

THE PARRA-NATTA

VOLUME 45 :: ISSUE 1

www.parramattatm.org.au

MEETING 1181 :: 23 JUNE 2011

Change-over

What a great attendance – we certainly decked the hall with lots of people.

Elizabeth Wilson our Master of Ceremonies took us through a countdown to the Changeover happening – it was a great “Blast Off”.

Inspirational by Joan Abela, she talked about her first ever table topic, and told us to look to the new executive for inspiration

Ian Chick did a wonderful Toast, to the Parramatta Toastmasters Club and it's members. Ian mentioned that we used to be one of the top 10 clubs in the world but Toastmaster's don't do that anymore – more's the pity as we would certainly be up in the top 5 clubs.

The Mini Business Session – Kirsten Linklater, perhaps broke record for the shortest ever business session.

Great table topics by Gary Wilson – three mini debates, some very strong arguments from Victor, some very LOUD arguments from John Nichols, two wins to the 'negative' teams, and the last one was a tie. Very entertaining and lots of fun.

There were awards for high attendance – three people attained 100% attendance, they were Wendy Neilsen, David Griffiths and Suben Subenthiran.

The Ray Shina Timers award, strong competition, but Michael Said came out on top – this is the third time he's won the award – he won it this time for taking 11 years to get his Advanced Communicator Gold – oh well, remember the story of the Hare and the Tortoise!

We also had two great speakers:

Christine Pizutti – about change, personal experience of change, inspirational suggestions to look to nature for inspiration and courage to change – “What are the consequences of not changing –once this is understood then you will change”.

Sue Haynes – also talked about change, mainly in Toastmasters club, including the global TM rebranding. She said people don't accept change easily, and that she is an ambassador for the rebranding and used this speech to evangelise the rebranding. She also talked about the impact she had on someone's life, a lady called Sadie who is the VPE of a club in Civic, Canberra.

Our lovely and vivacious Krishna T was very shocked and moved to be awarded the “Most Improved TM of the year” – well done Kirisha.

Toastmaster of the year was awarded to the very humble Sam Ekinci – congratulations Sam, well deserved.

A little bit of tradition too, with the 'passing of the banner' – David Griffiths and Lyndall Eager rolled it up, then passed it to Sam Ekinci and Christine Pizutti, who unrolled it and rehung it. There was of trouble with rolling it straight!



Ready for action – Parramatta's new executive.

CC MANUAL'S – several people finished their manuals – Melanie Wilson, Barbara Beveridge, Ferdi Oosterhoff

Wendy received her Bronze, with Ferdie, Lyndal, Ron, Joan, Sueben, Ian and John Taylor moving all moving up.



Master of Ceremonies – Elizabeth Wilson leads us through the evening

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Full House

Of 57 total Parramatta Toastmasters, active plus inactive, we had 38 present! We had 20 guests and visitors. There was a FULL HOUSE!

Not one spare seat! Our head table guests were:

Steve Thompson, Area13 Governor, Jodi Robertson, incoming Area 13 Governor, Sue Haynes, DTM, Regional 12 Marketing Advisor, and keynote speaker for our event! Philip Bendeich, DTM, current District 70 Governor, who conducted the executive changeover formalities and Ron Marriott, ACG, Western Division Governor. Special thanks should go to our dedicated and all round nice guy, soundman extraordinaire, Bernie Fisher.

The atmosphere of the evening was light and ran with seamless smooth transitions even with hiccups like Larfmaster, Mercenaries Jayanathan being m.i.a. After the break. He was out at the bar indulging in a "cup of courage" in the form of a refreshing ale! Perennial visitor, Daniel Tucker, DTM, past Phillip Division Governor and Lyndal Eager's better half, lead the charge of several better halves present on the night. Kate's man Matt, Santa Tom's wife Bev, Linda Snalam's partner Tone, and incoming President, Sam Ekinci's special guests, Dale and Debbie Riggers were all enjoying themselves. Several recent speechcraft graduates enjoyed being part of Parramatta "putting on the ritz" including: Paul, Mark, Badra and Monique.

It was especially delightful to welcome ex member Andy Youngman who is heading off to Japan soon. Additionally, other inactive members held in fond regard present on the evening were: Gareth Petersen, May Wong, Karl Winter, Tom Macdonald, Selvi Jayanathan, Kate Linklater, Kirsten Linklater and Shirley Sequeira and joined in the fun. We even had just enough room to fit two unexpected visitors who walked in and were happily impressed with their first ever experience of Toastmasters. With so many members present the answer to chairman Kirsten Linklater's question, "Do we have a quorum?" was a simple "YES" from Sargeant at Arms Lyndal Eager



Across the generations – Kirisha Thanapalasantheran awarded 'Most Improved Toastmaster of the Year'

Parramatta rocks like Whitesnake

With the pomp and ceremony of last week's Changeover Meeting, it's easy to forget that there has been another meeting since our last issue. Thursday the 16th of June saw an evening at Parramatta RSL themed 'Rocking On' – and 'by jove, by jingo' did we rock!

Some will always rock harder than others – here were the hardest rockers of the night.

Dave Griffiths didn't actually rock too hard, but said something very poignant by reminding us of the timelessness of *rocking* – it's true that each generation thinks they are the first to rock – of course people have been rocking since the dawn of time, all that's changed is the sound-track – Mozart and Beethoven were the rockers of their time.



Contributions to Time – Michael Said takes home the Ray Shina award

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Barbara rocked mildly (think Bill Haley), and we quote, "Rock on – remember bobby socks and pony tails".

Linda Clark wasn't in the mood for rocking, and distracted all with a Table Topics session that concerned itself with something call Ski-Tube Senses.

Lyndal rocked relatively hard, and drawled in a Creedence Clearwater type accent on the topic of San Francisco.

Ron Marriot as Chairman rocked as hard as he always does (think Whitesnake), and even closed with something of a rock-ballad – "everyone wants to make me cry because everyone loves me" – a highly rehearsed, choreographed and theatrical number from the eternal rocker himself.

Suben attempted to rock the ground on which we walk – by moving a motion that a 30 minute break be introduced to each meeting for socialisation (read 'rocking') – the motion was lost.

And the rocking continued, an edgy performance from Melanie, followed by another heart-wrenching ballad from Wendy – her speech "The Chair"

related the story of her father needing a kidney, and moved a few in the audience to quiet tears.

The man who rocked the hardest (watch out Ron) was none other than the Wally from Wilberforce – Peter Steinhour delivered a speech titled "Blending the Sexes" – at first note, the audience thought we were finally going to hear about Peter's own experimentation with the undergarments of the fairer sex, but instead the speech revealed itself to be a genuine exploration of the loss of place in society of, the 'real bloke' – sub-topics explored included 'manscaping' and 'shed building'.

The speech closed with a very practical call to arms – "buy a large salami, some cheese and some kalamata olives...and a beer - think about a project involving a computer, buy an angle-grinder or chain-saw, and build a shed.....this Saturday".

Despite the fact that there was not a single reference to the rocking theme of the evening, no other speech was ever going to get close to this one, and indeed Peter took home the blue-ribbon.

Parramatta Toastmasters - Club 2274

Meeting Details

Parramatta Toastmasters meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, in the Linden Room of the Parramatta RSL.

6pm for a 6:30pm start

Dinner is available during the meeting

Guests and visitors are always welcome

Enquiries / Correspondence

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Do you suffer from human-kind's most common fear?

Public speaking is a fear held by many people. For some it is a mild discomfort, while others break out in a cold sweat at the mere thought of standing in front of an audience!

If you have decided it's high time to break free of the powerful fear of public speaking, Toastmasters may be an excellent place to get the knowledge and practice that will allow you to speak both confidently and competently in public.

Looking to advance yourself professionally or personally?

Public speaking is both a skill and an art form. Whether you are a novice speaker or a seasoned presenter, there is always something you can do to improve your skills.

Toastmasters can show you new ways to invigorate your existing presentation style; to put that sales pitch over the top, help you nail that job interview, or make your daughter's wedding toast worthy of the tears and applause!

Do you enjoy sharing ideas and meeting new people?

Toastmasters may be the club you've always been searching for. Toastmasters are people from all walks of life, nationalities and professions who are working to better share their ideas with others.

Each meeting provides an opportunity for a wide range of perspectives on any number of topics, and give/receive positive, constructive feedback on how those ideas were expressed.

Start the ball rolling - come to a meeting or enroll in a Speechcraft course!