



# Parra Natta

Meeting No: 1232

Parramatta Toastmasters Club 2274

## Theme

Inspire Me

## Welcome Guest

The lands around our dwelling

Are more beautiful

From the day

When it is given to us to see

The faces of our guests

All is more beautiful

And life is thankfulness

These guests of ours

Make our house grand

- an Eskimo saying

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

Michael Said, the club's Vice-President of Membership is more than happy to take your calls or emails about attending a club meeting or general enquiries about the club

Mobile:  
04 19 522 949

## Email

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

## Contact

Do you have goals that you would like to achieve? Contact Kirisha, VPE to discuss your targets at [VPE@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:VPE@parramattatm.org.au)

## You are my inspiration

With the theme of the night Inspire Me, our TableTopics Master, David K wanted to find out from members what inspires them or the people in their world.

**YOU  
INSPIRE  
ME**

From favourite teachers to favourite past Australian Prime Ministers, each speaker spoke with gusto and confidence.

The TableTopics winner of the night, spoke about her inspirational book called iLife. The books talks about taking anything with an 'I' and plugs into a power point, is taken and dumped into a bin because that is not what life is all about.

Our Chairman 2 for the night, Michael S told us a story about him meeting an accident one Saturday. He is thankful that he came out of it without a scratch and joyful that he could be here today to hold the gavel again.

The frivolous motion moved by Tom C was that any Toastmasters undertaking an evaluat-

ing role, be prevented from wearing red be-



cause it is a powerful colour and we don't want to intimidate people to perform on stage. Unfortunately, the motion was lost.



We also had a special presentation from our Area 13 Governor, Wendy N. She gave us a report on how Area 13 is progressing and the great work that Parramatta Toastmasters is doing to support Toastmasters. She said that, 'Parramatta Toastmasters is indeed one of the top performing club in District 70; with the 2nd biggest membership'. She continued to say, that even though Parramatta Toastmasters is currently sitting on 6

Distinguish Club Program (DCP) points, she is utterly confident that Parramatta will achieve its 10 DCP point and be an exemplary club that it has always been.

After the break, our Larfmaster, Alicia D, took centre stage and told us that laughter is the best medicine. She said, 'Do you know there are three ways to get



things done? One way is to do it yourself, secondly is to pay someone to do it for you and thirdly is to ask your children not to do it at all'.

During the prepared speech assignments, we had a special treat as three speakers collaborated on one topic but had different objectives to achieve from their manuals.

Our speech winner, asked his audience to think deeply on a subject and said to us that 'If you are happy an you know it, clap your hands'. What a great way to engage the audience. What a truly inspiring night it was.

"You can speaking on anything you like. I'm sure whatever you come up with will be great." These words give you absolute freedom to say whatever you want. With absolute freedom comes absolute terror because now you have unlimited speaking topics!



Ahhhh! What's a speaker to do?

This article is for anyone who's looking for their next big speech idea.

### There is no best speech topic

Just like SasquatZch, zombies, Dracula and unfortunately unicorns, there is no mythical, guaranteed to be amazing, speech topic.

There is no one subject that is going to interest every audience at every event. Selecting a topic is a personal journey. It's where you, your audience and your knowledge matter. Let's break down the process of finding the best speech topic when you are given the gift of

choosing any topic you'd like.



### Step 1: Who's in your audience?

The person who booked you for the gig says you can speak about whatever you like. The next question out of your mouth needs to be, "Tell me who is showing up for this event?" You need to get as much information as you can about your audience – demographics, beliefs, attitudes, challenges, hobbies. Find out what other speakers have discussed. The more you know, the more likely you will find a topic that resonates with your audience.

The topic you select is to benefit them and provide value. Remember, content is key to creating presentations that audiences love.

### Step 2: What do you know about?

You should not pick a blogging niche that you know nothing about and you shouldn't pick a speech topic that you have no experience with. Develop a list of your exper-

tise. Write down everything you know about with no judgment about its value to your audience.

### Step 3: What do you love?

You've written down everything you know about. Now look through that list and circle the topics you feel passionate about – the ones where your knowledge and enthusiasm collide like an atom circling a super conductor. Don't circle a topic because you think your audience might like it – this right now is about you coming up with options. What do you feel most passionate about?

### Step 4: Choose the best topic for the audience and event

You understand your audience, you know what you know and appreciate what you love. Look at the topics you circled. Find the topic that best serves your audience. This is the sweet spot. This is the topic you should speak about.

Need more help picking just the right speech topic for yourself and your audience? Here's a great resource from 6 Minutes on [the secret to choosing a great topic](#).

### About Dr. Michelle Mazur

"My core belief that through speaking your passion, you can change the world or at the very least your part of the world". More information on Dr. Mazur, [click here](#)

## SPEAK the movie

Parramatta Toastmaster hosted a screening of the movie SPEAK on Sunday, 21 April.

It's a documentary film that follows six characters as they overcome life's hurdles while participating in the largest speech contest in the world, the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking. Funny, inspiring and moving, SPEAK tells a story about hope, perseverance and transformation – a story everyone can relate to.

**Rich Hopkins:** Thanks to the unwavering support of his dedicated wife and six children, Rich built a successful career as a professional speaker, author and speech coach.

**Robert Mackenzie:** Is a successful architect, developer, an actor and

public speaker whose heartfelt and humorous talks empower audiences to overcome loss, adversity and crisis.

**Dr. Katherine Morrison:** Dedicates her career to exploring the impact of violence against women in communities of colour and finding methods for preventing violence against women.

**Martin Presse:** Began his professional speaking career as a Comedy Stage Hypnotist. From there he became a motivational speaker and speaking coach, helping others achieve their goal of becoming influential and successful speakers.

**Lashunda Rundles:** Is a public speaker and Gospel singer. Through her company MaXXimum, she

trains people on communications techniques and relationship management.

**Charlie Wilson:** Lives happily with his high school sweetheart, Caroline, with whom he reconnected online, 50 years after their courtship in high school.

It was well run day starting with our own members speaking about their own speaking journeys and recollection of the 2008 International Convention in Calgary.

Congratulations to Christine Pizzuti or organising this inspiring movie screening.

For more information, images or full character profiles, visit SPEAK at

[Speakthemovie.com](#)

## Memorable Comments

1. Julie J: 'That's a bit random. I just only arrived.'
2. Dave G: 'If I offered you a product that makes you last 71% longer, you'll be picking up the phone.'
3. Gary W: 'If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.'
4. Tom C: '...then we went international. In India, red is prosperous but in Spain, it really angers the bulls.'

## Award Winners

### Best Table Topics

Robyn Peck

### Best Speech

Gary Wilson

### Best Evaluator

Ian Chick

## New Club's Mission

**The Mission** of a Toastmasters club is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater 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](mailto:vppr@parramattatm.org.au)



## Announcements

### And so my 30 years began...

Congratulation to Elizabeth Wilson, DTM for achieving her 30 years of commitment with Toastmaster International. We at Parramatta Toastmaster salute you for dedication and unparallel support that you have given Parramatta Toastmaster over the years.

Below are some words from Elizabeth as she reflects on her 30 years as a Toastmaster.

"Time has gone so quickly that it is so hard to believe that I have been a Toastmaster for 30 years.

Prior to Toastmasters I was a member of the then Toastmistress as women were not admitted to Toastmasters. However, in 1983 Gary was offered the role of Conference Chairman for the 1984 Down Under Conference to be held in Sydney.

Gary asked me to be his secretary but decided that I would rather be Co-Chairman. To do so, I needed to become a Toastmaster and there were very few clubs in Sydney at that time that allowed woman as members.

After some discussion, a few of us got together and decided to form a mixed club in the Hills area. So Western Lectern was born. The club chartered on 11 April 1983 and held the Charter Dinner on 11 June 1983 with Gary, as District Governor, presenting me, as Charter President, with the club's charter.

And so my thirty years began.

Some of my highlights as a Toastmaster:

1. First female District 70 Governor; I was so proud and in my year as District Governor our District, District 70, came 11<sup>th</sup> in the world.
2. Won the District Evaluation Contest twice and have been a finalist in the International Speech Contest at District level

I have been so fortunate and achieved so much I keep coming because I enjoy the company, the stimulation and the opportunity to have a meal out. I love helping people and feel I can contribute a little to other's development.

I so much believe in Toastmasters and how it can change lives. I am proud to be part of an organisation which does such a wonderful job in helping people achieve their goals, our organisation where leaders are made. I am a very proud thirty year Toastmaster.

### A Parramatta Induction Speech—by Clare Walker

As the newest member of Parramatta Toastmasters, I'm looking forward to learning as much as I can about speaking and communication from my mentor and the various other excellent speakers in our club.

I've come to Toastmasters as a teacher looking to improve my communication skills and I'm already noticing a difference in the short time that I've been attending.

Thanks very much to everyone who has encouraged me so far. The warmth and friendliness of Parramatta is definitely what keeps me coming back!



A much younger District Governor, Gary Wilson presenting the Charter Certificate to his even younger wife, Elizabeth Wilson



From Left: Alicia Denis (Clare's mentor), Clare Walker and President Linda Snalam

**Join Us For Our Next Meeting**

**2 May 2013—Live Long and Prosper**