



*Toastmasters International,
Where Leaders are Made*

We are always very pleased to welcome our guests and encourage them to come back and see us again and for some to join our Speechcraft Course (for details see our website at www.parramattatm.org.au – Short Courses) and others to join our Toastmasters Club or one nearer to their home.

**District 70
Parramatta Toastmasters**

NOTE: There will be no more Toastmaster Meetings this year – our next meeting is on 5 January 2012. If you are interested in being in the Evaluation Contest on 19 January 2012 please email Linda Snalam VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

Theme: “Christmas Wish”



The Christmas bell rang, the lights twinkled on the Christmas Tree and a very warm welcome was given by our Sergeant at Arms, **Christine Pizzuti**. “Quieten down” she told us, “take your seats, Meeting 1195 is about to begin. A Christmas Wish ...”

Elizabeth Wilson, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, said that she loves everything to do with Christmas, in fact she is a Christmas-aholic! She then burst into song “when you wish upon a star, makes no different who you are ...!” You’re our shining Star Elizabeth, you shone brightly over Parramatta tonight! All of the participants that received a magic wand from you want to thank you and hope that the wishes will come true in 2012.

John Taylor, welcomed many guests this evening and did so with best wishes and warm smiles. John certainly embraced his role tonight and made everyone feel very much part of our fantastic Christmas Party.

Ho, ho, ho yelled **Santa**. He shared many stories with us including the 95 year old lady who wanted to cuddle Santa - it was her only wish, one which Santa granted. Just shows you that Santa will always be in our hearts. Merry Christmas to you too Santa, we all love you!



Santa in action (Tom McDonald)

Special Welcome to visitors for Meeting No. 1195
15 December 2011

Jan Vecchio – DTM, Lieutenant Governor of Training and Education,
member of Dee Why Toast Masters

Joan Rinaldi – Lieutenant Governor Marketing, Member of Fairfield Toast Masters

David Fisher – DTM, District 70, Publish Relations Officer

Gregory North – DTM, Guest Speaker, Bush Poet, Toastmaster Member of
Springwood, Past Member of Parramatta.

Dale Rees-Bevan – DTM, Member of Dural, 2011 Winner of District 70 Humorous
Speech Contest

Margrit Fisher – ALB,CL– Central Division Governor

Nick Rinaldi – DTM, Lachlan Division Governor and husband of Joan Rinaldi, member
of many clubs including Fairfield

Rhonda Hookham – DTM, Past Member of Parramatta, VPE of Stagetime Toastmasters,
Member of Fairfield, 2012 Annual Conference Co-Chairman

Bernie Fisher – CTM, CL, District 70 Sound Technician

Allan Rees-Bevan - ATM-G, VPE Mosman Toastmasters, ATM Gold, husband of
Dale Reeves-Bevan

Daniel Tucker – DTM, Happy Hunters Hill and Western Gourmet, Lyndal's partner.

Ashleigh Cormack – ALB, member of Dural Toastmasters

Juliana Jamal – DTM, past Central Division Governor

David Moore – DTM, West Gourmet Toastmasters

Shivaun Fulford – Nirish Shakya's fiancée

Beverley McDonald – Tom McDonald's wife

Kerrie Scarpellino – Friend of John Nichols



Special Welcome to visitors for Meeting No. 1195
(cont.)

Nurse Pasipanodya – 2nd time visitor, wife of David Pasipanodya

Arthur Piper – Husband of Cheryl Piper

Patrick Hession – First time visitor

Jean Posfield – Visitor

Omar Flores – Alicia Denis's husband

Ram Bali – Friend of Juliana Jamal, past Central Division Governor

Cathy Shina – Past Speechcrafter, wife of Ray Shina

Jackie Ryan – Guest from Moira Kelly's Supportive Children First Foundation
(Priceline Sisterhood)

Angela Munz – Guest from Moira Kelly's Supportive Children First Foundation

Sue Wilson – Melanie Wilson's mother

Elaine Woods – regular visitor and wife of Tom Woods

Rita Stremmel – Partner of Malkit Manwait, who works in aged care

Tim Clark – Linda Clark's son

Peter Said – Michael Said's brother

WE LOVE GUESTS – INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

*Come along and enjoy a night at Parramatta Toastmasters.
Where you can have a meal and relax.
You may even learn something along the way!*

**Merry
Christmas**



“Christmas Wish ...all I want for Christmas is my two front teeth..”

Christmas Reading was given by, **Barbara Beveridge**. She gave us her best Christmas cake recipe, which involved lots of testing and tasting of the whisky! By the end of it, who cared about the cake anyway, off to bed for a good snooze after all that booze!



If you have any news or an article for the Parra Natta please email Barbara Beveridge, VPPR – vppr@parramattatm.org.au

Linda Snalam gave the inspirational about a farm run by Moira Kelly. A 3 year old boy from Papua New Guinea suffered from a club foot and couldn't walk properly. Whilst here he learnt some English and had a successful operation.



Moira Kelly

Thank you to Suben Subenthiran and Christine Pizzuti who took the photographs used in this edition

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

- If you require the use of a projector Parramatta Toastmasters have 1 on call – please give 48 hours notice and contact our Sergeant at Arms – Christine Pizzuti – email: saa@parramattatm.org.au
- There are resources available from the Club Library, - books and cassettes - please check out our club website to view what's available to help you
- Please be sure to read the minutes of our club meeting which can be found at <http://www.parramattatm.org.au/introducing club.htm>.

REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR CL MANUAL TO EVERY MEETING

PLEASE EMAIL OR RING IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND A MEETING!

Christmas Wish - a toast to 'peace, love and joy'

Suzanne Berkeley gave a blissful toast to 'peace, love and joy'. May we all have those three blessings throughout 2012.



and now the for the seasonal Table Topics session hosted by **Michael Said** (Santa) and charming Santa's helper, **Linda Clark**.

In order to fully understand what was going on in Table Topics, Michael peacefully explained that you have to pretend you like what you get for a Christmas gift, even if you don't like it. Show gratitude for it!

First in the queue for a gift from Santa's sack was **Christine Pizzuti**. Her gift was 3 pink plastic microphone/speakers. "Thank you" she graciously said and pondered what she would use these for. She then had a brilliant brain wave to use them to get everyone in order for the meetings. Ah, Christine once a Sergeant at Arms, always a Sergeant at Arms. Merry Christmas Christine!



One of Christine's pink microphones

Wikrom Tang was next for a gift, he got a nectarine. At first he thought it was an apple and said 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away!' He laughed and then told us what a great gift as he's been involved in fruit and veg for years. Wikrom tried to tell us that a nectarine was a cross between a cherry and peach --- hmm, it will be a lump of coal for your gift next year Wikrom for such a tale!



Am I a cross between a cherry and a peach? I don't think so!

Christmas Wish - I'll tell you what I want what I really, really want ... more Table Topics!



Tom Woods received a comb! Now for those of you that don't know, Tom has absolutely no hair on his head. Good old Tom took it in good spirit and thanked Michael for helping him to remember how to use one!



Thanks for the memories!

An empty bottle of Grange Hermitage was **Ian Lipski's** present. Ian said it was great - just what he wanted, it must have come from the Khoury Bar in Las Vegas.



That must have been a good drop Michael, hope you enjoyed it!

Ron Marriott's gift was not to be revealed to us! Ron kept it under wraps and said he can only talk about it but none can know what it is. He did mention it was the most practical, useful gift Michael has ever given him. In the past it has been coffee cups and things he can't mention, always given from the heart! He said Michael is full of something – perhaps its sentiment Ron?



What could it be?

Christmas Wish ... Table Topics - don't look a gift horse in the mouth!

A red and white gift was presented to **Gary Wilson** whilst he sat on Michael Said's knee. "Excellent" said Gary, "I'll use it to wipe up after the dragons when they get thrashed!".



Now Gary have you been a good boy this year?

Past Central Division Governor, **Juliana Jamal's** gift was a small bottle of Baileys. Juliana told us Michael is the kind of guy who gets a person who does not drink to try a drink. Michael enticed her to try a Baileys. Next time, she said, she will have it with milk!



I'll have a baileys and milk next time!

"Wow, this is my favourite gift!" exclaimed **Robyn Peck**. Robyn explained that there's a story behind this gift of Asian Sauce – Robyn wouldn't eat anything if it had this sauce on it. The sauce was 'Fish Sauce'. She revealed it smelt putrid and couldn't understand why anyone, including Ian Chick, would want to use it!



Try this next time Robyn – it will do the trick!

Christmas Wish - Table Topics - is this for me??

Ian Chick didn't think he was going to get away without getting something weird for a gift, did he? Of course not, but was he prepared when he opened the box and found a packet of prophylactics. Ian was quick to point out that he didn't need them!



Here's how you can use them Ian.

After that we were all thrilled and surprised by what came next from Michael Said ...



Michael dropped to one knee in front of Linda, he took out a little gift box and presented it to her and asked the question "will you marry me?" To which Linda replied (after some tears) 'YES!'

Congratulations to Michael and Linda on your engagement, what a way to start Christmas! You certainly made our Christmas Party extraordinary this year. We wish you all the very best for the beginning of a beautiful, loving future together.



"Will you marry me?"



"Yes!"

Christmas Wish - 'love forever to Michael Said and Linda Clark'

Tom Woods, found it a little difficult to take the floor after the marriage proposal of Michael to Linda. However, Tom managed to conduct the Mini Business Session with razzia mattaz and Christmas flair. Great job Tom.



Tom brought us back down to earth with the Mini Business Session

The Time Capsule was opened by **Robyn Peck**. Robyn handed out last year's letters to ourselves, it was amazing looking back on the dreams and ambitions we all had for ourselves in 2011. Some were achieved others were not. Oh well, there's always next year, so we wrote down our dreams and aspirations for 2012 and back they went into the Time Capsule.



Letters back into the Time Capsule

State of the Union Address by **Sam Ekinici**. Sam congratulated Michael and Linda on their engagement. Sam told us to give more than we receive. It is important for us to budget and do good in order to ensure the longevity of our club. We have also had the largest number of hits on our website and Gary Wilson is to be commended on his wonderful effort. Thank you Gary for all the terrific work you have put into making our website the best! Thank you to everyone for all of the effort and great work you have done for Parramatta Toastmasters Club during 2011. We wouldn't be where we are now if it wasn't for the fantastic dedication and work done!



Excellence here at Parramatta Toastmasters

Christmas Wish to everyone - have a happy, safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Christmas Cheer was presented by, **Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram**. Kirisha gave us tips on how to be gracious when responding to Christmas presents you would rather not have received. 1. Explaining your situation, Gosh, I hope I never lose this. We're always losing things around here. 2. Indirect praise – It's great; but I'm worried about the envy it may create. 3. Suggest alternate plans – Just my luck to get this on the very Christmas I promised to give all my gifts to charity. 4. False humility – Frankly, I don't deserve this and 5. The truth – really, you shouldn't have!



Bad gifts handled delicately

Fun and Games presented by **Wendy Nielsen and Melanie Wilson**.

A story about a friend called, Jennifer, who went looking for Christmas decorations. She knew she was after some tinsel and was greeted by a spotty youth at the counter in a shop. When she asked him for 12 metres and the price, he replied "1 kiss per metre!" "Thank you, I'll take it" she replied and then pointed across to an elderly gentlemen and said "my grandfather over there will be paying!".

Wendy and Melanie then told us they would be selecting 5 teams, the teams would only have 2 mins to speak and needed to be spontaneous. The teams would be given a story/situation and they would need to act it out.

Team 1: with Dud Gift, consisted of Demian Coorey, Kate Linklater and Mark Pankhurst.

The family was Lebanese; Demian played the son and was given a gift to return to Lebanon from his parents, Mark and Kate. Demian did not want to go back to Lebanon and played his part, complete with accent, hilariously well! Very comical Team 1.



I don't want to go back to Lebanon!

Christmas Wish - peace, joy and happiness to all mankind

The Teams were being scored by three Judges, Joan Abelia, John Nicholls and Nick Rinaldi, who stood up and showed score cards.

Next up were **Team 2, consisting of Alicia Dennis, David Fisher and Rhonda Hookham with “Fun in the Car Park”**.

David was the Uncle of two teenage nieces stuck in the car park trying to find a parking spot. They were going Christmas Shopping. After a lot of whining from the girls, David tired to keep control of the situation. The girls got the better of him with their bickering and fighting. Alicia’s suggestion, for the girls to get out of the car and go shopping on their own, was brilliant, especially when she said to David “give me your credit card!” Both Rhonda and Alicia seemed to have plenty of knowledge on how to behave like naughty teenagers. Very funny, team 2.



Out of the way Uncle, give me your credit card, us girls are going Christmas shopping!

Team 3 with “Christmas afternoon bar be que, boys doing it wrong” was acted out by Joan Rinaldi, Jeevan Jayanathan and Nirish Shakya.

Jeevan and Nirish were the guy’s supposedly cooking the bar be que, much to the horror of Joan. Joan pointed out that they needed to watch what they were doing and go easy on the beer. “The beer’s great to pour onto the food” they told her. Jeevan, quite drunk by this time, was staggering around with beer in hand, pointed out that the food cooks itself anyway. Fantastic scenario of a typical Aussie bar be que Team 2 – really enjoyable!



Come on boys, put the beers down and cook the food properly!

Christmas Wish - lots of pressies, good food and a nice glass of champers!

Team 4 – with ‘Snowed In’ comprised of Lyndal Eager, Michelle Hunt and Cheryl Piper. Three buddies, Lyndal, Michelle and Cheryl, were on Christmas holidays and got snowed in. There was no power and they were figuring out how to cook Christmas dinner. After finding not much to eat and the room to be very cold, they concluded that plenty of alcohol could solve everything! Good holiday fun ladies.



Snowed in?



Here's the answer to the problem!

Team 5 – Telling us about “Dinner with the In Laws” – presented by Kirsten Linklater, Ashleigh Cormack and David Pasipanodya. David and Kirsten, a young married couple are late by 1 hour to visit their mother in law. The Mother in Law (Ashleigh) was a very unfriendly and stubborn woman. When they announced they were expecting triplets the mother in law nearly passed out, asking if they were sure and if it was too late (for them to do anything about it)!



“Are you sure it's triplets, is it too late?”

Christmas Wish - I want it all Santa !

The winners of the Fun and Games segment were –

Team 1 – Demian Coorey, Kate Linklater and Mark Pankhurst. Congratulations to you all and may your Christmas wishes come true!



Next on the agenda was the Speaking Program –

First speaker was **Dale Rees-Bevan** with her speech, 'Country Charm'. Dale told us about a business trip to Cobar, she was highly excited about it. Getting there was a bit of a nightmare, especially the aeroplane trip on a small plane. She managed it with great flair and a business woman's aptitude. The hotel was another matter plus the man in the orange suit had many roles in the trip, including pilot and hotel attendant! Very funny speech Dale, one that kept us laughing.



Dale Rees-Bevan telling us about 'Country Charm'

Christmas Wish - I want to speak like an angel

Speaker 2 – **David Griffith** with 'The Assassin'. David told us that Ian Chick had tried to poison him on a dark and starry night. Ian provided a small bowl and asked David if he liked the hot stuff! Now David liked spicy food and thought he could handle what Ian was dishing out. However, he found it was more than he bargained for. He likened the need for water, after eating what Ian had given him, to that of a continuous drink from Niagara Falls! David sweated and lost that much water from perspiration. He said the water he had been given to drink was also spiked with lime juice and wasabi! He ended up on his way to hospital in an ambulance. The amount of water he drank whilst in hospital made Warragamba Dam fall by 11 inches. David reckons Ian should export chilli to Iran as a secret weapon. Absolutely hilarious story David!



This was more than I bargained for!



"You are an assassin!"

Speaker 3 – **Gregory North** (Bush Poet Champion for 2011) with 'Answers in Space'. Greg came out in unusual attire – that of a nerdy astrologist! He told us of all the upheavals he had with the women of his dreams and his need to find celestial answers. He was looking for answers way up there, his girlfriend however, saw him with a different slant, telling him he was really insignificant! Greg's Christmas wish is to find a heavenly lady. Good luck Greg! Very comical speech!



Greg North as the Astrologist!



What's up there?

Christmas Wish - why don't you help this Christmas by ...

- Assisting our Club by becoming a member of Parramatta RSL Club. This is not just for Toastmasters but for our guests too. Yearly membership is only \$5.50 for one year or \$16.50 for three years. The Club supports us by waiving room hire though CDSE. Members can also enjoy discount on purchases throughout the club.

Send wishes to Toastmasters who are sick :

©greet someone.com



There are so many people thinking nice thoughts about you and wishing you a quick, easy recovery and I'm one of them!

and think of fellow Toastmasters who have seriously ill family and friends or who have lost a dear one:



*Love to everyone who's hurting out there
- we all care and are thinking of you!*

Christmas Wish - may you have a lovely Christmas 2011

Charity Presentation by **Suben Subenthiran** – thank you to everyone, tonight we collected over \$190 plus wonderful gifts and toys. Suben presented the money and gifts to Jackie Ryan from the Moira Kelly's Supportive Children's First Foundation (Priceline Sisterhood). Jackie accepted the presentation and gave many thanks to all who donated. We truly wish all the children undergoing operations here great success!

Christine Pizzuti then presented a special Table Topics award to **Michael Said** for the best Table Topic of a marriage proposal and to **Linda Clark** for the best answer! Congratulations once again, Michael and Linda, on your engagement.

District 70 Presentation by **Jan Vecchio** (DTM and Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, member of Dee Why Toastmasters). Jan gave a lovely Christmas message on 'how if you get to the edge you will not fall'. We are here to catch you and you will succeed! Sometimes by getting to the edge you need to move forward and things will progress for you. To stand still is to do nothing, when we are pushed it's usually for a reason.



Jan Vecchio

Our Master of Ceremonies, the lovely **Elizabeth Wilson** then presented the Stirrers Spoon to **Linda Clark and Michael Said** for their important input into tonight's events!

A big thank you to **Elizabeth Wilson** for the wonderful wands she handed out throughout the evening and the special wishes she bestowed upon everyone! Best wishes to you too Elizabeth. Merry Christmas!



Thank you Elizabeth, Merry Christmas to you!

Awards were then handed to **Melanie Wilson and Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram** for becoming Competent Communicators.

Christmas Wish - hope everyone has a loving, joyous Christmas 2011

The meeting was closed by **Sam Ekinici**. Sam told us to assist one another and to help each other. He said we need to help in order to fulfill our life's purpose. Sam then invited our guests to stay for a drink and to celebrate Christmas 2011.



Stay for a drink and a chat at Parramatta RSL Club

A very big thank you to the Executive Committee in charge of the Christmas Meeting – **Linda Snalam, Kirisha Thanapalasantheram, Mark Pankhurst, Stephen Cox and Nirish Shakya**. Also a thank you to others who assisted setting up the room for the evening, including **Barbara Beveridge, John Taylor and of course, Christine Pizzuti!**

Thank you gifts were given to **Dale Rees-Bevan and Gregory North** for their contribution to the evening. Plus a big thank you to **Bernie Fisher** for the audio set up, who was also presented with a gift. Last but not least Santa, Tom McDonald.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Christmas and festive season holiday.



*Hope you had lots of fun at our Meeting 1195
and will have many more throughout 2012!*
Here are some photo's of our wonderful Christmas Wish Meeting for you to enjoy.



Tom Woods



Robyn Peck



Juliana Jamal



Mark Pankhurst, Kirsten Linklater & Demian Coorey



Michael Said proposing to Linda Clark



Lyndal Eager

More photos' next page



Sam Ekinci



Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram



Victor Lee and Barbara Beveridge



Alicia Denis and Omar Flores



Joan Rinaldi and Elizabeth Wilson



Nurse and David Pasipanodya



Bernie Fisher and Sam Ekinci



Daniel Tucker and Lyndal Eager

More photo's...



Suzanne Berkeley and Suben Subenthiran



Elaine Woods and Tom Woods



Linda Clark and Tim Clark



Victor Lee and Steve Cox



Jeevan, Nirish and Joan



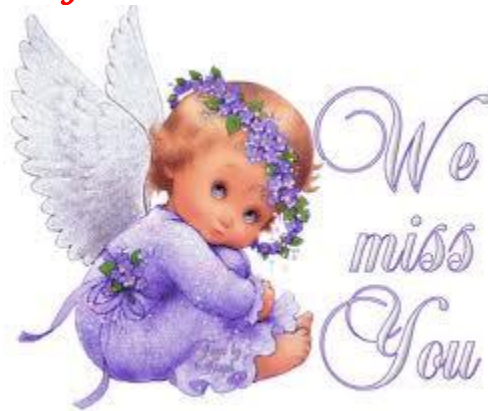
Wendy, Melissa and Elizabeth



Guests and Toastmasters enjoying themselves



And for those who you who couldn't attend - you were very much missed, join us next time!



Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2012!



See you in 2012

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMING EVENTS

5 January 2012, "A Clean Canvas" our first meeting at the beginning of the New Year 2012, if you can't attend please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

19 January 2012, Evaluation Contest – again a major event. Don't miss this meeting! any member not attending please email Linda Snalam, VPE at vpe@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS

Meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd

Thursdays of each month, in the Linden
Room of the Parramatta RSL, O'Connell St,
Parramatta.

6pm for a 6.30 pm start. Dinner is available
during the meeting. Guests and visits are
always welcome.

Come along and enjoy a great night of
learning and entertainment.

Enquiries/Correspondence:

Send to:
PO Box 632, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
AUSTRALIA
Email: info@parramatta.org.au