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July-August 2024

# From the President

## My First Two Months as President of Toastmasters: A Journey of Learning, Support, and Growth

**Cathy Goodwin**

President - Miranda Toastmasters Club

Taking on the role of president in Toastmasters has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. The first two months have been especially significant, as we have been laying the foundation for the club's success while learning the ropes of leadership. Here's a reflection on my journey so far, the support I've received, and the growth I've experienced.

### 1. Laying the Groundwork: Understanding My Responsibilities

In the first few weeks, I focused on understanding the full scope of my responsibilities as president. From leading meetings to making sure members' educational needs are met, it quickly became clear that our club is and always will be a great place to learn.

One of my early priorities was reviewing the club's Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goals and setting targets for the year. Working with our executive committee, we began planning how to boost member recruitment, retention, and engagement. It's been a team effort to ensure that we're all aligned and working toward the same objectives.

### 2. Learning Through Experience and Mentorship

No matter how much experience I've had in Toastmasters before, being president has introduced me to new challenges. I'm learning through experience, which has been both daunting and exciting. Thankfully, I haven't been on this journey alone. Toastmasters is built on mentorship, and I've received tremendous support from past club presidents, as well as other experienced members, who've shared their advice and best practices with me.

I've also leaned on district-level officers like area and division directors. They've been great resources, helping me navigate leadership challenges and providing useful tools for running effective meetings and growing the club. Attending district meetings and training sessions has been invaluable in accelerating my learning.

### **3. Building Strong Relationships: The Power of Teamwork**

One of the most rewarding parts of this role has been building stronger relationships within the club. The first two months have been all about setting the tone for collaboration and creating a culture of teamwork. I've realized quickly that success as president isn't about doing everything myself – it's about empowering others.

I've worked closely with the executive committee, delegating tasks and giving everyone a chance to take on leadership roles. By involving more people and encouraging their contributions, we've fostered a sense of ownership and pride in the club's success. Seeing members step up and shine in new roles has been incredibly fulfilling.

### **4. Personal Growth: Leadership Skills in Action**

Leading the club has also given me an opportunity to grow personally. During these first two months, I've been honing my communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills. There have been challenges, but I've learned to navigate them with patience and resilience.

Every situation has been a chance to improve. Whether it's planning club events, handling feedback from members, or figuring out how to keep meetings engaging, I've refined my leadership approach in real-time. Toastmasters has always been about growth, and now I'm seeing that principle in action in my role as president.

### **5. Nurturing Club Growth: Driving Member Success**

One of the most important aspects of my role is supporting the personal growth of our members. In these first two months, I've focused on making sure everyone feels encouraged and motivated to achieve their communication and leadership goals.

I've worked closely with our VP of Education to track members' progress and help them map out their next steps. Recognizing and celebrating member achievements – whether it's completing a speech project or taking on a new role during meetings – has been key to keeping people engaged. Watching members grow and improve is one of the most rewarding parts of being president.

### **6. Reflecting on the Journey: Continuing the Momentum**

As I reflect on these first two months, I see how much I've learned and grown. The role has certainly come with a steep learning curve, but it's also been incredibly fulfilling. The support I've received from my fellow members and the Toastmasters community has been invaluable, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead such a passionate group.

Moving forward, I'm excited to continue building on this foundation and working with the club to achieve even greater success. The lessons learned and the experiences gained in these first two months have set the stage for what I know will be a rewarding year ahead.

## The way forward

Serving as president of my Toastmasters club has already proven to be an incredible opportunity for growth, both for me and for the club. In these first two months, I've learned the importance of teamwork, mentorship, and resilience, and I'm eager to keep pushing forward. With the support of my members and a clear vision for the future, I'm confident that we'll achieve great things together.

Coming up .....

- AREA 2 Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest - 14 October 2024
- AREA 2 International Speech and Evaluation contest - 18th February 2025
- SOUTHERN DIVISION contests - 22 March 2025. All four contests will be held on the same day.
- Club membership renewals are now due - renew your membership now.

Reach out any time if you have any questions.

Warm regards, **Cathy**



*"Joining Toastmasters in October 2020 has been a transformative experience for me.*

*The skills and confidence I've gained through this journey have enabled me to speak publicly with poise and conviction.*

*Toastmasters has truly been a catalyst for personal and professional growth, and I'm grateful for the supportive community that has encouraged and nurtured my development as a speaker and a leader."*

**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**

**Cathy Goodwin**  
President - Miranda Toastmasters Club

**Miranda Toastmasters Club**  
Diggers Miranda RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

Meetings: 7:00pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month  
[www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au)

**JOIN US**

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## News



## Pathways

Pathways is changing.

The much anticipated new and improved Pathways is coming in October.

Pathways will be offline during October while the transition to the upgraded platform occurs.

To help ensure the smooth transition of your pathways history, you will need to have paid your membership for the next six months. Only fully paid members will be migrated to the new learning platform.

So be sure to renew now or you will lose access to Pathways for an extended time.

## Using Easy-Speak

Using EasySpeak ([easy-speak.org](http://easy-speak.org)) is essential for efficiently managing and participating in Toastmasters meetings.

This online platform allows members to sign up for roles, view upcoming agendas, and track progress in speeches and leadership projects. One of the most critical aspects of using EasySpeak is registering attendance for meetings.

By confirming your presence or absence in advance, you help the meeting organisers plan effectively, ensuring all roles are filled and the agenda runs smoothly. It also



## Time to renew

It's that time of the year to renew your membership of Toastmasters.

As you know membership fees are due every six months and the membership fee of \$90 for October-March is now due.

Please make payment before **24 September 2024** to ensure we have time to process and forward fees to Toastmasters International, and to be sure you are included in the Pathways upgrade.

EFT payment to:

Miranda Toastmasters Club

**BSB:** 062 150

**Account:** 0090 4549

**Reference:** [Your name} Sept 2024

Talk to Club Treasurer Daniel Bazzano if you have any questions.

## Contests: International Speech & Evaluation

The Toastmasters Speech Contest and Evaluation Contest are prestigious events that showcase the skills of public speakers and evaluators from around the world.

The International Speech Contest is a competition where participants deliver a 5-7 minute speech on any topic, judged on content, delivery, and impact. It's the only contest that can lead to the World Championship of Public Speaking, the highest speaking honour in Toastmasters.

shows respect for the time and effort that the VPE invests in creating a productive environment.

Confirming your attendance using EasySpeak not only contributes to the success of each meeting but also helps maintain a thriving, organised club where every member's contributions are valued and accounted for.

Let's make every meeting count. Log onto EasySpeak today to confirm your attendance and contribute to making our meetings exceptional!

The Evaluation Contest, on the other hand, tests participants' ability to provide constructive feedback. Contestants watch a test speech and then have 2-3 minutes to deliver a helpful and insightful evaluation.

This contest emphasises listening skills, analytical thinking, and the ability to communicate suggestions effectively.

Both contests are integral to Toastmasters' mission of fostering communication and leadership skills, offering members a platform to refine their abilities in a competitive yet supportive environment.

Get ready to compete in the Club's contests on Tuesday, 24 September. Winners of the Club contests will compete at the Area Contest in February 2025.

Sign up for a speaking spot at a future Club meeting

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS!**

# SPEAKERS WANTED

Time to nominate for available speaking spots at an upcoming Miranda Toastmasters meeting.

Register via [easy-speak.org](https://easy-speak.org).

**REGISTER NOW**

**Sign Up**

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## Meetings

9 July



## Winners are grinners!

It was another cold evening and we were missing a few members due to winter lurgies.

However, we welcomed three visitors - Aliya, Dylan and Aurelian.

Congratulations to the evening's winners:

**Best Speech:** Aurelian - he's still got it

**Best Evaluator:** Brian

**Best Assignment:** Pat & Alex (joint winners)

**Best Supporting Assignment:** Ilona & Joe (joint winners)

**Best TableTopic:** Kathy

23 July



## Christmas in July

Deck the halls with loads of tinsel. We celebrated the joy and stress of Christmas at this fun and festive meeting. Santa's little helpers and the 'Elf'aluators were there ... with bells on of course!

Special mentions were:

**Best 'Elf'aluator:** Mike

**Best Assignment:** Cathy

**Best Supporting Assignment:** Veronika

**Best TableTopic:** Pat

We formerly welcomed and inducted Veronika as the newest member of the Club.

Pathways certificates were awarded to:

Mike - Level 1

Dan - Level 2

Jill - Level 5

And we also welcomed guests Sam and Serge.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more photos.

13 August



27 August

## Veronika's Icebreaker

This was a different sort of meeting than normal. Member numbers were down, but visitor numbers were up.

Our youngest, and newest, member Veronika delivered her Icebreaker and she told a fascinating story about her life and how she came to Australia.

Mike delivered an educational on how to write and deliver a humorous speech.

And we welcomed guests: Sam, Claudine, Martin and Michael.



Wedding speech coming up?  
Let us help you manage those wedding speech jitters

Join us  
Visitors welcome

Calm your nerves & deliver a memorable speech ... for the right reasons

Miranda Toastmasters Club  
Diggers Miranda RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda  
Meetings: 7:00pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month  
www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au



## Club Contests

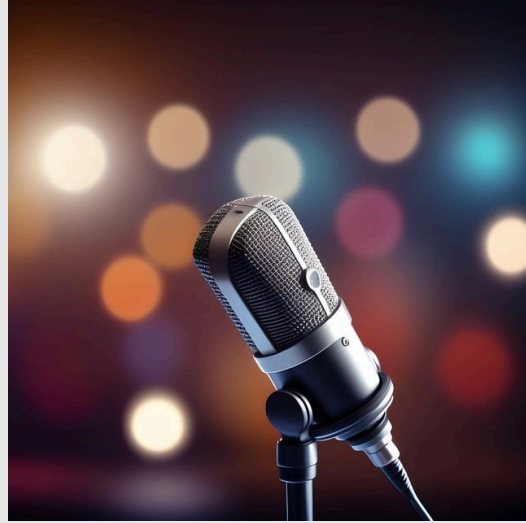
Congratulations to our contest winners Pat & Teresa.

Pat took out first place in the Humorous Speech Contest and Teresa was the winner of the TableTopics Contest. They will both represent our Club at the Area 2 contests in October.

We welcomed eight visitors at this meeting: Kyah, Monica, Sarah, Myroslav, Vithja, Claudine, Tyler and Nathan.

A few of the first-time guests had a go answering the TableTopics question after the contest. It's not easy standing up and speaking for the first time. Congratulations on taking that first step!

# Crafting Compelling Conclusions: Ending with Impact



A strong conclusion is the cherry on top of a well-crafted speech. It's your final chance to leave a lasting impression on your audience, so make it count!

Whether it's a poignant quote, a call to action, or a powerful summary, your closing words should echo long after you've stepped down.

Remember, your conclusion is not just the end of your speech; it's the beginning of the audience's reflection.

Spend some time on sharpening your conclusion skills and leave your audience wanting more!

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## Did you know?

Toastmasters is a great investment in yourself.  
For less than the cost of one small coffee per week, membership  
of Toastmasters can change your life.  
It will raise your confidence in public speaking  
and elevate your leadership skills.  
270,000 members around the world can't be wrong.  
Come along and see for yourself.

## Visitors

### We love having visitors

If you've ever wondered what happens at Toastmasters, come along and check it out. We're a friendly, supportive group of people who want to improve our presentation and public speaking.





**GAIN CONFIDENCE  
IN PUBLIC SPEAKING**

With Miranda Toastmasters Club

**Practical experience**  
**Build skills**  
**Overcome fears**  
**Visitors welcome**

 Meeting 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month

 7:00PM

 Diggers Miranda RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

[www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au)

Contact us to attend a meeting

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# What's on

## Club meetings

### September

- 10 September - Speeches & TableTopics
- 24 September - Hartoonian Spring Award

### October

- 8 October - Speeches & TableTopics
- 22 October - Hartoonian Spring Award

### November

- 12 November - International Speech & Evaluations Contests
- 26 November - Speeches & TableTopics

### December

- 10 December - Christmas Party



**HARTOONIAN  
SPRING AWARD**

10 speeches in one night!  
Tuesday, 24 September 2024  
6:45pm for 7:00pm start

Miranda Toastmasters  
Miranda Diggers RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda



**INTERNATIONAL SPEECH +  
EVALUATION CONTESTS**

Winners will compete at the Area contests  
Tuesday, 12 November 2024  
6:45pm for 7:00pm start

Miranda Toastmasters  
Miranda Diggers RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

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# Area & Division Contests

**14 October 2024** - Area 2 Humorous Speech & TableTopics Contests

Venue: Tradies Caringbah, 28-39 Banksia Road, Caringbah

**18 February 2025** - Arqa 2 International Speech & Evaluation Contests

Details to come

**22 March 2025** - Southern Division Contests - Humorous Speech, TableTopics,

International Speech & Evaluation Contests

Details to come

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## Speechcraft

Speechcraft is a short course teaching public speaking skills, which will help to build self-confidence. Our Speechcraft courses are a supportive, face-to-face course.

The next 8 week Speechcraft course starts in 10 February 2025.

[Learn more about Speechcraft](#)



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## Club mentoring

Miranda Toastmasters hosts a group mentoring session on the 3rd Saturday of each month. It's intended to be an informal get-together to socialise, and talk about anything and everything. Everyone is welcome.

A promotional graphic for a 'Group Mentoring Morning Tea' event. The background shows a close-up of various pastries like muffins and cookies. Text elements include: 'GROUP MENTORING MORNING TEA', 'YOU'RE INVITED', 'JOIN US', 'Join members of Miranda Toastmasters for a group mentoring catch up on Saturday, 21 September from 10.30am. Come along for a drink or bite to eat, and a chat. All welcome.', '21 SEPTEMBER 2024', 'At 10:30am | 615 Brasserie Diggers Miranda RSL', and 'Group mentoring - 3rd Saturday every month'.

## Other news

### 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](http://www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au)

Meetings held 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
7.00pm - 9.30pm (arrive 6.45)  
at Diggers Miranda RSL, 615 Kingsway

#### MIRANDA TOASTMASTERS

Club 3554 - Area 2 - District 70

Meetings held 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
7.00pm - 9.30pm (arrive 6.45)

at Diggers Miranda RSL, 615 Kingsway

SPEAK UP Newsletter by  
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