



Parra Natta

Meeting No: 1233

[Parramatta Toastmasters Club 2274](#)

Theme

Live Long and Prosper

Welcome Guest

- Tony Tione
- Sandeep Mare
- Ben Guru
- Kristian Dingle
- Lyn Ling
- Theepan Thevathasan
- Kumi Matsubo
- Calvin Fong
- Rohan Hingorani
- Tam Dirckze
- Toni Dunne

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
or [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

The 'dif-tor heh smusma' meeting

With another jammed packed agenda and busy business session, President Linda S said that from the standpoint of a club, 'As Parramatta Toastmaster, we've lived a pretty decent longtime so far; and this room is filled with lots of years of skills and knowledge.'



In his opening statement, John T said 'Sometimes we hear certain saying and never can work out where it came from,' however he knew that Live Long and Prosper came from Dr. Sheldon Cooper of Big Bang Theory (poor Mr. Spock, being out done by a newer generation)



Ian L, gave a warm welcome to our 11 guest, who were manly made out of first time visitors.

Our blog evaluator, had the opportunity to evaluate Robyn P wonderful blog titled '[Lest we Forget](#)'. The blog had a

powerful and clear message that Robyn wanted to share with every Australian. Click on the link below, if you haven't read '[Lest we forget](#)'.



With a little twist, Monique T, gave us an insightful road trip review to Dubbo instead of the planned movie review. She said that if we ever make our way there we should at least visit the old Dubbo jail and the zoo.

Our Table Topics master, said that 'We all get robbed in many ways and related it to a personal story four years ago,' as he posed some scenario style interview questions to his unknowing participants.

Our Table Topics winner, Monique T, gave an insightful and story on how she had conducted a performance management meeting with one of her subordinate.

After the break, Malkit B gave the club a humours answering machine joke, 'Morning, at present we are not at home so please leave a message after the beep. If you are one of our children, press 1 and then select the option of 1 to 5 to let us know who it is, press 2, if you need us to stay with your children, press 3 to borrow the car, press 4 if you want us to iron and wash your clothes... and finally if you want to take us out for dinner or to the theatre start talking, we are listening.'

Our really excited Toastmaster, Kirisha T said we have a full circle in prepared speeches because we have people who are at the beginning and at the end of the Competent Communicator manual and a whole array of others.

Our prepared speech winner, Tom C , captivated the audience with his speech title 'Why?'. He said that, 'Why should all Australian's learn how to swim? Just in case they com from a very competitive family,' as he explained with some heartfelt personal stories.

Our General Evaluator, gave a polished and well-rounded evaluations that happened throughout the night.

The most precious gift you receive as a speaker is the audience's attention. Research shows that audience remember most what they hear FIRST. Just like the dandruff shampoo, *Head and Shoulders*, reminds us – "You never get a second chance to make a first impression."

Most people fail to craft interesting introductions because they're challenging to craft. It's the time where you are most nervous. Couple that with the added pressure of needing to shine and you are set up for failure.

Let's discover how to begin your speech with a win.

Purpose of an introduction

An introduction needs to accomplish the following:

1. Capture your audience's attention
2. Build rapport with the audience (also know as establishing your credibility or showing goodwill)
3. Overview of where you are going in your presentation (remember the [sexy organisation post](#) this is when your preview has that juicy goodness).

Here's the trick you need to accomplish these goals in a short amount of time: *The rule of thumb is that an introduction should be less than 10% of your total speech.*

The trick is to avoid the pitfalls.

5 ways to blow your intro

Last year I wrote a series of articles about openers that lose your audience's attention is less 30 seconds.

Here are 5 openings to avoid:

- The [dictionary defines](#)
If I wanted to know how the dictionary defined something, I'd look it up.
- [Tell a joke](#)
Don't put more pressure on yourself. If your joke bombs that's what the audience is going to remember.
- [Me, me, me](#)
No one wants to hear how awesome you are in the intro. Make it relevant to your audience.
- [The startling statistic](#)
"Wow that statistic scared the crap out of me." – Said no audience ever.
- [I'd like to talk about](#)
Your complete lack of creativity for not coming up with a more interesting intro gets you starting off on the wrong foot.

Begin with a win

Creativity is key when captivating your audience. My advice is to brainstorm many openings and be relentless in your pursuit for the best attention-getter. If it doesn't feel right to you, keep revising.

Here are some types of attention-getters to get those creative juices

coursing through your brain.

• Stories

Captivate and engage. Humans are storytelling creatures. We get lost in stories. Storytelling invokes emotions and lets your audience seem themselves in your speech.

• Quotations

Brilliant minds have come before you have written about your topic. Use a quotation to captivate and inspire thought.

• State the importance

Related to storytelling, but telling your audience why this topic is important to them at this exact moment is a great way to intrigue and establish goodwill.

Make a lasting, memorable impact on your audience with a well crafted introduction. Begin with a win.

About Dr. Michelle Mazur

Speech Coach and Presentation Skills Trainer Dr. Michelle Mazur guides driven-to-succeed business professionals and independent business owners to ignite the smouldering fire within to speak up, speak out and make their impact – one compelling presentation at a time. Michelle is also a mom to two cats, '80's lover, punk rock idealist and Anglophile. More information on Dr. Mazur, [click here](#)

Congratulations to these Parramatta Toastmasters members



Toastmaster Advancement
Advanced Communicator Silver
Competent Leader
Malkit Banwait



Toastmaster Advancement
Advanced Communicator Bronze
Competent Leader
Jeeven Jayanathan



Toastmaster Advancement
Competent Communicator

David King

Memorable Comments

1. Monique T: 'In Dubbo, don't go to the new jail, as that's where they take you to, when you're arrested.'
2. David K: 'I don't think there is any bogans here tonight but it is one of my favourite words.'
3. Kim G: 'Order was restored with Ian embedding the gavel into the lectern.'

Award Winners

Ice Breaker:

Natasha Chan

Best Table Topics

Monique Tonna

Best Speech

Tom Cummins

Best Evaluator

Sam Ekinici

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



Announcements

Annual Conference Update—from District 70 Governor

Please note, that the catered events for the 2013 Annual Conference are now closed.

However, members wanting the basic registration (includes satchel, education sessions plus tea and coffee), will be able to register through the [D70 website](#) or directly through [TryBooking](#) website for \$25.00 per person.

Education Program Update —from Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is embarking on one of its most significant projects in recent memory: the development and implementation of a revitalised education program. The program will offer a learning experience that meets the needs of current and prospective members in an evolving global marketplace.

Expected to launch in the second half of 2014, the updated education program is being developed in accordance with the Board of Directors' 2010 Strategic Plan, which calls for a renewed focus on leadership and an updated communication program. While honouring the core and history of the existing education program, the revitalised program will offer improvements in key areas. These include:

- A clearer path for achieving educational goals
- Enhanced use of technology and online learning tools
- Tangible ways to demonstrate and measure core competencies in communication and leadership

The program developers will work closely with a groups of core volunteers, who will be invited to share their feedback during various phases of the process. This represents a unique opportunity to be part of Toastmasters history as you'll have a chance to put your imprint on a program that will benefit tens of thousands of members for years to come!

If you are interested in volunteering, we are seeking the first of two groups of volunteers now, so please visit [Toastmasters Revitalised Education Program](#) to learn more.

A Parramatta Induction Speech—by Rudolf Wirawan

After a successful run with a number of small and large IT firms, I decided to venture out on my own. One of the perks of running your own ICT business is the joy of presenting to clients of all different shapes and sizes. Hence why I knew, I needed to work on my verbal communication and presentation skills.

I've been wanting to join Toastmasters for a very long time as I knew that Toastmasters can help me with my personal growth and strengthen my communication skills. Taking a leap of faith, I participated in the Speechcraft course (which I got a lot of value out of it) and finally became a proud member of Parramatta Toastmasters club.

Through Toastmasters, I know I will be able to learn the different methods of effective communication and leadership skills, which will help me excel and strengthen my communication competency.

When I'm not thinking about business, I like to create Chinese paintings as well as doing Chi Gong and Tai Chi exercises. Perhaps I can share some insights into my hobbies in my next speech.



From Left: Ian Chick (Rudolf's mentor), Rudolf Wirawan and President Linda Snalam

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

16 May 2013—Ladies & Gentlemen of the Jury