



David Griffiths in action

We are always very pleased to welcome our guests and encourage them to come back and see us again and for some to join our Speechcraft Course (for details see our

District 70

Parramatta Toastmasters

Many Toastmasters dressed up for the night - Fantastic earrings were worn by Cheryl Piper – the \$\$ signs got everyone's bet of approval. The sunglasses donned by Daniel Tucker gave him the winning edge for a look alike Elvis! Linda Snalam's glasses took 1st prize though, sorry Elvis. Thank you very much!

“Viva Las Vegas ” - Parramatta Style

Meeting 1186 “Viva Las Vegas” was beautifully organized by the very lovely, Wendy Nielsen. The decorations were truly amazing, the dices, dollar signs, balloons and little hearts, diamonds and spades sprinkled on the tables gave the feeling of glitz and glamour of a casino. Thank you to everyone who assisted Wendy in making the night a special event.

Christine Pizzuti, our Sergeant at Arms, took control and started our evening off with Las Vegas flair.

Sam Ekinci, gave a presidential opening of Vegas proportions.

Linda Snalam, Vice President Education, told us there were no program changes – this lead everyone to cheer.

Chairman for the evening was **John Taylor**, who was introduced as ‘our Producer’ by Sam Ekinci. John provided us with his view of Las Vegas and said it was a great “Tacky Place” to visit not to stay. He also witnessed a drive through marriage, which gave us something to think about – 1 marriage to go please!

Cheryl Piper, “The Queen of Diamonds” conducted the welcoming and introduced our guests. Cheryl encouraged them to enjoy themselves at our Viva Las Vegas evening.

Christine Pizzuti, gave us a Movie Review on “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”. About a road trip from Hollywood to Las Vegas set in 1971 starring Johnny Depp and Benicio de Toro. Christine told us she was a visual person and this movie was very visual. Would she recommend it – after a moment's hesitation, she told us “yes”.

Useless Facts given by **John Bright**. Told us of 15,000 miles of neon tubing and 37 golf courses in Las Vegas, not to mention that you did not need a license to play there. Cost for a wedding license was only \$35.00 but it cost \$450.00 for a divorce.

and at the gaming tables were

Suben Subenthiran, Secretary and “King of Diamonds” gave us a moving Inspirational and told us to be thankful, learn to laugh at ourselves and to change our perspective. He told us of a person with no limbs, Nick Vogic an inspirational speaker – who’s motto is “No legs, no arms, no worries”.

Toast was given by **Sam Ekinci**, “Ace of Clubs” Who gave a toast to our own David Griffiths who gives first and receives everything in good spirit. David is our immediate past president and is currently competing in Las Vegas in the International Speech contest.

To support David Griffiths please log on to <http://on.fb.me/oLyfPC> - for facebook and www.twitter.com/parratm for twitter.

If you have any trouble with accessing facebook or twitter please contact Nirish Shakya who will be more than happy to provide assistance.



Monique Tonna doing her Icebreaker Speech.

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

- If you require the use of a projector Parramatta Toastmasters have 1 on call – please give 48 hours notice and contact our Sergeant at Arms – Christine Pizzuti – email: saa@parramattatm.org.au
- There are resources available from the Club Library, - books and cassettes - please check out our club website to view what’s available to help you
- Please be sure to read the minutes of our club meeting which can be found at <http://www.parramattatm.org.au/introducing club.htm>.

Many thanks to **Suben Subenthiran**, our **photographer** for the evening (and for the pictures used in this edition).

REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR CL MANUAL TO EVERY MEETING

PLEASE EMAIL OR RING IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND A MEETING!

Highlights and Guests

and the bets are down for Table Topics

Table Topics Master, **Robyn Peck**, “Ace of Hearts” - said ‘Los, Lass, Las Vegas is Vegas’. She instructed contestants to build a story around a headline. Robyn asked for creativity and some humour. By using big dollar bills with a question behind each one she brought mirth and merriment, plus some thoughtful responses to her 12 questions.

First up was **Elizabeth Wilson** giving her answer to ‘Red tape holding up bridge’, followed by John Nichols telling us about ‘Many antiques’. **Mark Pankhurst** answered the question ‘30 year friendship ends at alter?’; **Linda Snalam** with her answer to ‘Policeman helps dog fight victim’; **Cheryl Piper** and ‘Police recover stolen hamster’; **Daniel Tucker** with ‘Kids make nutritious snacks’; **Melanie Wilson** described ‘Police found safe under bed’; **Brian Jones**, President of Parrachievers and guest for the evening told us about ‘new sick leave policy needs 2 days notice’; **Gary Wilson** told us about ‘four battered in fish and chip shop’; **David Pasipanodya**, guest and ex speechcrafter, told us about ‘fake parking tickets’; **Barbara Beveridge** gave account of ‘Attorney accidentally sues himself’ and last but not least **Wendy Nielsen** answered her topic ‘man possibly a woman – definitely ugly’.

The evaluators were – **Nirish Shakya** for the odd numbered speakers and **Christine Pizzuti** for the even numbered speakers. Both evaluators gave valuable feedback to each speaker and used the commend, recommend, commend method of evaluation.

The mini business session was ran by **John Taylor**, who used professionalism and polish to conduct his task.

Lyndal Eager, General Evaluator, evaluated each Toastmaster’s role with pizzazz and flair. Lyndal added some humour - ‘definition of a will – a dead give away’ and ‘the man who fell into the upholstery machine is fully recovered now’. She also advised that John Bright (the timer for the evening) was on “light duties”!

Special Welcome!

We had 8 (Las Vegas style) guests at our Meeting

Reza Aminian – Third time guest

Badra Jayawavdena – ex Speechcrafter

David Pasipanodya – from Zimbabwe and ex speechcrafter

Daniel Tucker – member of Concord West Happy Hunters Hill and West Gourmet Toastmasters

Sunny Gandhi – First time guest

Margaret DeSilva – Second time guest

Anne Nguyen – Second time guest

Brian Jones – President – Parrachievers

WE LOVE GUESTS – INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Come along and enjoy a night at Toastmasters. Where you can have a meal and relax. You may even learn something along the way.



Special Presentation

Robyn Peck and Suben Subenthiran provided us with a wonderful special presentation (with the assistance of **Sam Ekinici**) with a **sneak peak of David Griffiths** in Las Vegas. David told us how things were going with the International Toastmasters Speech Convention and how he was '**psyching himself up**'. ***It was a great surprise and one that all of us enjoyed immensely.***

Gary Wilson, went on to tell us of the new branding of Toastmasters International and the new logo – which now has the whole world displayed. It is to create a unified global perception of the organization through consistent messaging – to make it uniform. The message is clear – Toastmasters International – 'where leaders are made'.

Congratulations to the 2011 International Speech Contest Winners!

The title of **2011 World Champion of Public Speaking** was awarded to **Jock Elliot from Bongaree, Queensland, Australia**. Second- and third-place winners were, respectively, **Kwong Yue Yang of Guangzhou, Guangdong, China** and **Scott Pritchard of Henderson, Nevada, United States**.

2011 Taped Speech Winners. First Place: Rozmina Raana; Second Place: Okoth Okombo; Third Place: Sonali S. Shah. All three winners are from Nairobi, Kenya. Congratulations!

Conor Cuneen, DTM, has earned Toastmasters International's prestigious Accredited Speaker title.

We congratulate **David Griffiths** for representing District 70. Although he was knocked over by a Queenslander this time we know he will be a winner next year for New South Wales! **Well done David you are still the King of our Club** and had all your cards in order to win! We are eager for you to come home and reveal all!

and the evening continued with

Barbara Beveridge, Larfmaster, **broke the ice** for the upcoming speakers and presented us with some Las Vegas casino style jokes. *“In Vegas they’ll bet on anything. One casino was ready to let me bet on whether I’d win or lose there”*.

Toastmaster, **Peter Steinhour**, added **his usual flair** for introducing each speaker and provided some entertainment in between for the evening.

The speakers were:

Mark Pankhurst, Speaker 1 – gave his icebreaker **“What brought me here”**. Mark gave us an in depth peek at himself and his insecurities about speaking. Mark has a lovely honest and open style about him and we look forward to hearing many further speeches from him. **Great icebreaker Mark!**

Mark was **evaluated by Wendy Nielsen** who gave the evaluation without the use of notes. **Wendy has developed into a very good evaluator** and provided Mark with some wonderful hints and advice to use in his future speeches.

Speaker 2, Cheryl Piper – told us about **“Keeping up with technology”**. Cheryl’s use of wit throughout her speech gave us many laughs and giggles. Most of the older Toastmasters could relate to having no computers, using a typewriter, a word processor and carbon paper (as demonstrated by Barbara Beveridge – who just happened to have a piece she was using). Cheryl has a bit of help with keeping abreast with technology as her son in law is an IT professional! **Great speech Cheryl!**

Cheryl’s **evaluator was John Bright** who gave an Ace of an evaluation on Cheryl. John also did not use notes. He added a dash of his own sense of humour throughout the evaluation. John enjoyed Cheryl’s speech and told us so with great enthusiasm. **Well done John.**

Linda Clark, Speaker 3 – asked us **“Are you Afraid?”** of turning 50 ...



Linda gave a funny insight into being 50. She shared some wondrous events and things that come with age. Some Toastmasters and guests could relate to being 50 and those that aren’t yet 50 now know what they will be in for. Very entertaining and humorous story Linda, **we all enjoyed it very much**, especially the government ‘freebies’ you received.



The speakers cont:

Linda's **evaluator was John Nichols** who, with **great gusto** provided a terrific evaluation of Linda. John provided some suggestions and hints to help Linda make her speech into a winner!

Speaker 4 – Linda Snalam – gave a very warming and heartfelt speech called “The little Aussie Battler”. Linda spoke about David Griffiths whom she likened to Richard Gere – an Officer and a gentleman. She told us that David is a clever guy, he never makes anyone feel small and is a very humble human being. Linda chose to speak about David as he is competing in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest representing our club. Linda's personality shone through her speech. ***Fantastic work!***

Sam Ekinici evaluated Linda's speech. Sam's evaluation was open and honest and he presented it in a very humble way. Sam gave a very clear and concise evaluation and has a wonderful encouraging way about him. Sam, like David Griffiths, pointed out team work will help anyone achieve. ***Sensational evaluation Sam!***

Barbara Beveridge, CL Evaluator – told us all to bring along our CL Manuals to every meeting. Everyone with a role for the evening should bring it with them. Also, those with no specific role should too as you never know what you can be asked to do throughout a meeting. By bringing the manual along it will help **you** move through your assignments quickly.

John Bright, Timer (*on light duties for the evening*) – told us who went overtime!



Again John's sense of humour lighted up the meeting! ***Well done John.***

Awards for the Night ...



Christine Pizzuti, Sargeant at Arms, presented the awards to **the winners** –

Mark Pankhurst, for his Icebreaker
Wendy Nielsen, best Table Topic
Linda Clark, best Speaker and
Sam Ekinci, best Evaluator

There was no winner for the Stirrer's Spoon – **John Taylor** advised no one 'stirred up tonight'. We obviously missed **Ron Marriott's** input to our Mini Business Session tonight – **hurry back Ron!**

The meeting was brought to a close by Sam Ekinci, President, with a flourish and Sam, as usual, asked members and guests to stay for a drink and a laugh at Parramatta RSL Club afterwards.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMING EVENTS

Humourous Speech Contest – 1 September 2011, any member seeking to register as a contestant please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

**Winners Circle Toastmasters Club invite you to be present to enjoy the Area 133 Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contests – Monday 19 September 2011, starts at 7.00 pm sharp. At Parramatta RSL Club (Macquarie Room), Cnr Macquarie & O'Connell Streets, Parramatta
Cost: \$12 includes sandwiches, tea/coffee
Come along and support our own Wendy Nielsen.
RVSP: 8th September 2011 – Contact Jodi Robertson area13@d70toastmasters.org for registration and payment 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
6.30 pm start. Dinner is available during the
meeting. Guests and visits are always
welcome.
Come along and enjoy a great night of
learning and entertainment.**

Enquiries/Correspondence:

Send to:
PO Box 632, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
AUSTRALIA
Email: info@parramatta.org.au