

## Santa Claus came to (Parramatta) town

Parramatta's last meeting for the year happened last Thursday, the meeting colloquially known as 'The Christmas Meeting'. The night boasted a star-studded lineup of guests including district personalities Phillip Bendeich and Kaylene Ledger, district Humorous Speech Contest winner Ian Small, member of other clubs, family members of Parramatta members, some members of the Parramatta Member Club (who heard the meeting was on and popped in to see what all the fuss was about), and none other than Santa Claus himself.

Tribute must firstly be paid to the dedicated team, led by Linda Snalam who spent many weeks organising the myriad small things that together made sure the night was a stunning success, and it was a stunning success.

The night was opened and directed flawlessly by one of Parramatta's most burgeoning charismas Mr Ian Lipski—from introductions, to guests, to Table Topics, he never missed a beat.

Michael Said showed us that he is not all horse-racing and machismo, that soft-squidgy centre we all know is lurking just below the surface was spilled onto the stage as he recited us a heart-felt little Christmas ditty that was penned of his own hand.

Gary Wilson took the opportunity to teach us something valuable (and interesting) about standing committees, and led the first 'standing Business Session' witnessed perhaps by all present—what we inadvertently learned was the value of compression stockings.

Ferdie Oosterhoff and Peter Steinhour (see previous issues if you



He 'did it his way'—Christmas Meeting Master of Ceremonies Ian Lipski ran the evening like clock-work



Santa comes to Parramatta Toastmasters—an emotional Santa sets alight the Christmas spirit (and waves his finger at a naughty Steven Cox in the front row)

want to learn more about this guy) ran a little bit of theatre style fun, that saw Kirsten Linklater's husband Andrew 'hit-on' by three calculating temptresses, Ingrid Hoppe and John Bright look most uncomfortable handling their love-child, and Steven Cox attempt to win employment by beat-boxing (we are considering putting a new item on the regular meeting agenda).

As always the highlight of the evening was the prepared speeches—Demian Coorey, Elizabeth Wilson and guest Tom Small led us on a little tour of the range of human emotions, with some very touching and extremely funny moments.

See page 3 for some more choice Christmas Meeting shots...



What's not to like?—Gareth Peterson, Ingrid Hoppe and Kirsten Linklater 'hamming it up' at the Christmas meeting

### DON'T MISS!

- First meeting of the New Year—6 Jan 2011

Natta Photos by *Suben Subenthiran*

## The dark side of the Toastmasters promise

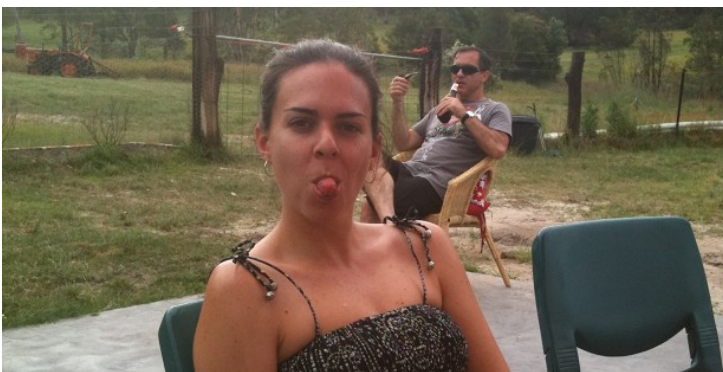
A lot is made of the benefits to be had by embarking on the Toastmasters journey—for the vast majority of people who become Toastmasters there is a world of benefits to be realised, including increased self-confidence, increased general knowledge, a wider circle of friends and contacts, and somewhere to go two nights per month. Scant little attention however is given to darker side of this organisation, and the fate that becomes a small number of vulnerable Toastmasters.

It is a lesser known fact that for certain types of personalities the rigorous and structured programme prescribed by Toastmasters International can have disturbing effects. For these kinds of personalities the repeated stress of appearing before large groups of people, combined with the incessant positive input and encouragement provided by fellow Toastmasters can over a period of years cause a kind of distortion of personality, and in the most severe cases, a temporary but complete loss of the 'concept of self', know in the literature as 'personality dissolution disorder'.

Primary stage symptoms of personality dissolution disorder include an extended period of hyper-excitement and intensity, and a propensity for the scientific. These are followed by the unmistakable secondary-stage symptom, delusions of grandeur (it's common for Toastmasters in this stage to run for club President). In the inevitable tertiary stage, the Toastmaster loses the ability to speak entirely. To the casual observer, the Toastmaster appears to be in a state of deep-concentration, a state that doesn't appear to resolve. They speak and look at no-one, mumbling only to themselves and frequently changing direction when walking.

Toastmasters International have been working with a number of international medical organisations to determine how the CC and CL programmes can be altered to provide the same personal growth potential whilst avoiding the risks of personality dissolution, and some positive progress has been made.

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e equals mc-cubed—Kate Linklater showing primary stage symptoms of Personality Dissolution Disorder, adamant she has found the flaw in Einsteins famous theory



Where the pipe tobacco doesn't cost a cent—Demian Coorey 'finding himself' at the Wilberforce Personality Spectrum Disorder Sanitarium

## Chick off the old block

There has been a new addition to a family of the Parramatta Toastmaster family, and we have it on good authority that she's much better looking than her grand-dad. An enormous congratulations to Ian Chick on the arrival of his first grand-daughter.



Welcome to the world—the beautiful Ariah Jean Chick



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It is also a little-known fact that our own club has been touched by this affliction—Demian Coorey has succumbed a number of times, and recently spent time at the Wilberforce Personality

Spectrum Disorder Sanitarium. Kate Linklater showed early symptoms last month, and was checked in by her concerned sister Kate, both have made a full recovery and are regularly attending Toastmasters again.



We're so happy it's Christmas—Selvi and Alicia show us their fillings whilst Michelle hugs her booty



Come on John, gimme a shot!—David Moore pleads for the budget to finance the sequel to 'Diary of a Dodgy Geezer', whilst competing directors look on



MC High-Tower lays it down—Steven Cox channels his inner master-blaster and gives us all a taste of his beat-box skills



The evening ran flawlessly, but behind the curtain these two iron-ladies ran a military operation—Kate and Linda take a moment to reflect on their hard work

## Parramatta Toastmasters - Club 2274

### Meeting Details

Parramatta Toastmasters meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, in the Linden Room of the Parramatta RSL.

6pm for a 6:30pm start

Dinner is available during the meeting

Guests and visitors are always welcome

### Enquiries / Correspondence

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