



Hello! We are pleased you have visited our club to look at Toastmasters. This first visit will likely be somewhat overwhelming. Remember that everyone in this room once visited a club for the first time; we understand what it's like. We have a mix of members in the room, from professional speakers to those just starting to gain some confidence in front of a group; and everything in between. They have all benefited so much and so will you.

If this is your first time at a Toastmasters club you likely won't understand everything that happens during our meeting. You're probably here just to see what it's like. If you have any questions, feel free to ask the member sitting next to you or have a chat to someone in the break or at the end. Everyone is happy to help!

So What's Going On At The Meeting?

Each member is working through their individual educational path; a series of projects and speeches. You'll see 3-4 members present a prepared speech, and a few others in supporting roles. Everyone here is a paying member, volunteer and learning. Every member has the chance to speak at every meeting. You too will be invited to participate but do not feel obliged, scared or embarrassed. You can just relax and enjoy yourself, but while you're here and in a safe place, why not have a go?

Toastmaster

The Toastmaster is like an MC; responsible for conducting the entire program, including introducing speakers and segments.

Speakers

A major portion of each meeting is centred around prepared speeches. These speeches are based on the individuals' project which provides guidance and objectives, and usually last from 5 to 7 minutes.

Evaluators

Each speech is evaluated by another member who gives feedback to the speaker. They are encouraging, honest and helpful, while letting the speaker know what their strengths and opportunities are.

Table Topics

6-8 members are chosen at random to give a 2-minute impromptu speech on various subjects, usually aligned with the meeting theme. This teaches fast thinking and expressing your thoughts concisely.

Timer

Responsible for keeping track of time, as each segment is timed. One of the lessons in speech training is expressing a thought in a given time.

Business Segment

Occasionally we will have a more formal business session, to make a change to the club, or induct a member.



Contests

Various contests are held at club level each year. The winners have the opportunity to compete against other clubs in our local area and onwards through levels up to the International Convention. If you're in the club around August or September, you'll likely get to see what these contests are like.

Communication and Leadership Skills

The mission of our club is to provide supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

And it all happens here, at the meetings each fortnight. You'll also receive access to an online learning program (called Pathways). The program steps you through projects that build in complexity, build skills, and apply what you've learned.

Members also have the opportunity and obligation to perform various roles at the club meetings that ensure the meetings run smoothly and further build your skills. You'll have noticed the evaluators, timer, Toastmaster (MC) and Topicsmaster – but don't stress, you'll get the easier roles to begin with to build your confidence.

When and Where We Meet

We meet in the evening of the first and third Thursday each month the Rochedale Community Hall (28 Farmers St, Rochedale), just behind Coles. We suggest arriving at 6:45 as the meeting begins at 7.00pm sharp. During the evening we break for a snack, tea & coffee and then finish at 9.00 pm.

Each meeting follows a similar structure, but offers a unique experience with members' roles changing each time. You'll see different people at each meeting presenting something a bit different and hearing the feedback for all. What does not change is the support, camaraderie and friendship within the group. We can guarantee you will have fun at Downunder Toastmasters. We do.

Expectations of Membership

Downunder Toastmasters offers all that you've seen tonight and read here. The support of the group around you, and being among people who are also keen on their own and others personal development. When you join, understand it is a commitment to yourself and those around you. You should endeavour to come to as many of the fortnightly meetings as possible; put them in your calendar. Though, we understand sometimes life happens. And we know it'll take a year to see real progress in your skills, confidence and progress. Though of course, you can stay a member as long as you wish (we have members who have been here 20+ years!)

How Much Does It Cost?

Please find our current schedule of fees. This covers all costs for members, and any excess funds are put toward the education of club members.

How Do I Join as a Member?



If you need time, go for it; feel free to visit another meeting or two before making a decision. There's no pressure but we know most folks know on their second visit. When you decide to become a member, you will be offered a mentor to assist you in speeches, meeting roles and all your questions. You will not be forced to speak before you are ready, and any particular needs can be addressed you want in speaking and leadership.

When you wish to join, you'll find out Membership Application. Fill that out and along with payment of fees, you'll be in. Have a chat to our VP Membership if you need a hand. Soon after that, you'll be formally inducted into the club, scheduled for your first meeting roles, and your first speech within 6 weeks.

You've come here out of curiosity, to improve your speaking skills or build confidence in front of a group. The good news is, we know you're in the right place. Please do visit us again before you commit, so you can be sure this is the place for you. We would love to have you!

Visit our website at downunder.toastmastersclubs.org
Find us on Facebook as [Downunder Toastmasters Club](#)