

My two young Devonians Antonia (23) and Jay (27), who are living in Neutral Bay and are friends of my younger daughter, had no idea what to expect when Jeremy delivered them to HH yesterday.

We bagged two good seats for them at the back with a good view of the stage. But they later moved up to accommodate an old lady who turned up a bit late.

They loved the show but wanted to disappear after Antonia found herself volunteered for Schnitzelbank, fearful she would have to sing and in German. I literally had to order her to go up to Hil and do it.

So another time we mustn't make it too scary and explain there is no singing or speaking involved.

An unmarried lady and her elderly dad, were also there because of me. She came last week, I had met her at a party the night before and told her about HH. She came up to me before we started just as I was looking after Antonia and Jay – who were very impressed with HH. I asked after her dad and she said he was crying as they had only recently lost mum.

Just then Wayne was passing by, and some dotty woman rushed up to him gushing "Hello Wayne, you remember me, from Facebook, you know its . . . (forget her name), I am so glad to see you (or something like that)". Wayne was a bit taken back, and embarrassed and said he hadn't looked at his Facebook for ages and managed to disentangle himself from what looked like a pretty hot blonde.

Then just after we started up, I saw a couple in the kitchen smiling at me, and realised I had forgotten they were coming too.

I kid you not, it's quite a responsibility having friends come, especially when, one they don't know anybody, two, know what to expect and three don't know the others I have asked, and worse still when they come late and are peering in from the kitchen because you forgot to tell come early and book a seat.

Anyway at half time, I had to rush about speaking to them all. The ones in the kitchen (very senior Toastmasters) were smiling away and looked happy, and said because it was a free concert (Margaret lives in Queenscliffe and passes HH daily), they thought there wouldn't be many there and so hadn't turned up too early. Margaret said something about it hadn't said to book on the flier, but I thought I had said to book, so perhaps we should make sure it says "booking only" or something for HH.

They said when they arrived it said "Sold Out", but the nice lady at the front had let them in as they said they knew one of the performers. I was really worried they would leave after half time so got John Macrae (another Aussie) to chat to them while I found the young Devonians and made sure they had not wandered off in search of a beer. I was very relieved the TMs then had good seats in the kitchen and I could see them smiling away all through the

show. Tony is a particularly senior Toastmaster having held Govern ship posts, so I was glad they stayed and smiled, I did not manage to speak to them afterwards.

I saw the sad old man's eyes shining once Dave got going with his trumpet, and from then on his head came up and he watched us all with a curious intent. By Tuxedo Junction he was beaming. I managed to get down and hold his hand as we finished and before the photo shot, and he clung to it in gratitude and thanked me twice. This must surely be what LW does best, and his daughter had done the right thing on their first Mothers Day alone without the mother, bring him to LW.

I took the young Devonians out to my car, and Jay who works for BMW was in disbelief when he found me parked next to Wayne's. "Whose is that?", he asked. Just guess. And Antonia got it first time. The found Wayne fascinating and Antonia who is a primary school teacher already knew about him as the old lady who sat next to her, is one of Wayne's neighbours, and filled Antonia in on him.

Back at home with me, they were full of praise and enthusiasm for the show. They pounced on the book "Rude UK" which Gail had given me the day before, wanting to find rude ones in Devon, and where was Crapp Lane which was in their own village. Antonia told me about the potty woman who had collared Wayne earlier and who sat behind her, who made a running commentary throughout, exclaiming loudly, "Oh I love this one" and was very put out she could not make the Frenchs Forest show. She was the one who grabbed Wayne at the end.

Antonia and Jay wanted to know about Wayne's "wife", intrigued by the two of them, and couldn't believe it was little Gial as she looked "so young" and could not believe she had celebrated her fiftieth the day before.. They loved the dancing and costumes. And the instruments (Antonia plays the piano and sings). She said that when David sang "Wind beneath my wings" she wanted to cry as it so reminded her of her "granddad". The really loved Eric who I had introduced them to briefly before.

Jay doesn't say much, but let it slip that he had thoroughly enjoyed himself. We were looking at the programme later and Jay asked about the pictures, he also asked why it did not list all the items as they occurred, so I had to explain the ones on the programme were for the audience to join in on, tho I think Wayne tells them that himself at the beginning.

Well Done LW, but I do advise others, to make sure you spread your visitors out between shows if you can.

I am chuffed the senior Toastmasters came and obviously enjoyed themselves, a real accolade. I think that is all I have to report, sorry its long winded but wanted to give a full account as info.

Kate