



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 website at www.parramattatm.org.au – Short Courses) and others to join our Toastmasters Club or one nearer to their home.

District 70 Parramatta Toastmasters

Ian Chick was asked if he had been eating chili and drinking milk – no he hadn't, he just hadn't shaved!

Lots of fun was made about Ian's chili eating habit throughout the evening which made our Birthday Meeting even more entertaining.

“Happy 45th Birthday”

Meeting No. 1188

Law and order was brought about by **Christine Pizzuti**, the Sergeant at Arms of the Parramatta Club to the large gathering at the special 45th Happy Birthday Meeting 1188.

The Opening was presented by **Linda Snalam**, Acting President, in Sam Eckini's absence. The enigmatic Linda likened old friends to antiques and said there were lots of antiques at the meeting! She was also keeping Sam's spot 'warm' for him.

Program changes were provided by **Ian Chick** as Acting Vice President of Education

Chairman 1, the energetic **Elizabeth Wilson** informed us about events of 1966 (the beginning of Parramatta Toastmasters District 70 Club). The introduction of decimal currency took place in Australia in February 1966, the popular TV series StarTrek went to air, the first episode being “The Man Trap”.

The welcome was warmly given by **John Taylor**. John had a bit of tough job keeping up with the constant arrival of visitors throughout the evening, but handled his role with charm and dignity.

Vivacious **Kirisha Thanapalasantheram** gave us an insight into some of **Christine Pizzuti's** hobbies and interests in the 'Getting to Know You' segment.

Peter Steinhour said it was 'OK Day' – we should ask others are they OK. It was a great inspirational and more of us should be aware of others with mental illnesses or those less fortunate than ourselves.

Tom McDonald (usually known as 'Santa') helped to celebrate our 45th Birthday and gave a Toast to Parramatta Toastmasters Club on its Birthday.

Birthday cheer

Table Topic Master, **Lyndal Eager** gave a highly polished performance coming up with some very interesting questions for the contestants she chose.

'What do you wear as your birthday suit' she asked **Tom McDonald** – who said it depended on what he did at the time, so it could be a Santa outfit, Woolies outfit or something else.

Sue Ismeil told us about the birth of her grandchild and how she enjoys being a grandmother. The birth of her granddaughter brought her joy and is sunshine in everyone's life.

'The birth of a new marriage' was discussed by **Shirley Sequira**. She told us they were the new Brady bunch – 3 girls, 3 boys and the merging of two families as one. Congratulations Shirley on your recent marriage!

Pallav Bajracharya told us about what he hopes to achieve in Toastmaster's by the time he's 45 – let's hope it all comes true for you Pallav.

Lyndal asked **Tahir Omeri** to tell us about his achievements since Toastmasters last saw him. Tahir mentioned many things including changes like fax machines, mobile phones and camera's with no film. Who would have believed it!

Dynamic **Sue Haynes** told us about the last birthday she had in an exotic place. She said she lived in Cronulla so that was pretty exotic for her birthdays plus she went to Morroco last year and believed she celebrated a couple of birthdays there during that time.

Many thanks to **Christine Pizzuti** whose photographs are used in this issue of the Parra Natta.



Sue Haynes as Larfmaster

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>.

REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR CL MANUAL TO EVERY MEETING

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

Fun and laughter on our 45th Birthday bash

Table Topics continued ...

Kris Venugopalan told us about “Birthdays in his family” he said he has so many of them in a year. In India it’s about getting a new dress, going to the temple, eating and watching a new movie!

“Special person’s birthday in your family” was explained by **Jason Thomas** and it was all about the birth of his new daughter born on 16 February 2011.

Next up was **PK Ghadia** with “Tell us about shiny shoes” PK told us he even gets text messages from Michael Said to remember to shine his shoes.

Michael Said spoke about “Catering for Ian Chick’s Birthday – how hot are the chillies”. Michael advised us he would relish doing the catering for Ian and he would use liquid lava on the food at a restaurant – but he felt he couldn’t make anything hot enough for Ian!

Ian Chick was quick on his feet to answer “How much chilli is too much chilli”. Ian admitted that there was no such thing and he had even tried some of the hottest chillies in the world – now that’s fire in the belly!

Last but not least was **Simon Chhoeu** telling us about “Tax time – what advice can you give as our Birthday present”. Simon said to keep our receipts and to get the best return to make super contributions. Thank you for the hints Simon.

Evaluations were given by **Melanie Wilson** for the odd speakers and **Suben Subenthiran** for the even speakers. Melanie gave an entertaining and humorous evaluation whilst Suben provided a colourful and witty evaluation. Well done evaluators.

Special Welcome to all our visitors for our 45th Birthday

Jason Thomas, Speechcrafter – 1st mtg
Kris Venugopalan, CC past member, 2010
Joanna Delvecchio, 1st time visitor
Samar Semaan, 1st time visitor
Shiama Omar, 1st time visitor
Alan Jacobsen, 1st time visitor
Bijan Hassanzada, 2nd time visitor
Rick Haynes, DTM Miranda
Sue Haynes, DTM Miranda
Tahir Omeri, Former past president Parramatta
Akram Omeri, Tahir Omeri’s wife
PK Ghadia, past member
Pallav Bajracharya, Speechcrafter
Greg North, Toastmaster, Springwood
Reza Arminian, Toastmaster, Happy Hunters Hill, 5th time visitor
David Pasipanodya, Past Speechcrafter, 8th visit
Salem Habibeh, 2nd visit
Simon Chhoeu, Current Member
Sue Ismiel, Current Member
Tom McDonald, Current Member
Shirley Sequeira, Current Member
Kirsten Linklater, Current Member
Kathy Shebatte, Past Member

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.



Chairman 2 – **David Griffiths** advised us to hold onto youth a little longer and to have confidence in what we do to commence our 'heyday'.

David told us new guest badges would be introduced under the new branding and was very excited that a new club would soon be starting in Parramatta.

Joan Abela as the General Evaluator gave a helpful and polished assessment of all the toastmaster's assignments for the birthday evening. Well done Joan – it was fab, fun and informative.

Parliamentarian – **Ron Marriott** gave a witty and heart warming appraisal. Ron said that David looked like he was in charge, took command, looked professional and did things in the correct order.

A special **Cake Cutting Ceremony** was presented by the lovely **Linda Snalam** with assistance from **Christine Pizzuti** and **Gary Wilson**. 'Spike up your sugar level now' she said and everyone did!

Sue Haynes, Larfmaster for the evening had us in stitches with her 'blonde birthday jokes'. I really liked the one about Paddy who died from hauling oysters – headlines 'Oysters Killed Patrick!'

Robyn Peck was Toastmaster and presented each speaker with great gusto.

Speaker 1 – **Cheryl Piper** and "Norfolk". Made us all want to visit Norfolk Island and told us about the inhumanity done there to convicts. She asked the locals where the feral chooks came from and was given the answer – 'an egg!'

Speaker 2 – **Wendy Nielsen** – "The Butterfly". Wendy gave a dramatic, descriptive and wonderful story of an emerging butterfly and the outcome of help given. The moral was to decide whether to give help or let things be.



Greg North, Bush Poet

Speaker 3 – Gary Wilson – “Where Leaders have been made”. Dynamic Gary told us all about Toastmasters, the new branding and the history of our Parramatta Club. Gary divulged that we were once called “The Western Mafia of District 70”. He advised us we need to give more back as we take so much from Toastmasters. Parramatta has 45 years of history and is a place where leaders are made. Thank you Gary and I am sure we will continue to make history.

Speaker 4 – Michael Said – “A Tale of two Mountains”. What can I say ... Michael was absolutely hilarious telling us about the Israeli Army diet he went on – 2 days of apples, 2 days of cheese, 2 days of chicken and 2 days of salad and the horrific consequences of being bound up by cheese. He likened his experience of blockage and relief as having 6 babies by breach birth. Plus everyone loved his trophy from the plumber!

To round off the speeches, we were entertained further by **Guest Speaker, Greg North** (the bush poet) Toastmaster from Springwood. Greg was brilliantly funny providing great entertainment whilst acting out his poem “Stick It”. Everyone was in fits of laughter and I noticed tears running down guests and toastmaster’s faces – including my own. Greg is amazing and is well worth looking up on the web, he also has DVD’s and books available.

Joan Abela, General Evaluator told everyone what a great job they did and how very entertained we all were.

Sensational evaluations were given by **Suzanne Berkeley** for Cheryl Piper, **Linda Clark** for Wendy Nielsen, **Ian Chick** for Gary Wilson and **Jeeven Jayanathan** for Michael Said.

Nirish Shakya, Timer for the evening, told us it was a very long welcome by John Taylor who took 7 minutes to introduce all the guests for our 45th Birthday.

Christine Pizzuti presented the **awards** to: **Best Table Topic Speaker – Sue Haynes**, **Best Speaker – Michael Said** and **Best Evaluator – Jeeven Jayanathan**.

Linda Snalam presented our guest speaker, Greg North with an award and gave an invitation to everyone to stay at the club for drinks and a chat.

Birthday photo's



Greg North in action



Robyn Peck as Toastmaster



Linda Clark



Steven Cox



Guests



Michael Said



Toastmasters and guests!



MEETING NO. 1189

22 September 2011

“Bucket List”

Call to order by **Christine Pizzuti**, Sergeant at Arms, brought everyone into their seats pretty quickly.

Opening by **Sam Ekinici**, President, back from San Diego, welcomed everyone to Meeting 1189. Prior to going overseas Sam was fearful of heights and doesn't like bridges. He went parachuting to face his fear and loved it. Sam told us how he grew from his experience and that he got another parachute jump gift for Father's Day.

Sam presented trophies to **Ron Marriott**, who won the Table Topic Contest for District 70 and **Wendy Nielsen** who was runner up. Congratulations. We should put achievement on our bucket list.

Program Changes were promptly given by **Linda Snalam**, VPE.

Barbara Beveridge gave a warm Welcome to our valued 4 guests – **Ann Nguyen**, Speechcrafter from Winners Circle and her 2nd visit, **Reza Aminiam**, Toastmaster Happy Hunters Hill and his 6th visit, **Allie Kelly**, VPPR from Wentworthville and **Jit Patel** ex-speechcrafter who hopes to join Wentworthville Toastmasters very soon.

Point of View given by **Gary Wilson**. Gary liked our last 45th Birthday Meeting as we had cake. He wants to bring back cake and dessert with our tea/coffee and has this on his bucket list. He believes that Toastmaster meetings have never been the same since eliminating the sweet treats!



more on the “Bucket List”

John Taylor with ‘Did You Know’ told us that Toastmasters International had been around for 87 years next month. He told us that only 60 people get paid in Toastmasters California as the rest of us are volunteers and how club meetings usually go for around 1½ - 2 hours but Parramatta’s go for 3 hours plus due to our large member size!

Inspirational was given by **Elizabeth Wilson**. Elizabeth told us about her friends bucket list. Bev and Bill wanted to go on a Campervan trip around Australia but kept putting it off for years as other things were too important. Finally they started out and travelled to Melbourne where Bill had a massive heart attack. Their adventure stopped in Victoria. She warned us to do things on our Bucket List now. Very good advice and a very inspirational story!

Sam Ekinici gave the Toast to a lovely lady, **Robyn Benincasa**. Robyn was an Adventure Racing representative for the U.S. for 15 years. She swims, races, kayaks and at times has suffered exhaustion and physical fatigue. She has carried other people in many adventures and her free spirit gives her strength to do extraordinary feats. She is an ordinary person doing exceptional things; she has a dream and vision. Something we can put in our ‘Bucket List’.



Robyn Benincasa

Table Topics

John Nichols, Table Topics Master, used his wonderful dramatic flair for his role and gave our contestants some interesting questions to answer.

David Griffiths was asked about the original meaning of the Bucket List. David likened the bucket list to Hollywood films – it goes on forever and could never, ever finish.

Reza Aminiam - “What’s on your bucket list” told us she wants to build her own cottage and have a very quiet lifestyle. She likes mountaineering and hiking and feels she wants to belong to nature.

Christine Pizzuti – “Kick the bucket”. Christine gave us a story about a person who physically kicked the bucket and killed themselves so the meaning of “Kick the Bucket” is “Kick the Bucket!”

Linda Snalam – “Pass the bucket”. Linda got straight into the answer for this one and described how the monks started the phrase as they used a bucket to collect food and passed it around saying prayers. Now the bucket is used for donations.

Elaine Aviola – “Is the bucket half full or half empty”. It was definitely half full for Elaine, never half empty. She told us it was usually brimming over for her.

Allie Kelly – “If there was a hole in the Bucket how would I fix it??” Allie said that it cannot ever be fixed. She said that there would always be something to put in it and it would always be changing. Things on our bucket list always changes but we keep topping it up anyway.

Michael Said – “How many litres are there in a 5 gallon bucket and how would you count it?” Quick thinking Michael calculated the litres and ended up telling a joke about litres of petrol.

Suben Subenthiran – ‘Is an old bucket better than a new bucket?’ Suben immediately answered ‘definitely an old bucket is better than a new one’. He believes it is safer to us an old one as it’s been cleaned and previously used. Suben compared himself to an old bucket as something we can trust!

Sam Ekinici – ‘Is a plastic bucket stronger than a steel bucket?’ The obvious choice is a steel bucket – something with substance. Its old value has been tried and tested.

Jit Patel – “When it’s bucketing down how do you keep dry?” Jim told us that water is very precious and we must look after it and catch it in a bucket.

buckets full of fun



Evaluators, **Suzanne Berkeley** for the odd numbered speakers and **Steven Cox** for the even numbered speakers gave good evaluations and buckets full of praise and advice. Well done evaluators.

Chairman 2 – **Wendy Nielsen**. Wendy told us that at the end of a person's life no one ever thinks 'I wished I spent more time in the office' and handled her role exceptionally well with some of Michael Said's helpful or not so helpful assistance.

Motion put forth by **Elaine Aviola** was for Toastmaster's that say um/ah's/filler words be fined and pay \$1.00 for their utterance. This was unanimously voted against!

General Evaluator – **Ian Chick**, who gave a very polished general evaluation and pails full of hints for future Toastmaster roles. Ian gave a wonderful compliment to **Steven Cox for being well dressed.**

Christine Puzuti was tonight's Larfmaster and gave us lots of hoo/hah puns with bucket loads of flair!



Speeches – sorry none about buckets! ...

David Griffith as Toastmaster introduced tonight's speakers with bucketed bravo, enthusiasm and his usual bucket full of style.

Speaker 1, **Mark Pankhurst** – “Short Term Loans”. Mark asked ‘are women emotionally satisfied?’ Why not take out a short term loan instead of marriage as 1 in 3 marriages end in divorce. He also asked ‘if marriage should be a lifelong deal’ and met with a few comments from the audience! A tragic/comedy look at marriage and relationships.

Speaker 2, **Melanie Wilson** – “Gated Communities”. Melanie spoke about a social science area, urban life and communities. How there are strict rules about the height grass has to be and how fences need to be the same. She gave us an insightful picture of the way urban living was heading.

Speaker 3, **Barbara Beveridge** – “Growing Older”. A humorous story of growing older with a few jokes thrown in. I wonder if anyone will take up her offer of using a colostomy bag as a fashion accessory! **David Griffith** suggested there could be a market for it.

Speaker 4, **Peter Steinhour** – reading “Man from Iron Bark” and “Father Riley’s Horse”. Peter read two poems by Banjo Patterson and did so with drama and flair. Peter did credit to the two poems and left everyone feeling a little bit more of an oldie Aussie. Going bush might be one to put onto our bucket list!

Ian Chick was the General Evaluator. Ian asked if **Christine Pizzuti** as Larfmaster had borrowed **Michael Said’s** joke book! However, he thought that Christine’s delivery of the jokes were much better.

Evaluators – **Linda Snalam** evaluated **Mark Pankhurst**. Linda said Mark could make his speech into an exceptional persuasive one. She liked his tongue in cheek humour!

Ron Marriott for **Melanie Wilson**, told Melanie she had good pace, great projection and suggested more eye contact. Excellent evaluation by Ron.

Elizabeth Wilson told **Barbara Beveridge** to put some more action into her speech for a greater impact. She suggested Barbara take a look at Pam Ayres. Terrific evaluation by Elizabeth.

PAM AYRES



Gary Wilson evaluated **Peter Steinhour**. He said Peter had a good selection of poems, read with a strong voice, changed his pace and did the reading well. Just said to watch the ‘ah’s’ and to move the lectern to the middle and read from there and not to read from the book. Brilliant evaluation given by Gary.

more buckets to come

Suben Subenthiram was the CL Evaluator and carried out his task busily throughout the evening.

Linda Snalam our Grammarian did an excellent job at putting us in our bucket places!

Timer for the evening was visitor, **Allie Kelly**. Allie did a great job of buzzing people off stage and letting us know who went very overtime! Great work Allie.

Awards presented by **Christine Puzzuti** to the **winners**:

Best Table Topic: **David Griffiths**
Best Speaker: **Barbara Beveridge**
Best Evaluator: **Elizabeth Wilson**

The Stirrer's Spoon Award went to **Michael Said** as Parliamentarian.

Sam Ekinci thanked Michael Said for contacting visitors, including past members to attend our 45th Birthday Meeting last week. Many thanks to everyone who attended!

Meeting was closed by Sam Ekinci, who invited everyone present to stay at the Club for a drink and a chat.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMING EVENTS

6 October 2011, Meeting No. 1190, Work Life Balance. Come along and join in the fun – any member not attending please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

1 December 2011, International Speech Contest. At Parramatta RSL Club. This will be a terrific evening, not one to be missed. If you are interested please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au.

19 January 2012, Evaluation Contest – again a major event. Don't miss this meeting! any member not attending please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS

Meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd

Thursdays of each month, in the Linden

Room of the Parramatta RSL, O'Connell St,
Parramatta.

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