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January-February 2025

From the President

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and are feeling refreshed after the summer break.

It's great to be back together, and I'm excited for what's ahead in the coming months.



First, a huge congratulations to our club contestants, Teresa O'Byrne (last minute stand in for Joseph Duffey) and Pat Cranney who participated in the recent Area 2 competition for Evaluations and International Speeches.

Your dedication and effort truly showcase the strength of our club, and we're all proud of you! A big thank you to the members who came along in support of our club competitors. The cheering was excellent and fun from the back rows, according to TM Monica, we need a war cry – all suggestions are welcome 😊

I'd also like to encourage all members, new and existing, to take full advantage of our monthly mentoring sessions. These sessions are a great opportunity to refine your skills, gain valuable insights, and build confidence. If you haven't attended yet, I highly recommend coming along.

Looking ahead, we have our upcoming executive elections at the first meeting in May. This is an important part of keeping our club strong and running smoothly. If you're interested in stepping into a leadership role, now is the time to start thinking about how you'd like to contribute, we will be happy to offer informal apprenticeships to help you understand the requirements of each role.

A massive thank you to our current executive team for their dedication and hard work in running the club. Special appreciation goes to Jill for her ongoing support as Immediate Past President and continued promotion of the club as VPPR keeping our socials up to date and pulling together this newsletter. To Mike, for his unmatched skills in running our Speechcraft courses. To Joe for stepping into the VPE role with such short notice. Teresa, Daniel, and Kathy have all held their positions for successive years, which is true commitment!

On the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) front, we are so close to achieving our 10 out of 10 goal! We only need four new members to hit the target—let's make it happen!

Finally, I just want to say how much I love our meetings and hearing everyone speak. I'm always learning, and I hope all our members feel the same. Toastmasters is about growth, confidence, and connection, and I'm grateful to be part of such a fantastic club. Jump onto Easy Speak and request your speech now, after all, being a Toastmaster is about the ongoing practice of public speaking.

Miranda Toastmasters has a strong 60+ years history of great success, attracting and retaining members. Through our conscious awareness that Toastmasters has helped so many people in so many ways, we strive to give back.

I will close with two questions:

How has Miranda Toastmasters helped you?

How can you give back?

Warm regards, **Cathy**

Club elections

Why club officer roles matter

Serving as a club officer is a great opportunity to develop leadership skills, contribute to your club's success, and support fellow members on their public speaking journey.

Whether you're looking to challenge yourself, grow professionally, or give back to the Miranda Toastmasters community, stepping into a leadership role is a powerful way to achieve it.

Toastmasters club officers play a crucial role in ensuring smooth operations, an engaging meeting experience, and the success of members.

These volunteer leaders help keep the club running efficiently by managing everything from meetings to mentorship, administration, and growth.

[Click here](#) to read more about the different roles.

[Read more](#) 

Latest news



It's time to renew your membership

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 \$99 for April-September is now due.

Note we have had a slight increase in fees to cover currency conversion rates.

Please make payment before **24 March 2025** to ensure we have time to process and forward fees to Toastmasters International.

Membership equates to \$16.50 per month, which is a small price to pay considering the immense benefits it brings to our skills and confidence.

EFT payment to:

Miranda Toastmasters Club

BSB: 062 150

Account: 0090 4549

Reference: [Your name} March 2025

Talk to Club Treasurer Daniel if you have any questions.

Membership equates to \$16.50 per month, which is a small price to pay considering the immense benefits belonging to Toastmasters brings to our public speaking skills and confidence.

DCP Progress

Our Club is tracking well on the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) and has now achieved nine out of 10 goals, giving us President's Distinguished status.

This is a great achievement, and the result of a tremendous effort by our members. Congratulations!

Miranda Toastmasters has achieved 10 out of 10 goals for 13 years in a row and we are only one goal away from reaching this milestone for an impressive 14th year.

00003554 Miranda Toastmasters Club			
Club Alignment	Membership		Goals
Region 12	Base 28	To Date 26	Goals Met 9
District 70	Required 20		Distinguished 5
Division S	20 members or a net growth of 3 new members		Select Distinguished 7
Area 02	Chartered 12/01/1962		President's Distinguished 9

Goals to Achieve		Goal	To Date	Status
Education				
1	Level 1 awards	4	5	✓
2	Level 2 awards	2	2	✓
3	More Level 2 awards	2	2	✓
4	Level 3 awards	2	2	✓
5	Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award	1	1	✓
6	One more Level 4, Level 5, or DTM award	1	1	✓
Membership				
7	New members	4	4	✓
8	More new members	4	0	4 New Members needed
Training				
9	Club officers trained June-August	4	4	✓
	Club officers trained November-February	4	5	
Administration				
10	Membership-renewal dues on time	Y	1	✓
	Club officer list on time	Y	1	

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Meetings

11 February



Meeting #1403

Meeting #1403 was our first meeting for 2025.

25 February



Meeting #1404

Our second meeting for the year and we had a full house.

The were fewer members in attendance than usual, but what we lacked in quantity, we made up for in enthusiasm! We each took on multiple meeting roles and had fun doing it.

We welcomed four visitors - Andrea, Cristiano, Harrison and Payam.

Results

Best Speech: Pat
Best Evaluator: Jill
Best Assignment: Teresa
Best Supporting Assignment: Adam
Best TableTopic: Harrison

We welcomed four new visitors: Olena, Claudia, Jade and Ethan.

Certificates were handed out to celebrate completion of Pathways levels to:

Kathy: Levels 1 & 2
Brian: Levels 1 & 2
Cathy: Level 4

Results

Best Speech: Joe
Best Evaluator: Richard
Best Assignment: Cathy
Best Supporting Assignment: Jill
Best TableTopic: Kathy

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Meet the members



Yvonne Chen

Meet Yvonne, another new member, joining us after undertaking the Speechcraft course. Read why Yvonne decided to join Toastmasters and what she hopes to achieve.

Q. What inspired you to join Toastmasters?

To get out of my comfort zone and improve my public speaking skills.

Q. What do you hope to achieve through Toastmasters?

To become more confident and improve my public speaking and storytelling skills

Q. Is there a particular type of speech or presentation you're excited (or nervous!) to give?

Impromptu or humorous.

Q. How do you currently feel about public speaking, and how do you hope that will change over time?

I am getting better but still feel that there are big rooms for improvement.

Q. What's one skill, besides public speaking, that you hope to develop through Toastmasters?

Listening and evaluating.

Q. If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Analytical, introvert, easy going.

Q. Why did you choose those words?

They represent my personality.

Q. What's one thing you're passionate about outside of public speaking, and how does it influence your daily life?

Planting. I started planting a few months ago and felt it is very relaxing and fun. It gives me sense of achievement when I see flower or fruit grows.

Q. If you could switch careers for a day, what job would you choose and what do you think you'd learn from it?

I would like to be a vet. It was a dream when I was kid. I don't want to learn a specific thing from it but just want to experience it.

Q. Where's one place you've traveled to (or dream of traveling to) that had a lasting impact on you, and why?

Japan. Japanese strive for perfectionism is really impressive. It reminds me patience, the importance of valuing process over outcome and finding beauty in the smallest details.

We'll introduce more members in future editions of this newsletter.

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A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a red and white striped headband and a plaid shirt, is shouting into a red and white megaphone. The background is a vibrant red with a large yellow starburst shape behind her. To the right, there is a white starburst shape with a yellow dotted pattern, resembling a comic book explosion. In the top left corner, the Toastmasters International logo is visible, featuring a globe and the text 'TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL' and 'WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE'.

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL
WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

At Toastmasters, we turn
shaky knees into strong voices.
No matter your starting point,
we're here to help you
grow, improve,
and even enjoy it.
(Yes, really!)

Miranda Toastmasters www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au

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Visitors

We love having visitors

We're a friendly, supportive group of people who want to improve our presentation and public speaking.

Join us
Visitors
welcome

Experience a fun, lively and
entertaining learning atmosphere

Enjoy dynamic meetings
filled with engaging activities

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

Contact us to attend a meeting

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What's on

Club meetings

March

- 11 March- Speeches & Table Topics
- 25 March - Tall Tales & Master of the Speech Contests

April

- 8 April - Speeches & Table Topics
- 22 April - Hartoonian Autumn Award

**TALL TALES +
MASTER OF THE TOAST
CONTESTS**
Tuesday, 25 March 2025
6:45pm for 7:00pm start
Miranda Toastmasters
Miranda Diggers RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

**HARTOONIAN
AUTUMN AWARD**
10 speeches in one night!
Tuesday, 22 April 2025
6:45pm for 7:00pm start
Miranda Toastmasters
Miranda Diggers RSL, 615 Kingsway, Miranda

Speechcraft

The next Speechcraft course runs August-September 2025. [Click here](#) to learn more about the course.

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Area & Division Contests

18 February 2025 - Area 2 International Speech & Evaluation Contests

These contests were hosted by Menai District Toastmasters. Miranda Toastmasters contestants were Pat (International Speech) and Teresa (Evaluation).

Both Pat and Teresa were amazing but Toastmasters from other clubs outperformed on the night. Congratulations to both for competing and representing our club so well.

22 March 2025 (Saturday) - Southern Division Contests - Humorous Speech, TableTopics, International Speech & Evaluation Contests

Venue: Woonona Bulli RSL Club, 455-459 Princes Highway, Woonona

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Hosted by: Northern Illawarra

Pathways training - District 70

District 70 is hosting training sessions on Pathways:

- [Beginners Workshop](#): Monday 10 March & Wednesday 9 April
- [Make Pathways Work for You](#): Monday 17 March & Wednesday 23 April

To register, click on session name above. For more information, check out the details below.

TOASTMASTERS
PATHWAYS
— learning experience —
Made easy!



BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

**ONLINE
WORKSHOP**

**EXPERT
INSTRUCTION**

**KICK START
YOUR YEAR**


Mark your Diary:
Monday March 10
Wednesday April 9



Lead by D70
Pathways Lead
Val Wilkinson

Presented by Toastmasters District 70
REGISTER HERE:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZPD>
Information: pathways@toastmastersD70.org

TOASTMASTERS
PATHWAYS
— learning experience —
Made easy!




**MAKE PATHWAYS
WORK FOR YOU**

**ONLINE
WORKSHOP**

**EXPERT
INSTRUCTION**

**KICK START
YOUR YEAR**

Mark your Diary:
Monday March 17
Wednesday April 23



Lead by D70
Pathways Lead
Val Wilkinson

Presented by Toastmasters District 70
REGISTER HERE:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZPD>
Information: pathways@toastmastersD70.org

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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.

Next course starts in August 2025.

[Learn more about Speechcraft](#)



Develop your leadership skills with Miranda Toastmasters. Join us and learn how to lead with confidence

Develop leadership skills

Join us

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



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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.

The next session will be Saturday, 15 March, 2025.

Miranda Toastmasters, group mentoring



Join members of Miranda Toastmasters for a group mentoring catch up. Come along for a drink or bite to eat, and a chat.

From 10:30am | 615 Brasserie, Diggers Miranda RSL

15 March 2025

www.miranda-toastmasters.org.au

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Other news



Actions to take

Log onto [Easy-Speak](#) regularly to:

- Register for a meeting
- Sign up for a speech



Read

Check out the [Toastmasters International Magazine](#). it's full of great articles, inspiring stories and tips and tricks for becoming a better speaker



Good to know

The [Miranda Toastmaster's website](#) has a member-only area where you can find information specific to our club. Contact Jill for a password.

Club mission



Find us

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.



Web: 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
Miranda Toastmasters

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