

Theme: “Lessons of Life”

Meeting No. 1191

Meeting 1191 commenced at 6.30 pm.

Our President, **Sam Ekinci**, did the opening and rekindled his youth. Recalling memories of arriving home from school to see his curly haired mother doing the ironing whilst watching ‘Days of our Lives’. Just from viewing that very old program we can learn different lessons from everyday life.

District 70 Parramatta Toastmasters – ‘fostering excellence’ has proudly received another President Distinguished Club Banner Ribbon. The ribbon was handed to **David Griffiths** (former President) by Sam Ekinci (current President) for his outstanding and wonderful contribution as President during the period of 2010/2011. To get 10 out of 10 David contributes the work done by the Executive Team made it easy. He said a good Executive Team helps to create a truly great club.



*Toastmasters International,
Where Leaders are Made*

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

Special thank you this week goes to a well balanced Suzanne Berkeley for doing a great job as Club Treasurer. Every meeting Suzanne takes the dinner orders and ensures members and guests are looked after as well as ensuring she has collected the correct money from everybody. Well done Suzanne, thank you!



David Griffiths and Sam Ekinci – two great Presidents!

Great effort to **David Griffiths** former President and the former Executive Committee Member Team.

Lessons of Life – we are still learning

We can all learn something by coming along to a Toastmasters Meeting and Meeting 1191 was no exception. I am sure that everyone left a little bit wiser and a little bit more job smacked by listening to the Welcome given by **Elizabeth Wilson**, Book Review from **Mark Pankhurst** (who even bought a new book to show us – ‘Speeches that Changed the World’), Inspirational from **Michael Said** and Toast given my **Michelle Hunt** who told us to take care of ourselves, love each day to the fullest, support others, laugh, take baby steps and to learn from our mistakes – so true Michelle – we should all remember those few key points to live a happier and better life.

Guest and member’s also found a few lessons of life given by our Table Topic Speakers. Ron Marriott, Table Topics Master asked some great questions from each speaker selected. We learnt something about how to give the perfect tweet not twit! How to take a great photograph by forgetting all the rules, how to select an ideal holiday, put on a perfect tie plus many others including to how to change a tyre!

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

If you have a contribution or article for the Parra Natta please email Barbara Beveridge, VPPR – vppr@parramattatm.org.au

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/introducting club.htm>.

REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR CL MANUAL TO EVERY MEETING

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

Lessons of Life - forever young, forever learning

Thumbs up and many thanks to all the Table Topic speakers on giving some fantastic, animated and amusing answers.



Thank you to the Evaluators – **Ian Lipski** for the odd numbered speakers – some great tips given by Ian and **Barbara Beveridge** for the even number speakers – who gave warm encouragement to the speakers.

A fantastic job was done by our Chairman 1 for the evening, **Cheryl Piper** who added some humour to her role by telling us she had to learn the hard way! I believe that most of us have learnt the hard way too, Cheryl.

Jeevan Jayanathan then took the chair as Chairman 2 and handled the role and motion with confidence and ease. Congratulations Jeevan.

Thanks to **Elizabeth Wilson** who acted as Parliamentarian and provided excellent information from the lessons of life she has learnt from being a Toastmaster.

Larfs were given by Larfmaster **John Taylor** who is still working on his choice of jokes (and learning from them too, we hope!).

John managed to ease us into the more serious part of the evening, the speeches, along with **Lyndal Eager**, Toastmaster. Lyndal was very eager to get a move on with introducing the speakers.

Special Welcome to visitors for Meeting No. 1191- 20 October 2011

Paul Adams – first time visitor

Hassan Alzahab – second time visitor

Elle Chan – Toastmaster Burwood who is becoming a frequent visitor

Daniel Tucker – Toastmaster Happy Hunters Hill, Concord West and Western Gourmet, frequent visitor



WE LOVE GUESTS – INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

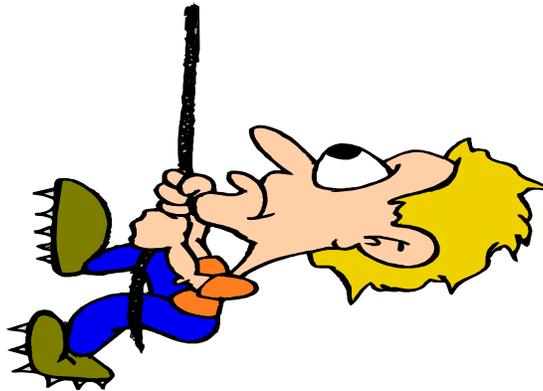
Come along and enjoy a night at Toastmasters. Where you can have a meal and relax. You may even learn something along the way!

Lessons of Life - you can learn from others

Lyndal Eager introduced the speakers ...



Speaker 1: David King - Title: **Fire in the Belly** – David doing his Ice Breaker. A wonderful personal story which gave us an insight into David's career changes and how he came to live in Australia – not his first choice by any stretch of the imagination!



David King climbing his way up and out

Speaker 2: David Pasipanodya - Title: **To Be the Best I Can Be**. David P. also doing his Ice Breaker. This David has a magical charm about him and managed to draw us all into his ability about speaking to help others.



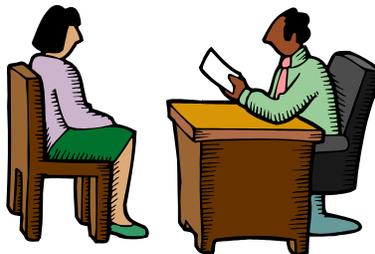
Speaker 3: Christine Pizzuti - Title: **Staple**.

Christine is a confident speaker. She gave a wonderful audial and visual description about her dream of a man holding a stapling machine to his head and her search for the meaning of the dream.



Speaker 4: Suzanne Berkeley - Title: **Choices**.

A fantastic sneak peek at Suzanne's early life. An interview for the job she wanted but didn't get and where it all lead her to. A very passionate speech from Suzanne.



Speaker 5: Wendy Nielsen - Title: **Fractured Fairy Tale**.

Wendy gave a very entertaining light hearted rendition of a slightly twisted Cinderella fable. Very funny story – brilliantly done.



Excellent evaluations were provided by the Evaluators:

Michael Said, David Griffiths, Sam Ekinci, Kirisha Thanapalasantheram and **Peter Steinhour** who all provided wonderful, in depth and helpful evaluations to the speakers. Well done evaluators!

*Suzanne Berkeley's speech titled:
Choices - Suzanne has kindly contributed her speech to
the Parra Natta for everyone to enjoy*

We are often told that we are here to learn, however, according to Neal Donald Walsh from Conversations with God, we are here to remember. Remember who we are. In either case, whether we are learning or remembering, we make choices, and I think the biggest of life's lessons that we must learn, is that we have to take responsibilities for our choices.

Madame Toastmaster, fellow members and guests, we make choices, each day. Sometimes we say that we are inspired in making a choice, sometimes we say that we were influenced.

But is there really a difference?

I looked up the dictionary meaning for Inspiration and one of the meanings I found was: 'a divine influence directly and immediately exerted upon the mind or soul'.

Then I looked up the word Influence and found – 'capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behaviour or opinions, of others':

Then came the question: Is an influence always an inspiration? To try to answer that question, I looked back at my career path.

As a young child I was a bit athletic, quite unco-ordinated but very academic. Being academic meant that I could choose whatever career I wanted. My dream was to become a Medical Doctor.

Growing up in the Caribbean, there is no such thing as Fee Help and the Scholarships that were awarded to the country from foreign donors, did not always go to the most deserving recipients. So for the child of an average Caribbean family, a dream to become a doctor, would most likely remain only a dream, due to financial constraints.

For me, that dream became a bit closer to reality, after a revolution occurred on the island in 1979. The island then had new friends like Cuba and Russia, who provided scholarships to study Medicine, Dentistry and a host of other professions.

On finishing high school in 1981, I thought - Yes! here is my chance. I showed up to an interview for Scholarship candidates.

I could still feel the humidity in the little room in the Ministry of Education and Culture. The offices were rather plain; creaky wooden floor, a wooden desk, a wall fan which was spinning on high to compensate for the tropical humidity, even though it was still morning.

I was familiar with the interviewer Leon Cornwall, but I still felt nervous. My heart was thumping, because we were about to talk about my future, and I knew that whatever the outcome of the interview, there were going to be other issues that would influence my fate.

So this is how my short interview transpired:

Me – “Good morning Comrade”

Leon – “Good morning Sister. Why are you here?”

Me – “Aren’t you interviewing for scholarships to Cuba today?”

Leon – “Yea, but you’re not going anywhere this year. We need you here on the ground to continue the good work you doing with the Catholic youth and them. Your turn goin’ come ‘sista’, your turn goin’ come”.

And that was the end of the interview.

But that was OK because if I was granted a scholarship to Cuba, my mother would have influenced me otherwise, even though there was no way she could pay for my studies. So, some time following that interview in 1982, influenced by the fact that our economy was based on agriculture, and that there were a number of young people abroad studying in the medical field, I took up a scholarship to study a B. Sc. Agronomy at the University of the West Indies.

Four years later, having completed my degree which I had chosen, in order to serve my country, I was unable to use it in the country, due to a change in the political system. I ended up in New York City, where I was influenced to take up teaching.

When I migrated to Australia, two years later I chose to continue in teaching because it gave me the convenience of caring for my son during school vacation.

So looking back at my career path, I’ve been influenced by, circumstance, politics, family and environment.

Were these influences always inspirational? I feel not. However, I made the choices and as one of life's lessons, I take full responsibility for them.

We are all glad Suzanne’s life was influenced one way or another, otherwise we wouldn’t have her as a Toastmaster or as our Treasurer in District 70 Parramatta Toastmasters Club today.

Lessons of Life - keep learning and lend a helping hand

You can -

- Assist our Club by becoming a member of the Parramatta RSL Club.
This is not just for Toastmasters but for our guests too.
Yearly membership is only \$5.50 for one year or \$16.50 for three years.
The Club supports us by waiving room hire though CDSE. Members can also enjoy discount on purchases throughout the club.
- Help with a personal appeal from **David Griffiths** – David is taking part in the 2011 MS Gong Ride. (Sydney to Wollongong). Not an easy ride!
The Griffith's clan has had significant exposure to Multiple Sclerosis and its effects.
David's personal goal this year is to raise over \$1000. The ride is on Sunday, 6th November 2011.
To donate please visit the website www.gongride.org.au and search for "David Griffiths".

Get Well -

Best wishes are sent to **Gary Wilson** for a speedy recovery from a recent eye operation. We all hope to see you back on board at our next Meeting!



Lessons of Life - there are always some winners and losers

Christine Pizzuti presented **awards** to tonight's winners:



Best Table Topic Speaker - Mark Pankhurst.

Best Speaker – Wendy Nielsen.

Best Evaluator – Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram.

The Stirrers Spoon went to **Ian Chick.**



Sam Ekin closed Meeting 1191 and invited members and guests to stay for a drink and a chat afterwards.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMING EVENTS

11 October 2011, Speechcraft Course commences. All Toastmasters wanting to assist please contact Ron Marriott or email ronmarriott@unwired.com.au as soon as possible for a role.

3 November 2011, Meeting No. 1192. 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