



Parra Natta

Theme

Lest We Forget

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome our guests

- Anjana Madukariser
- Sokdet Pad
- Peter Kovacs
- Manija Pordel
- Terry Lai
- Tom Cummins
- Gus Kewan
- Claire Walker
- Jessica Laxton
- Lepaum
- Puja Khambulikar
- Parag Khambulikar
- Diseree
- Sally Lai
- Rejene Joseph

We look forward to your next visit.

Would you like to speak to a member about Parramatta Toastmasters?

Contact our Vice-President of Membership, Michael Said

Mobile:
04 19 522 949

Email
VPM@parramattatm.org.au

or [Michael Said Email](mailto:Michael.Said@parramattatm.org.au)

Contact

Do you have goals that you would like to achieve? Contact Kirisha, VPE to discuss your targets at VPE@parramattatm.org.au

Meeting No: 1220

[Parramatta Toastmasters Club 2274](#)

A meeting truly to remember

The meeting started off on-time by our acting Sergeant-at-Arms, Melanie Wilson, who by the second half became the clubs official Sergeant-at-Arms.

As usual our VPE, Kirisha T had very minimal changes to the agenda. Due to a last minute phone call, Tom W was replaced by Jeeven J as Chairman 1. To start off the meeting he read a

snippet of a poem called, 'In Flanders fields', which went;



'Take up our quarrel with the foe:

*To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.*

*If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.'*

Ron M did a tremendous job introducing 15 visitors ranging from Speechcrafters, 1st and multiple times visitors.

Steven C, evaluated Michelle H's blog '[It's astounding, working outside your comfort zone](#)'. If you haven't read it, click on the link above.

Alicia D presented her Table Topics as a tribute to ANZAC soldiers.

The Frivolous Motion

The frivolous motion was created by Christine Pizzuti; to provoke club members into a light-hearted debate on her motion of, 'That due to the numerous engagements, marriage proposals and marriages within the club that Parramatta Toastmasters become a worldwide leader and

instigates a policy that all members must be coupled with other Parramatta Toastmasters prior to the 50th Birthday Anniversary of the Club.'

The discussion became more interesting when Alicia D proposed an amendment that was to add in, 'that members

who are already married should find alternative solutions with their current partners in order to be coupled with a club member.'

It was an interesting debate between the for's vs. against, but eventually (even though it was a close call) the club decided against the motion.

The Larfmasters Corner

The larfmaster Linda S, started the second half with some husband and wife jokes and did a wonderful job making us all laugh. Here's one to brighten up your day.

The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems and were giving each other the silent treatment.

The man realised that he had a an early morning flight to catch and needed his wife to wake him up at 5am. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he wrote a note 'Please wake me up at 5am' and left it where she would find it.

The next morning, he woke up to discover it

was 9am and he missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, 'It is 5am. Wake Up.'

Needless to say, men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

Memorable Comments

1. Jeeven J: '...and back to or menu, oops I mean agenda.'
2. Elizabeth W: 'Be honest with yourself to live with yourself.'
3. Christine P: 'I really don't think I complain as much as I should.'
4. Melanie W: 'Whatever we do we always with mates.'
5. John B: 'I recommend Melanie should do stand-up comedy.'
6. Elaine A: 'I was just going to say that the motion was miss-carriage.'

Award Winners

Best Table Topics

Elizabeth Wilson

Best Speech

Dave Griffiths

Best Evaluator

Cheryl Piper

The Mission of a Toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Find us on



Contact

To share any exciting news or to submit an article for Parra Natta, contact Jeeven Jayanathan VPPR vppr@parramattatm.org.au



Getting To Know You

How To Speak in Public for 13 Years and Not Learn a Thing

- a recollection by David Griffiths

It's always great to come along to a Speechcraft night or perhaps a club meeting with lots of visitors and have a future Toastmaster ask me afterwards "How long have you been speaking?"

It's almost 7 years since I first walked through the door of Parramatta Toastmasters (how time flies!), but of course I often qualify my response by saying that during my years of military service, public speaking was more or less part of the job from day 1 - a combat officer who can't give orders really isn't much use to anyone! From Gunners to Generals, Mexicans to Macedonians, coppers to civies, in over a decade of service to the Army, I briefed, lectured and ordered almost every day. But as it came time to leave the Army, it was Toastmasters that showed me how much I had to learn about communication.

Whether by luck or design, Toastmasters found me at just the right time. Coming to the end of my military career and being released to a new audience (who could literally go days without polishing their shoes!), I simply don't know how I would be able to relate to people now without the feedback and interaction that Parramatta Toastmasters has given me.

One of the best things about being in the Army is that we stick together. Unfortunately it's also one of the worst, because it puts up barriers between us and everyone else - it can be very difficult to relate to people who haven't had that same type of experience, and while we're surrounded by our military

brethren there seems little reason to bother. But military experiences are just like any other - they matter to us because they teach us lessons and make us better people. Like a difficult assignment, a special holiday, raising children or making a new friend, they are the times we should share with our audience so that they can hold onto them as well.

I remember one of the first evaluations I ever received back at that 2nd week of Speechcraft in early 2006. The speech I barely recall, but I remember the main thing my future friend and mentor Demian Coorey remarked upon in his feedback.

As I took the stage, the lectern had the temerity to resist my suggestion that it remove itself. Unaccustomed as I was to non-compliance, I gruffly hurled it out of my way so that I could have the entire speaking area. I actually felt good about making such a commanding entrance onto the stage!

It was Demian who told me that in those few seconds I had dominated not only a piece of furniture, but my audience as well! In all my years of speaking, I had never once considered whether my audience wanted to listen to me. This was the first of so many lessons in speaking that the Army had never given me.

Over the next year or so, Toastmasters showed me that although I had confidence, authority and a loud voice, I had barely learned anything about speaking in all those years "on stage".

My speeches had the structure of a Operations Order and the style of a Drill Sergeant ... And I

thought that was a good thing! Like my Aunty Lee, I was loud, confident and wrong! I wasn't sharing the experiences that really mattered to me. I didn't think my audience could understand the events that had made my life worthwhile. I didn't believe there was any way for me to make the audience feel what I felt.

However I changed my mind almost by accident at one Parramatta Christmas meeting. Two weeks before I had placed second in the speech contest and was looking forward to a nice relaxing evening. Suddenly a speaking slot became vacant - could I come up with 7 minutes material?

I told the only Christmas story I had - about a moment when a small crippled boy had received a giant teddy bear as a gift. I hadn't had time to give the speech much thought, but the response was completely different to anything I'd had before. People really felt that moment. Cheryl Piper asked me afterwards "Why didn't you do that last meeting?" For the first time I realised how much I could give to an audience, and instead of being loud and confident I could be close to tears.

Maybe I should feel lucky that by the time Toastmasters found me I already had all the confidence and volume in the World - some people come to Parramatta looking for not much more!

But although my story of Toastmasters is not the same as yours or anyone else's, it shows that we all have our lessons to learn. And if we're not getting the feedback and trying our skills in new situations, we could go 13 years without learning a single thing.

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

22 November 2012—The end of the world?