



WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE

SPEAK UP

www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au

Moments of Truth

'Moments of Truth' is about reviewing the performance of a Toastmasters Club to ensure high standards are met and maintained to create positive impressions

Each year Miranda Toastmasters Club conducts an evaluation of its performance in six key areas.

These key areas are:

- First Impressions
- Membership Orientation
- Fellowship, Variety, and Communication
- Program Planning and Meeting Organisation
- Membership Strength
- Achievement Recognition

Miranda Toastmasters wants every new and prospective member's initial interaction with the Club to be a positive one.

The *Moments of Truth* evaluation helps guide our Club to deliver quality service and outstanding member experiences. *Moments of Truth* is a tool that enables sustained club quality through guided evaluation and targeted recommendations.

We promote Miranda Toastmasters as a high-quality and successful club that encourages and celebrates member achievement, provides a supportive and fun environment, and offers a professionally organised meeting with variety.

Is that the reality? To find out, we regularly reflect on what we do well and on what we could do better so that it helps keep our Club strong and relevant.

It's not just about new members, *Moments of Truth* helps reflect upon current member experience and whether the Club is meeting their needs. Elements such as a strong mentoring program, an active social calendar, member encouragement and participation all add up to create a sense of belonging and delivers a platform for personal and collective achievement.

When a Club successfully demonstrates the *Moments of Truth*, members are ensured a safe, supportive environment in which to achieve their goals. Miranda Toastmasters endeavours to do this.

When we reflect on the *Moments of Truth* we ask:

First Impressions: What do guests first experience and observe when visiting the Club and do these impressions encourage them to return?

New Member Orientation: Does the Club acquaint new members with the Toastmasters' education and recognition system, the member's responsibility to the Club and the Club's responsibility to the member?

February 2018



MOMENTS OF TRUTH

Fellowship and Variety: Does the Club offer a warm, friendly, and supportive environment that encourages enjoyable learning?

Program Planning and Meeting Organisation: Are Club meetings carefully planned, with well-prepared speakers and useful evaluations?

Membership Strength: Are there sufficient active members to provide leadership, fill meeting and committee assignments. How would you rate the Club's membership-building and retention practices?

Achievement Recognition: Do we do enough to keep track of each member's educational progress celebrate members' achievements?

We will answer these questions and more when Miranda Toastmasters conducts its *Moments of Truth* evaluation on Tuesday, 20 March 2018. It's your chance to reflect on your Club and make a difference.

Be sure to have your say.

Meet the members

Trina Snaidero



Q. How long have you been a Toastmaster?

I joined in October 2016. I attended about three meetings, as a guest before becoming a Toastmaster.

Q. Why did you join Toastmasters?

I wanted to improve my public speaking - both the speaking and presentation part, along with the planning, structure and content of speeches.

Another reason, was to participate in an activity in the community, where I would be meeting new people and contributing to an organisation with purpose, as well as learning and having fun.

Q. What do you hope to achieve through Toastmasters?

I hope to improve the planning and delivery of prepared longer duration speeches - those of around three to eight minutes.

I would also like to become more skilled and confident in evaluating speakers and providing them with useful, relevant and meaningful feedback - to move their learning forward. For me this would be learning through providing feedback, and for those I evaluate, feedback for their learning.

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

To become more knowledgeable in the different roles of a Toastmasters meeting, and to be confident in and capable of delivering a longer speech, with minimal preparation time. An example of the latter, would be to be asked to give a speech the day of a meeting or a work function - and be able to quickly plan, practice and deliver it well, while also keeping the audience engaged.

*“Mistakes
are learning
opportunities.”*

Q. How did you find about Toastmasters?

I had done a Speechcraft course when I was in Year 9 - a long time ago - in Newcastle. I found out about Miranda Toastmasters, by Googling for local clubs.

9. What do you like most about Miranda Toastmasters' meetings?

Everyone is friendly, supportive and there to participate. There is always something to be learned from the routine of the meeting and the variety of speech topics is wide-ranging and interesting.

Q. How has Toastmasters changed your life?

I have met a wide range of people in my local community that I would not have met without joining Miranda Toastmasters. All these people are there for different reasons and they all have their own story and are inspiring for different reasons, but mostly that they are there 'having a go' and trying their best.

Q. What is your favourite quote?

“Mistakes are learning opportunities.”

I don't know where it originates from. It's my favourite because it helps remind me that mistakes are not negative things, but something that can be built on and learned from.

*“I would also like to
become more skilled
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Meetings

6 February 2018

Meeting #1253

Our first meeting for the new year, with a great turnout of members returning from the long summer break.

We welcomed three new guests – we love having guests and there were three great speeches.

The meeting went along like clock-work, which meant there was time for a fun, extra-long Point of View session.

Speakers

1. George Eynon
Title: Weetbix
Evaluator: John Paterson
2. Elena Shulyak
Title: Pistachio Cake
Evaluator: Mike Smith
3. Greg Kennedy
Title: A Traumatic Experience
Evaluator: Jennifer Del Medico

The winners



LtoR: Brian, Aurelien, Mike & Greg

Best Speaker Award – Greg Kennedy

Best Evaluator Award – Mike Smith

Best Assignment – Aurelien Schibli

Best Supporting Assignment – Brian Havilah

Best Table Topics – Aurelien Schibli

20 February 2018

Meeting #1254

It was competition time.

This week was the annual Evaluator Contest and International Speech Contest.

Congratulations to all contestants, and particularly the winners, for providing outstanding speeches and evaluations. And a big thank you to our contest speaker Taryn Medcalf, Competition Chief Judge Jane Stevens and Judges Katherine Burchmore and Malcolm McFarlane.

The winners of these contests will represent Miranda Toastmasters at the Area 23 contest to be held at Engadine on Monday, 19 March. Please go along and support Aurelien and Mike. Details of the contest will be provided soon.

Evaluation Contest



LtoR: Brian, John, Jane & Mike

Competitors

John Paterson, Brian Havilah, Joseph Duffey, Eric Redmond, George Eynon and Mike Smith

The winners

- 1st: Mike Smith
- 2nd: Brian Havilah
- 3rd: John Paterson

International Speech Contest



LtoR: Brian, Jane, Aurelien & Mike

Competitors

Claudia Blumer, Brian Havilah, Anna Rubalsky, Richard Mason, Aurelien Schibli, Mike Smith and Paul Sorensen

The winners

- 1st: Aurelien Schibli
- 2nd: Mike Smith
- 3rd: Brian Havilah

Meeting roles explained

At each meeting, Members participate by performing various roles to ensure the smooth running of the meeting, while honing their public speaking skills

Part 2 of meeting roles explained.

Toastmaster: The role of the meeting Toastmaster is like an emcee, controlling the formal speaking session of the meeting. The Toastmaster creates an atmosphere of interest and expectation and motivates the audience to listen. At the end of the speaking session the Toastmaster hands over control of the meeting to the Master Evaluator.

After the speeches and evaluations, the Toastmaster returns and invites the Listening Critic and Point of View to complete their assignments (time permitting) and presents the meeting's awards of Best Speech, Best Evaluation, Best Assignment, Best Supportive Assignment and Best Table Topics (decided by Table Topics Evaluators). The Toastmaster may also conduct the raffle while the votes are being counted. The Toastmaster then hands the gavel and control of the meeting to the Chairman.

Speaker: At a regular meeting, four members will each deliver a prepared speech. These speeches will follow the objectives contained in one of the many speech projects in the various Toastmasters International speech manuals. Each speech has specific objectives that the speaker must meet and allocated timing to which they must adhere.

Master Evaluator: The Master Evaluator coordinates the evaluation session of the meeting. The Master Evaluator will explain the purpose of role and provide an evaluation of the meeting so far, including the Call to Order, Invocation, Loyal and Second Toast and the Welcome to Guests. The Master Evaluator will invite the Table Topics Evaluators and Speech Evaluators to present their evaluations of the table topics and speeches. The Master Evaluator will also invite the Parliamentarian, Grammarian, Timer and Umm & Ahh Counter to deliver their reports. At the end of the session, the Master Evaluator hands control of the meeting back to the Toastmaster.

Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian explains the purpose of the role and provides an evaluation of the performance of the Chairman.

Speech Evaluator: The speech evaluator's task is to provide honest reaction to the speech, in a constructive manner. The evaluator is not a judge, nor an authority on speaking; the evaluator should relate their own reaction to the speech and state their opinion. The evaluator will comment on the speaker's strengths and make one or two suggestions that should help the speaker improve for the next speech. The conclusion of the evaluation should be positive and encouraging.

Grammarian: The Grammarian's role is to listen for any interesting words used during the meeting and with the assistance of the Club's dictionary, reads out the correct

meaning of the word during the report. The Grammarian also listens for incorrect pronunciations, poorly enunciated words, incorrect grammatical forms, poor selection and use of words and the use of clichés.

Timer: The Timer records all times and the timer's report includes the scheduled start and finish times of each segment and the actual times.

Umm & Ahh Counter: The role of the Umm & Ahh Counter is to listen carefully for filler words or sounds, such as 'umm', 'ah' and 'er' and provide a report nominating those who used these sounds.

Listening Critic: The Listening Critic listens carefully to everything that is said during the meeting and to prepare questions about something someone said or did. The aim is to test everyone's listening skills and have some fun.

Point of View: Time permitting, the Point of View is an opportunity for a short, persuasive/emotional speech and to encourage interaction and impromptu speaking.

Guest's feedback: At the end of the meeting, all guests are invited to make a comment on their experience of the meeting.

... see the January 2018 SPEAK UP for more meeting roles

Find the complete Assignment Guide on the Members page of the Miranda Toastmasters website, www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au.



What's on

March

- 6 March Meeting at Sutherland
- 19 March Area 23 International Speech & Evaluation Contests at Engadine
- 20 March Meeting at Sutherland
- 28 March Speechcraft Graduation – all welcome
- 30 March Good Friday

April

- 2 April Easter Monday
- 3 April Meeting at Sutherland
- 17 April Hartoonian Autumn Award

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

Next Speechcraft Course

Next 8 week public speaking course starts Wednesday, 6 June 2018

To register contact:

Contact Mike Smith

M: 0411 173 290

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

To register: [Download Rego form](#)

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.

Hartoonian Autumn Award
 Tuesday 17 April 2018
 6.45pm for 7.00pm start

What is the Hartoonian Autumn Award?
 The Hartoonian Autumn Award is named in honour of former long standing Miranda Toastmasters' member, Garo Hartoonian.
 Garo, a Distinguished Toastmaster, was a member of our club for 20 years. He was a very generous and friendly person who was a stickler for procedure. He also thought it was important for members to give speeches from the TM Manuals to assist their progression through the Communication Pathway. Sadly, the club lost Garo to cancer in 2005.
 Garo's great contribution to our club is remembered through the annual Hartoonian Autumn Award and Hartoonian Spring Award. These events are a 10 speech night, giving members an opportunity to deliver a manual speech. Be sure to nominate for a speaking spot to progress through your manual.

To register as one of the 10 speakers - contact John Paterson
 E: patcon4@me.com

Miranda Toastmasters
 Where: Club East, 7 East Parade Sutherland
 RSVP: inquiries@miranda-toastmasters.org.au
 Call: 0418 969 481
 W: www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au

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: Jill Brookfield
pr.officer@miranda-toastmasters.org.au

T: 0431 082 259

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