

# The story of Daniel Gartner

HI! My name is Daniel Gartner, I was born on April 14 1993, I'm 13 years old & live in Adelaide, South Australia. I have stuttered since I was about 2 years old & it has lead to bullying & people disliking & judging me. I have also been to speech pathologists & it has been an absolute waste of time & has cost my family about \$4000 which is absolutely terrible. My school grades & activities have been held back by my horrible stuttering. Sure I do have friends that are friendly & support me in everything I do but up until the end of my final year at primary school I still had that putrid stutter. So back in about, September 2006 I was watching a TV show & suddenly this "How to cure stuttering in 3 days." Popped up & I thought "sure. That's impossible" but I chose to watch it & the first thing I saw were people stuttering horribly. Then later on I saw Dave McGuire talk about what the main cause of stuttering is. Then I saw Geoff Johnston who talked about the programme. I thought "this is amazing but I'm too young". Then I thought to myself "I'll push & push & push to do this course no matter what it takes". So my dad phoned Geoff Johnston & Geoff phoned Dave McGuire. Dave McGuire wasn't so sure of letting me do the course or not & I don't blame him. The course could have wore me through & I probably would have fainted & spread the news that it's so tiring & don't do it! NOT ME!!! So I got the McGuire Information DVD to see a bit more about the course. Then I said to myself "I'M DOING THE COURSE YES" so then I waited until late October to start getting ready for the course in Melbourne. October 25. I walked into the Victoria Hotel function room, & I was as nervous as ever. Then I took a seat next to my parents & Russell Morgan who would soon become my friend. Geoff talked for about an hour about the course. Then came the horrid first day interviews. Soon they called out "can we please have the other young person, you Daniel". I walked up there literally shaking & sweating & nearly collapsing. THAT'S HOW NERVOUS I WAS. Soon the freighting interview was over. & I sat back down still shaking & sweating. Then came Thursday, the most intense day of the course. We did coastal breathing for several hours before having a break. We then all stood up & said our names on a breath & suddenly "DANIEL GARTNER" just came out of my mouth. I could not believe it. I then volunteered to say my name again & "DANIEL GARTNER" just came out again. That night in my hotel room I spoke to my parents using the McGuire technique for the very first time. I felt different, but I wasn't even 5% recovered (no where near recovered). Then came another great test Friday. This would be a little test of my confidence & my technique. Then we continued coastal

breathing just to get into the swing of it & then started learning about "The road to Eloquence" I was fascinated. We walked out of the Victoria Hotel & into the Main Street of Melbourne, where for the first time ever I ordered my own lunch. Later we came back to the Hotel & Ray Welchman asked us to tell him what a manipulator was & I shoot up like a rocket & everyone looked at me. Then I said "a manipulator is a person who controls someone" Ray said "spot on" & everyone clapped. Later we had to say our names again & so everyone could see me, because I'm pretty short for a 13 year old, I stood on my chair & then everyone laughed in happiness. Soon after that we went out for contacts on the street & I was paired with Matt, Roger, Danny & Peter. I loved it & although I wasn't meant to make contacts I still made about 6 or 7 contacts near the end. It was also to make me feel a bit of what it's like to make contacts the next day. Then before you know it the big day came. Saturday. Not only did I have to make contacts in the street I also had to make a speech in front of a packed Federation Square. The day again started with the coastal breathing & the names, but also a new activity. We had to stand up & read part of a book which felt like we were teachers just reading out parts of a book to other people. Soon came the moment of truth. We all walked down to Federation Square & started to get ready to make our speeches. I was the fourth person to make my speech & It was pretty emotional to make a speech in front of nearly 150 people & to actually not embarrass myself by stuttering. It was great. After my speech people started to praise me for how well I did. Straight after the speeches we made our contacts & I ordered my lunch for the second day in a row. I went into CD shops, Sports shops & mainly busy street areas to make my contacts. Altogether I made 30 contacts but I could have made more, but all in all I was very happy with what I did. After contacts we went back to the Hotel & all got commented about our speeches in Federation Square. Sunday was probably the most emotional day because I was leaving the place & some of the people who have helped me through the whole four days. Today was also my Grandmas birthday which made it even happier. We read the book to start the day & said our names another five times during the day. Then came the final speeches which I was the fourth person again to speak. In my speech I thanked my parents, Geoff & especially Dave McGuire for allowing me to do the course. On my return to Adelaide I got back to school with amazing support from my friends & my teacher. & to prove it I got an amazing four B's! in my report. I was over the moon. Barely a week later I got my McGuire DVD & saw just how much the course had changed my life. It also changed the way I look at everyday life. At school I ask way more

questions than before & show off my work to the teacher & others. I have also just started a new phase of my life at high school & next year the principal at my old school is going to get Geoff Johnston to come in & teach kids how to conquer your fears & speak in public. Since the course I have been involved with toastmasters & have just joined the More Than Words Toastmasters club in Adelaide. I'm not recovered yet but I will continue to work like a robot & keep walking up the stairway to Eloquence. Stuttering is an absolute pain but we can defeat it!

**SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT THE MAGIC MCGUIRE PROGRAMME!**

Special thanks to:

Geoff Johnston, Dave McGuire, & my parents Kevin & Tracey