failure of projects is wasting time at the fuzzy front end with things unknown appearing and taking more time than expected so get to work on it as soon as possible.

Do not be afraid of rewriting or writing notes that will not make the final cut.

Don't be surprised that it takes a lot of effort, especially at first.

You are learning a new skill and reforming how your brain thinks, that is not easy, and few people even try it.

“Do not quit!”

Q. What are your tips for the recently joined Toastmasters?

Beware the easy option. Do not quit!



Meet the members

Eric Redmond

In 2016, my life coach from the Tony Robbins Institute, Tanya Unkovich, would ask me, *"Eric, what is your life purpose? What do you want to achieve? Who do you want to become?"* I didn't know, so I said, *"maybe be go on stage with Tony Robbins?"* *"Ok then Eric"* she said, *"I want you to join Toastmasters. When will you do it?"* *"Straight away Tanya!"*

So, I Googled Toastmaster Clubs in the Shire where I live. (I wanted to find a Club close to Kirrawee, so I could go straight from my 6pm Boxing class to Toastmaster's at 7pm, as they say, killing two birds with one stone!) I love being efficient with time. Thinking I would just show up at Miranda Toastmasters and give a speech in my gym clothes and be home for dinner. Boy was I clueless!

As soon as I met the late, great, Rick Haynes, the way he spoke, and how he and all the Miranda Toastmasters welcomed me, I knew this was the right Toastmaster Club, and Boxing would have to give way to Miranda Toastmasters on a Tuesday night!

Almost three years later, I still learn so much at each meeting and from the great members of this strong club. The Miranda Toastmasters have taught me how to create and deliver a

well-prepared speech, without notes! Something I never thought I could do, and then at other times, to be able to think on my feet and give an unprepared speech straight off the cuff!

There are things I still struggle with at Toastmasters, one being my evaluations on speeches. I really don't want to give the speakers bad advice. I learn so much when I watch other evaluators give great, insightful advice. That gives me the confidence to keep at it. Evaluations are still a work in progress for me.

"When writing a speech, I try to find something that challenges me and is relatable to the audience."

When it's time to request a speaking slot, I book that spot four to five weeks ahead, to allow enough time to procrastinate for about a month, then work like crazy for a week to deliver the speech. When I say "procrastinate", I mean gathering ideas over the month from books, audio books, Facebook feeds, movies and being conscious to remember things I've seen and learned, and making mental notes on the quirky things, out

of the ordinary, that happen every day.

When writing a speech, I try to find something that challenges me and is relatable to the audience. Then I tell the story of how I overcame it, trying to see the humour, although it didn't seem funny at the time, I was going through it.

I'm grateful to my wife Kim, who proof reads my speeches and adds ideas that make the speech flow, and I thank my family for enthusiastically listening, from the first draft to the final cut. I'm sure they're all relieved when I walk out the door on a Tuesday evening to put that speech to rest!

I've found the greatest benefits at Miranda Toastmasters comes from just putting your hand up to request a role on the night, I learn so much from this. (Although requesting a role on the "EasySpeak" website would be enormously helpful to Jill Brookfield). Also, from constantly gathering ideas and mentally preparing for my next speech.

By listening, observing and then practising what I've learned, I spend my free time growing in skill these days. Just living what I've learned during the week makes the next week more enjoyable and fun, and that's why I'm here.

Meetings

30 April 2019

Meeting #1281

Warm welcome to Marc Shaw as a new member of our club; Marc recently graduated from the Speechcraft course.

Sophie Morgan and Marc Shaw delivered their first 'Ice breaker' speech.



Speakers

1. Sophie Morgan
Title: Trialling Hip Replacement
Evaluator: Eric Redmond
2. Elena Shulyak
Title: Behind the wheel
Evaluator: Paul Sorensen
3. Marc Shaw
Title: Who am I
Evaluator: Marian Foulcher
4. Aurelien Schibli
Title: Mentoring Educational speech

The winners

Best Speaker Award: Sophie Morgan

Best Evaluator Award: Paul Sorensen

Best Assignment: Kathy Tasker

Best Supporting Assignment: Aurelien Schibli

Best Table Topic: Sophie Morgan

16 April 2019

Meeting #1280

Five members competed in this year's Hartonian Autumn Award, delivering five entertaining speeches.

Alicia Curtis visited our meeting taking on the role of Competition Judge.

Speakers

1. John Paterson
Title: The Science of Climate Change
2. Kathy Tasker
Title: Breakdowns
3. Gina Cai
Title: Three generations in China
4. Svetlana Zhizhina
Title: Flashback
5. Anna Rubalsky
Title: Fire and Ice



The winners

1. Anna Rubalsky
2. John Paterson
3. Gina Cai

Parliamentarian contest

Miranda Toastmasters will hold its annual Parliamentarian Contest on 29 May

John Paterson, VPE, explains the contest history and judging criteria.

The Parliamentarian Contest is unique to Miranda Toastmasters. It was initiated to commemorate the passion of Barnum F Tooth, who was President of the Club in 1970. Barry was a stickler for the strict following of Renton's Rules for all Club business meetings.

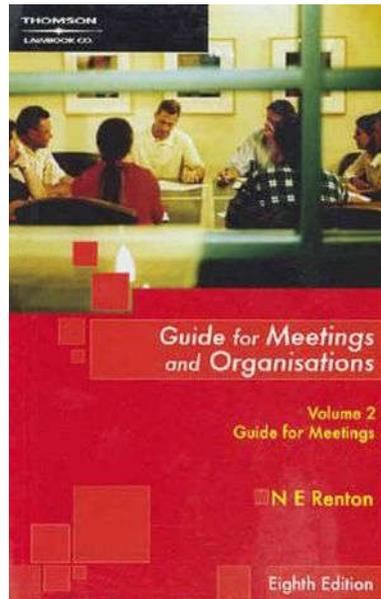
I joined the club in 1979 and can remember many times when Barry, who was a huge and impressive man, stood to raise 'points of order' and 'move dissent from the Chairman's ruling'. I was a new Toastmaster, just learning the leadership roles offered by Toastmasters and Barry made it an interesting exercise to say the least.

The first winner of the award was Garo Hartoonian, who won the inaugural contest in 1992/93.

This award is now 35 years old and we need our new members to take an active interest in the roles of Chairman and Parliamentarian to keep the tradition alive.

Our Club has reduced the number of meetings where we have a full business session, in favour of presenting more educational presentations. This is in part because the Westminster Rules for running a meeting can be confusing for those visitors and new members who are not

familiar with the process of running a meeting using 400-year-old rules.



If anyone watches Question Time when the Federal Parliament is sitting they will rarely be inspired by the way both Government and Opposition perform. They should be consoled by the fact that the Speaker is trying to maintain control by using the same rules that we use to run our meetings.

While the experience gained may not be directly translated into your daily life, I have found the lessons learned have proved valuable when participating in business, strata and executive meetings.

Parliamentarian role

The role of the Parliamentarian is to evaluate the Chairman's performance in conducting a Club meeting.

There are a few key points which a Parliamentarian can use to evaluate a Chairman:

- Did the meeting start on time?
- Did the Chairman adequately prepare?
- Was the Chairman decisive?
- Was the Chairman fair and impartial?
- Were matters handled correctly?
- Try to refer to at least one paragraph in Renton's
- PRAISE/RECOMMEND/PRAISE
- Above all have fun



Judging criteria

Contest judges assess each Parliamentary Evaluation according to strict criteria. Out of a possible 100 points, judges will measure each Evaluation on four elements: The value of each element is as follows:

40% for Analytical Quality: Clear, focused

30% for Recommendations:

Positive, Specific, Helpful

15% for Technique: Sympathetic,

Sensitive, Motivational

15% for Summation: Concise, Encouraging

Timing: The length of the Evaluation is 2 to 3 minutes.

Contestants will be disqualified if the Evaluation is less than 1 minute 30 seconds or more than 3 minutes 30 seconds.

Have a go

Every member can compete in the Parliamentary Contest. I would

encourage everyone to stretch their Parliamentary skills.

About the author: John Paterson is Miranda Toastmaster's Vice President Education. He's joined Toastmasters in 1979 and enjoys the challenges of a complex business session.



Club elections

It's time to elect the next Club Executive. What roles make up the Executive team?

The annual Club elections will be conducted at the 14 May meeting. All Club Executive team members are elected for 12 months, for the period 1 July to 30 June.

What Officers make up the Club Executive?

- President
- Vice President - Education
- Vice President - Membership
- Vice President - Public Relations
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant at Arms
- Immediate Past President

President

The President presides at meetings of the Club, has general supervision of the operations of the Club. The President serves as one of the Club's representatives on Area and District Councils.

Vice President Education

The Vice President Education (VPE) is the second ranking officer of Club. The VPE plans and directs Club programs which meet the educational needs of the Club members. The VPE plans and publishes regular schedules of meeting assignments. The VPE keeps track of members' progress towards goals. The VPE serves as one of the Club's representatives on Area and District Councils.

Vice President Membership

The Vice President Membership (VPM) is the third ranking officer. The VPM plans and directs programs to retain and increase Club membership. The VPM serves as one of the Club's representatives on Area and District Councils.

Vice President Public Relations

The Vice President Public Relations (VPPR) is the fourth ranking officer. The VPPR develops and directs programs that inform individual members and the general public about Toastmasters International and about Club activities.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for Club records and correspondence. The Secretary maintains the Club roster (aka membership list). The Secretary has custody of the Club's charter, Constitution, Bylaws, and all other records and documents of the Club. The Secretary keeps an accurate record of the meetings and activities of the Club.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for Club financial policies, procedures and controls. The Treasurer collects member fees and pays fees to Toastmasters International and maintains financial records. The Treasurer provides financial reports to the Club at each meeting.

Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms prepares the meeting room for each meeting and greets visitors. The Sergeant at Arms maintains Club property, including banner, nametags and supplies.

Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President supports the club Executive. The primary responsibilities of this role involve serving as a resource for new officers and ensuring continuity with past terms.

Executive duties

Each Officer in the Executive team has duties to fulfil in support of the members of the Club. Toastmasters Clubs have multiple officers both to spread the load



and to expand the leadership opportunities at the Club level.

Filling an Executive role does not mean that you do the job alone, it means you are responsible to see that the job gets done.

Executive team members are required to attend leadership training to get the support needed to better serve our Club.

Nominate for a position

Have you thought about nominating for a Club Officer role? If so, talk to one of the Executive Team before the elections on 14 May.

Other news

District 70 Annual Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!

**Book for the whole conference
or select individual items.**

Bookings can be made [HERE](#).

Annual Conference details can be
found [HERE](#).

CONFERENCE BOOKINGS HAVE
BEEN **EXTENDED** UNTIL
MIDNIGHT SUNDAY 12 MAY.

Menai District TM Club 700th Meeting



Congratulations to the Menai District TM club on their 700th meeting!

Our neighbouring club celebrated their 700th meeting on 7th May; this club got chartered status in June 1986. We wish them success and growth!

A few words about history of TM clubs in Australia. The first Toastmasters Club to be formed in Australia was Wollongong Toastmasters Club. This Club received its charter in August 1957.

By 1964 there were 22 Clubs in Australia and 13 in what is now District 70.

By the latest available data there are 800 Toastmasters clubs with over 15,000 members throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Toastmaster's community has a strong and steady growth in Australia.

District 70 Annual Conference Register now



Annual Council, Contests & Conference
Friday 17, Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 May 2019
Bankstown Sports Club

Register: www.d70toastmasters.org.au/2019-annual-conference

Further reading

[SIX RULES OF HUMOR](https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/Six-Rules-of-Humor)

(<https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/Six-Rules-of-Humor>)

Making an appropriate joke and making a funny speech is such a useful skill that a lot of us keep learning and practicing it. In his article, Graham Honaker, a winner of the Humorous Speech Contest in District 11, gives us a few tips on how to improve the skill of humour.

[FINISH STRONG!](https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/How-to-Beat-Club-Officer-Burnout)

(<https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/How-to-Beat-Club-Officer-Burnout>)

This is the time of the year when the current club's executive team is about to finish, and the new team is about to be elected and start functioning after our changeover dinner on 25th of June.

Maureen Zappala, DTM, wrote an article about the importance of keeping focus on the executive role and keeping enthusiasm for the whole year.

[THE POSSIBILITIES OF PATHWAYS](https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/The-Possibilities-of-PATHWAYS)

(<https://www.toastmasters.org/Magazine/Articles/The-Possibilities-of-PATHWAYS>)

And again Pathways, love it or not, this is the new way of learning of being a better

communicator and leader in the Toastmasters club. This article discovers more ways to get benefits from the new online platform. Talk to your mentor or VPE if you need help with Pathways.

[Meeting Procedure](http://www.toastmasters.org.nz/files/docs/parliamentaryprocedure.pdf)

(<http://www.toastmasters.org.nz/files/docs/parliamentaryprocedure.pdf>)

Eager to prepare for a parliamentary contest? This resource can help you to get a quick grasp of meeting procedure and help you to understand the meeting terminology.

[The Basics of Making Motions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96Damodm-ec)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96Damodm-ec>)

In case you do not have a clue what the motion is and how to participate in the discussion process, watch this leadership video created by Orea, centre for leadership and development.

[LEARNING FROM INFLUENTIAL BLOGGERS](https://thegeekyleader.com/2019/04/14/if-you-want-it-act-like-you-mean-it/)

(<https://thegeekyleader.com/2019/04/14/if-you-want-it-act-like-you-mean-it/>)

Love reading and want to read more about leadership and communication or simply want to follow modern leadership techniques then scan through Rachele Sparks' article.

She collected information about popular bloggers and recommends following them.

“There is no such thing as bad weather, only a bad choice.”

[IF YOU WANT IT, ACT LIKE YOU MEAN IT](https://thegeekyleader.com/2019/04/14/if-you-want-it-act-like-you-mean-it/)

(<https://thegeekyleader.com/2019/04/14/if-you-want-it-act-like-you-mean-it/>)

If you are thinking about changing your career, think again. It is not as easy as we would love to be. But if you still want it then keep insisting, sacrifice and achieve it. Tomas Kusera, the author of the article, talks about the attribute of the successful change of the career.



What's on

May

- 14 May Club elections
- 17-19 May District 70 Annual Conference
- 28 May Parliamentarian Contest

June

- 11 June Meeting at Sutherland
- 25 June Changeover Dinner

Visit: www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/whats-on/

Next Speechcraft Course

Next 8 week public speaking course starts Wednesday, 24 July 2019

To register contact:

Contact Mike Smith

M: 0411 173 290

E: <mailto:speechcraft@miranda-toastmasters.org.au>



SPEECHCRAFT

- Build confidence
- Grow as a leader
- Improve communication & public speaking skills
- Overcome fears
- Improve career potential
- Think on your feet

In 8 weeks become a confident public speaker in a friendly, supportive atmosphere

CLUB MISSION

We 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.

Find us

Web: www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/

Facebook: Search for Miranda Toastmasters Club www.facebook.com/Miranda-Toastmasters-Club-113871933658

Calendar: www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au/whats-on

Newsletter contact: Elena Shulyak pr.officer@miranda-toastmasters.org.au

SPEAK UP

MIRANDA TOASTMASTERS
 Club 3554 - Area 23 - District 70 - Region 12
 Our meetings are held every second Tuesday
 - refer to calendar for meeting dates
 7:00pm-10:00pm
 at Club on East7 East Parade, Sutherland

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 (president@miranda-toastmasters.org.au)
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 (elenaashulyak@gmail.com)
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