



# PARRA NATTA

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

**Meeting number:**  
**1298**

**Theme**

*Grab your Opportunities*

**September 03, 2015**

### **Guest List**

Sean Leise,  
Karen McMahon,  
Ben Trojko,  
Nishant Sharma,  
Manmeet Ahuja,  
Misha Kalyd,  
Sandeep Sain,  
Anil Kumar,  
Saravana Kumar,  
Sarcha McLean-Murray,  
Laurie Pearse,  
Jasbir Kaur, Ajit Singh,  
Cathy Huong,  
Tam Dirckze,  
Scott Perkins,  
Larissa Dyson,  
Jaga

### **Best Table Topics**

*Vicki Sheeshan*

### **Quirky Quote**

*Contestants of a humorous speech are the ones with a serious face while everyone else is rolling with laughter*

## **David wins at the International semi finals**

August 12-15 2015 were dates highlighted in every toastmasters calendar as the Annual International convention took place in Las Vegas and Toastmasters from all around the world flocked together to support the brand they proudly represented. It is also a time eagerly looked forward to not just for the world class educational and business sessions but also as the time that sets stage to the grand finale of the Oscars of Oratory, the World Championship of Public speaking.



Parramatta Toastmasters club members looked forward to not just the International convention but also to the performance of our very own Champion **David Griffiths** who went on to compete in the International championship after emerging victorious at the club, area, division and district contests. Nearly 33000 members compete for the coveted title, as the process goes on for a span of nearly 6 months and six stages. David initially delivered the speech as "**In a spin**" and kept refining it and delivered it as "**The pilot's voice**" in the semi finals. David gave a stellar performance and came second at the semi finals in Vegas. This is David's win for a second time at the International level. He has won thrice at the District 70 contests.

David attended the convention along with our President Monique Tonna, Linda Said, Michael Said, Wendy Lipski, Ian Lipski and his partner Belinda in Las Vegas. They all came back after a lot of fun in Vegas and heaps of information to share with their fellow club members. **Watch out for the following newsletters where David Griffiths will share his experiences at the contest.**

## Table-topics club contest

Parramatta Toastmasters conducted the table topics club contest in June and the number of participants were so large that we had to run it in two heats. We heard some very witty and original answers from contestants who spoke on their preferences of cats or dogs and summer or winter. The winners from the two rounds went on to compete again the next meeting deciding who would go on to compete at the Area contests.



And the Winners :  
**Pam McDonald - Third**  
**Ron Marriott - Second**  
**Monique Tonna - First**

## Humorous speech contest

The first meeting of September had everyone rolling with laughter as five of our members tried to top the other at being funny in the Humorous speech contest. Even though the rule book doesn't specify that a Humorous speech needs to be funny, the contestants made sure they tickle every funny bone. **Monique Tonna** won the first place who claimed that the audience sat with a dead pan face every time she tried to joke but had the most laughs were she least expected it. **Andrew Iverson** came second and **Anu Vijayan** came third.



# Speech Craft

Congratulations to **Tristan Beresford** who coordinated our last speechcraft course and a big thank you to all the Toastmasters who helped him out. We had 11 graduates walking out as confident speakers. Tristan will also be coordinating the next speechcraft starting on 13 October 2015.

Visitors often enquire if speechcraft is mandatory and if they really need to do it? Speechcraft is a great place for all future members to get a first hand experience of what toastmasters is all about like what are the different kinds of speeches we deliver, how to tackle a table topics session., how to evaluate another speaker in the most effective and encouraging manner. You could also join just to improve your presentation skills and if you wish to keep improving it you could join Toastmasters and keep practising.

It's a great opportunity for Toastmasters too. As you volunteer to coordinate or help out with the speechcraft sessions you learn and improve too along the journey. As the saying goes "Not all scholars are teachers but all teachers are scholars". So never let go of a chance to share your knowledge and skill. Watch out for the next newsletter to read about the experiences of past speech craft coordinators.

## **World Champion of Public Speaking 2015, Mohammed Qahtani.**

*shares the advice what helped take him to the top.*

### **Tell yourself that you're better than your audience.**

Qahtani grew up with a stutter and still deals with it occasionally, but speaking on a stage empowers him and rids him of the impediment. He said that his confidence grew from advice he received from a speaking coach, which was to tell himself that he's better than the people in the audience.

.It's a mental shift that removes the fear of humiliation. "You don't need to be afraid of them because they're the ones admiring you,"

### **Determine your takeaway message and make it relevant throughout.**

When you write a speech, it should focus on a message that is as clear and succinct as possible. The message of Qahtani's winning speech is simple: We must be conscious of the power our words can have over other people, for better or worse.

### **Speak to your audience on a personal level.**

A friend once told Qahtani, "When you're on the stage, the most important thing is the audience. Don't care about how you look, where you are on the stage, how you sound — just care about the audience."

Ideally, you have practised your speech well enough that you look polished, but once you're on the stage you shouldn't be conscious about anything except speaking to the people in front of you. Speak from your heart, Qahtani said, and play off the energy of the audience.

### **Play to your strengths.**

A fellow Toastmasters member once told Qahtani, "Some people are strong with their words, some people are strong with their voice, some people are strong with their stage presence. Your strength is humour. Use it."

Qahtani dabbled in stand-up comedy as an undergraduate student at Arizona State University and tends to find humour in situations. If people didn't find him funny, he wouldn't use jokes in his speeches. It's all about being authentic.

### **Find a balance of emotions.**

Qahtani opened his speech with humour to get the audience laughing and relaxed, but he would have fallen into a stand-up act if he didn't transition into moving personal anecdotes. Similarly, if he kept his entire speech heavy, his audience would have felt depressed or even bored rather than satisfied. However you determine your speech will flow, Qahtani said, it's important that you always leave your audience with a feeling of hope. They need to feel empowered by what you just told them.

### **Practice as much as possible in front of an honest audience.**

The main benefit of joining Toastmasters is that it comes with a group of people who not only support you but who will give you frank feedback on what worked and what didn't in your speech. If you're not part of an organisation like Toastmasters, practice your presentation in front of someone, or several people, who you know won't sugarcoat their feedback.

Qahtani said there were elements of earlier drafts of "The Power of Words" that he was convinced were essential to his speech but that he eventually cut because they weren't working with his audiences. It's important that you never dismiss someone's opinion about your work-in-progress. "You write a speech for an audience, not yourself," he said.

### **Visualise rather than memorise your speech.**

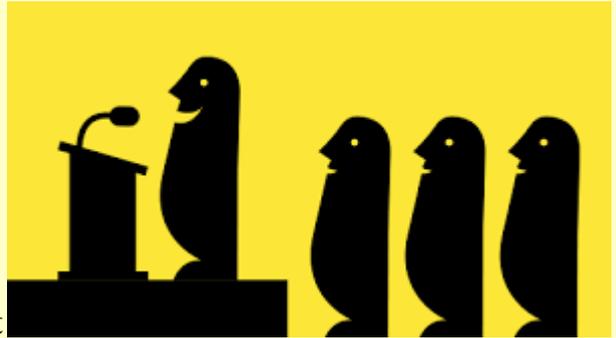
If you try memorising your speech word by word, your performance will suffer, Qahtani said. He likes to visualise a map of certain points in his speech that he fills in during his performance. It's about becoming comfortable with the material to a degree where you can casually talk about it.



## Speakathon

A Speakathon is a special Toastmaster's meeting that only involves speeches and evaluations. It's a great way for Toastmasters to get in additional speaking experience, and also credits towards their various speaking and leadership assignments. It's also a great chance for members of different clubs in an area to get to know each other and participate in a meeting together.

If you would like to attend a speakathon we have one coming up on 7<sup>th</sup> oct from 7pm to 9pm. So get ready with those speeches you were planning for a long time waiting for you turn at the club and also get some experience evaluating other speakers too.



## Mark your Calanders

- 17 September** – Upside Down or Downside Up? Don't miss ot on the 49th Anniversary Celebration @ Parramatta RSL club.
- 29 September** – Skill builder workshop at Rowland Hassall school from 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- 7 October** – Speaker & Evaluation (7pm till 9pm) Opportunity to present a manual speech, evaluate a speaker, on this night for Speakers and Evaluators at Rowland Hassall school.
- 10 October** - Area 13 Table Topic and Humorous Speech Contest . Support Monique as she represents our club in both the contests .

### Dues are due

Make sure to pay your dues before 30 September 2015

The amounts are \$60 for 6 months (Oct15-Mar16) or \$110 for the 12 month period (Oct15-Sept16). Payments can be made by two methods:

1. Cash/cheque in person at meeting
2. EFT to the Club's bank account (Account Name: Parramatta Toastmasters Club, BSB: 032 078 Account #: 525479). Please use your name in the details for identification).