



PARRA NATTA

Newsletter of Parramatta Toastmasters Club No 2274, Area 13, Western Division, Dist.70

Meeting no 1256

20 Feb 2014

THEME

'A rose by any other name'

AWARDS

Best Speech

Michael Said

Best Table Topic

Linda Snalen

Best Evaluator

Elizabeth Wilson

WELCOME VISITORS

Pamela McDonald
Karl Pereira, Nicole Yang
Lyn Ling, Nitin Kundap
Anu Vijayan, Ells Law
Sunil Sachdeva
Saima Jabeen
Asim Saleem
Wayne Lu, Victoria Kilby
Isabella Shina
Mark Taylor
Alan Thomson
Benito Fernandez
Amy Bright

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.

Contact

To share any exciting news or to submit an article for Parra Natta, contact:

Malkit Banwait

Vice President for
Public Relations at:

vppr@parramattatm.org.au

A Chilli Roast!



When the Europeans first discovered black peppers on their Spice Trail to India, they could not get enough of them. No wonder, ounce for ounce, they were worth more than gold and Black Peppers became the preferred currency of the day!

400 years later, we cannot imagine our 'seasoned' Toastmasters **Michael Said** and **Ian Chick** spending ALL their hard earned wine dollars on peppers; but they sure love their chillies, as we discovered at our last meeting.

We were in for a 'Double Roast'. Normally TMs shy away from talking sex, politics and religion, but the rivalry between Michael and Ian was so intense that this was going to be a no holds barred con-

test.

We quickly sensed Ian & Michael were up-to mischief, when the room surprisingly filled with 35 members and 17 visitors, well before the meeting open. Perhaps the reason for the big turnout was Michael promising members \$20 each to support him!

It turned out to be a contest to see who had the thicker skin. Ian opened with 'Tonight we're going to share the love - with Michael'. But there was not much loving in what followed. Ian quickly got stuck in and landed the first blow . . . below the belt. We learnt that 'Michael is affectionately known to those close to him, as Michaela. The reason being (cont.)

What Happened at Our Last Meeting?

. . . *that for quite some time, everyone thought he was bit of a girl!*

'But then something happened twelve months ago which changed that'. Did the pear (or pair?) which Michael suddenly produced from his pocket, have something to do with it?



Michael had no choice but to sit quietly and take it on the chin, like a mischievous schoolboy given detention. Ian was clearly loving every minute of it as he recalled how Michael was a bit of a lad in his younger days and liked to take on the impossible; anything for a laugh. However most of his pranks 'centered' around the toilet seat, literally! Like plugging himself up for a week on a special diet and then doing a load test on his employer's toilet seats. Talk about picture words. The result is the subject of a separate humorous speech!

Or driving his car on '*just the smell of an oily rag*'. And trying to outwit a RTA speed camera but ending up with 28 demerit points in two weeks. Surely that must be a record. But one thing we will never know is the secret of his vintage Nokia mobile. He even has a spare Nokia whilst his new hi-tech Iphone sits in the box waiting to be opened. The rest of the Roast had to be restrained because of few young ladies in the audience, to whom Michael was '*the apple of their eye*'.

Finally, Michael got his chance to strike back with his own speech titled '**What Really Happened?**'. He told us that one thing his friend Ian doesn't do is lie, he's just economical with the truth.

'I have something that Ian doesn't have', he bragged. There was total silence as members leant forward in their seats in anticipation. What could it be? Michael dug into his pocket, made eye contact with Ian and hey presto, to the gasps of members, produced a . . . PEAR. Yes he has a pear. Judging by Ian's reaction, there obviously was a story in there which cannot be repeated in print. (*another reason not to miss a meeting - Ed*)

His chilli drama unfolded at the meat pie café. After eating just four spoons, Ian warned Michael '*this pie is so hot I can't eat any more*'. And when Ian says it's hot, it means hot! Yet chilli king Michael couldn't resist the temptation and had 1, 2 then 3 and 4 spoonfuls '*when all hell broke lose*'. All the time Linda was demanding '*Michael why did you eat three extra spoonful?*

The pain was like *he'd eaten lava*. And all the time Ian thought it was so funny; until an ambulance was called - for him. This obviously was no ordinary chilli. He pleaded with Michael for the secret antidote to chillies. Could this be the cucumber in '*as cool as a cucumber*'?

But Michael got off scott free because at the sight of the chilli, his internal system simply shut down for a week; until Newton's fourth law of motion came into play '*What goes in - goes out*'.

But the question is '**Who is Parramatta TM Club's Chilli Eater King**'. The guy at the back of an ambulance or the guy who got off scott free?' Members please hand in your voting slips to SAA at the next meeting. The winner will be presented with a lifetime supply of Vindaloo - and pears!

Of course the Roast was not the only item on the agenda. With the love

theme '*a rose by any other name*' this was bound to be a fun meeting.

In his last meeting before heading overseas, **Nirish** left us with a thought provoking Inspiration titled '**Dare to be Naïve**' beautifully reviewed by **Joan Abela**.

The Toast by Ed was appropriately to Taj Mahal (Crown Palace) regarded as one of the eight wonders of the world and a monument to eternal love.

Our TT Master **Jeeven** came fully prepared with 10 interesting questions on Love theme, ranging from 'How to write a Love letter in 17th century' to 'Life without love is like summer without light'. But the winner was past president Linda Snalen with '*My Favourite Love Story*'.

The Revitalized Education Program (REP)



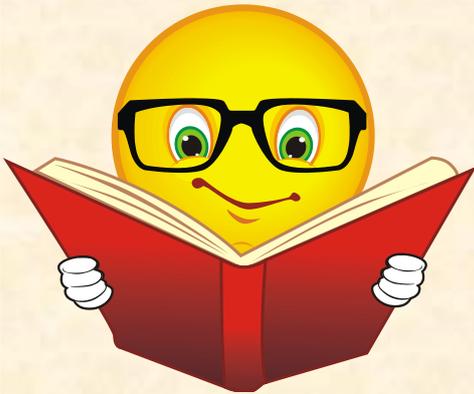
Robyn Peck also briefed members of a new TMI initiative '**The Revitalized Education Program (REP)**'. She is appointed as Ambassador for our club by Toastmasters International's Chief Ambassador for Dist70, **Jan Vecchio**. TMI is reviewing existing education programs & developing the new REP. The Education Program & Communication & Leadership Tracks that we know today will be restructured while preserving the basic foundations and core values with which we are all familiar. She gave a general idea of what REP is and how it may impact on members & our club. The REP is scheduled to launch in mid to late 2014, at which time she will update members again.

'Dare to be Naive'

By Joan Abela

When was the last time you did something for the first time? If you can't remember, maybe it's time for you to be naive again. The word 'naive' means showing a lack of experience, wisdom and knowledge.

Nirish Shakya believes that to be naïve is not a bad thing. I agree. I believe it to be exciting and enabling. Because to get something we don't have - whether it's knowledge, money or happiness, it helps to be a little naïve.



Nirish delivered an Inspirational speech the other night and to me it really was an inspiration. Most of us go through life thinking that we know it all. Believing that we can do what we set out to do and that we don't need anything else in our lives. Never experiencing new challenges, new ideas, and new ways of life. But of course that is only because as Nirish said in his talk, we have stopped looking for new things to learn and to explore.



I thought I had done enough in Toastmasters to be able to not bother anymore. Not bother going to meetings, not bother with manuals, and not bother with preparing speeches. Off the cuff, yes that is easy now that I know it all.

So that when I turned up at a meeting I didn't need to even be on the agenda. I could ad lib any assignment. How wrong can I am, how wrong can we all be when we think that way? We close our minds to life's teaching, not only in Toastmaster but also in our daily dealings.

Nirish said "Being naive made me more curious, more open to trying out new things. I ask myself now, if I was experienced, wise and full of good judgment would I have joined toastmasters I doubt it". This is true in all life's situations. Why do you do anything in life? To get something we don't have - whether it's knowledge, money or happiness. Can't do that if you aren't at least a little naïve.

Nirish went on to say " Galileo was naive enough to think that the earth is not the center of the universe. Martin Luther King was naive enough to think that little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. Bill Gates was naive enough to imagine a computer in every home. Now we have a computer in every pocket."

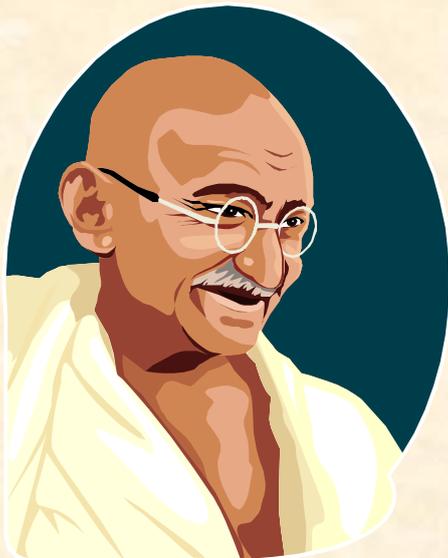


Personally this speech has helped me decide to go back to Toastmasters, Go back to my discussions meetings and to search for something new to learn, see and do. Thank you Nirish for your speech and for allowing me to use some of your words.

What about you, what would you rather be, complacent, unexcited, and unexciting? Start the search for more. Make up your mind, be NAÏVE it can change your life.

(Thank You Joan - Ed)

And Don't Miss Our Next Meeting!



With theme '**Heroes**', there are many examples of individuals in the public eye who are admired for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities including those people not in the public eye that we as individuals look up to and admire.

Make sure you don't miss this meeting with members already working

enthusiastically on interesting topics or speeches on this theme.

Plus we have our newer members stepping up to take on more challenging roles:

- ◆ **Andrew I** as Larfmaster
- ◆ **Rob T** as TT Master.

With the support of our most experienced members at hand to provide valuable feedback to them and others.

And of course the highlight of the second half is a mixture of CC and Advanced speeches by newer and more skilled members. You'll also hear another speech by our International Speech representative **Tom C** at Area 13 Contest on 29 Feb. **Good Luck Tom & Michael!** Sure to be another fun night. Can we top our last meeting's attendance of 53 members and visitors?

Did You Know That?



Every Time You Stand to Speak is an Opportunity to Practice. EVERY task during a meeting, including table topics,

minor assignments and even speaking during the business session are opportunities to be proactive with an "**Opening, Body and Close**".

By way of example, let's look at the Toast. This assignment could go something like this .

The Opening: "Tonight I have the pleasure of presenting a toast to So I would ask you to please charge your glasses and be standing"

The Body: "this is where you would talk about the toast you are presenting"

The Close: "I propose a toast to Followed by 'Thank you, please be seated'"

For Your Diary

There is so much happening at the moment in the TM calendar; at club, area, division or district level. Something for everyone! Pick and choose from below.

- ◆ **Speechcraft:** 6 Week course co-ordinated by **Robyn** started on **Wed 5th Feb** at Rowland Hassall Public School. Contact Liaison Officer **Tom Woods** if you'd like to help out in future courses.
- ◆ **Area 13 Contest: Sat 1st Mar.** Why should you attend? To support Tom Cummins and Michael Said, our Parramatta Toastmasters winners, as they

battle it out against the Club champions from the other clubs in our Area. A high quality afternoon of International Speeches and Evaluations.

- ◆ **Sunday Seminar and Speakers Forum:** on **16 Mar** is another great event to learn more and to deliver a speech to a brand new audience to be evaluated by from outside our Club.
- ◆ A **BRAZILIAN Special Theme** meeting with BRAZIL social mixer coming up -> watch this space for more info.

Club Executive Officers for 2013/2014

President: Alicia Denis **VPE:** Ian Lipski **VPM:** Monique Tonna **VPPR:** Malkit Banwait **Treasurer:** Tom Cummins
Secretary: Mrinal Sarkar **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Desiree Eddigehausen **Webmaster:** Gary Wilson
Speechcraft Liaison Officer: Tom Woods **Executive Support Officers:** Melanie Wilson, Natasha Chan,

Join us for our Next Club Meeting with theme '**Heroes**' on **6 Mar 2014**



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE