

5 January 2012  
District 70

# Parra Natta

Meeting No. 1196



**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](http://www.parramattatm.org.au) – Short Courses) and others to join our Toastmasters Club or one nearer to your home.*

District 70

Parramatta Toastmasters

NOTE: Our next meeting is on 19 January 2012. Which is our evaluation contest evening? If you are interested in being in the Evaluation Contest please email Linda Snalam VPE at [vpe@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:vpe@parramattatm.org.au) as soon as possible.

*Theme: "A Clean Canvas"*



**Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to our first meeting for 2012.**

Greeting us for the first time this year was our lovely Sergeant at Arms, **Christine Pizzuti**. Getting us in order for the new year's meeting was not an easy task as there was too much hugging, kissing and chatting going on. However, Christine managed to round us up for a quick start to 'A Clean Canvas'.

**Sam Ekinci**, President started on his clean canvas by doing the Opening. Sam told us he was happy to be back and how great it was to see his Toastmaster family again. Recently he refurbished his offices and ordered a canvas by googling canvasses and chose one to suit a theme. It was a classic photograph of 11 men on a pier having lunch on the Empire State building in 1931. They had their lunch boxes with them, and most were smoking 'ciggies', he said it was a masterpiece. Sam believes, this, our first meeting will be sure to start us all off with a clean canvas for 2012.



**Men on a pier**

**Linda Snalam**, VPE, painted a grand picture of the program changes for us. Linda adapts to changes easily by using her own confidential flair.

*Happy New Year and Welcome to our guests for  
Meeting No. 1196  
5 January 2012*

**Afsana Ahmed** – First time visitor to our club

**Kim Gosper** – Past Member of The Hills Toastmasters and first time visitor to our club

**Ryan Huerta** – Second time visitor to our club

**Fiz Khan** – First time visitor to our club

**Gabriela Ord** – First time visitor to our club (will be commencing the Speechcraft Program in February 2012)

**Melissa See** – First time visitor to our club

**Philip Schluter** – Current member of Tea House Toastmasters, Melbourne and first time visitor to our club

**Amelia Wenn** – First time visitor to our club



**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!*

*'A Clean Canvas' .... You can do anything, why not become more involved in Toastmasters this year?*

Chairman 1 – was tonight's role for **Wendy Nielsen**. She handled the role with great enthusiasm. Wendy said that the New Year can give us new goals. Anything can happen; new babies will be born, people will fall in love and marry. She also asked who got plastered at New Year and who made New Year plans? Wendy found a lot of raised hands in the audience!



Hands up who got plastered over the New Year

**Melanie Wilson** did the Welcome. Melanie introduced all our guests for this evening with great warmth. She helped everyone feel comfortable at our New Year's meeting.



Welcome to Parramatta Toastmasters Club

Don't forget to bring your **Competent Leader's** manual with you to all meetings; you may have a role that can be signed off on.

Remember to let us know if you can't attend a meeting, call or email the VPE, **Linda Snalam** on [vpe@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:vpe@parramattatm.org.au) .

Please read our Club's Minutes go to – <http://www.parramattatm.org.au/introducingclub.htm>.

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

## 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](mailto: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/introducingclub.htm>.

*“A Clean Canvas... be what you want to be, do what you want to do”*

Point of View was given by **Steven Cox**. Steven enterprisingly told us that Australia needs more places for men to wear suits. He said it was OK for the ladies and explained that suits are great for guys as there are places for their pens, business cards and hankies (plus other secretive men’s stuff). He said that men in suits look handsome (like him) and it was a good look. Steven tried to convince us that men in suits looked sexy and gained attention.



**Steven Cox – the next James Bond perhaps!**

Chairman 1 - **Wendy Nielsen** revealed she loves men in suits but they could also use a man bag for carrying their essentials!

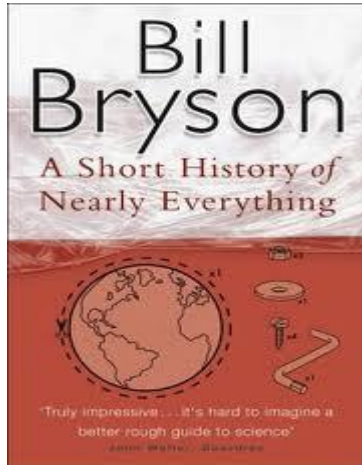


Decisions, decisions ... hmm, wonder if this is the right coloured man bag for my outfit!

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

## *A Clean Canvas - what's your New Year resolution?*

**Ron Marriott** gave us a Book Review. Ron told us about a book written by Bill Bryson (one of my personal favourite travel writers) called 'A Short History of Nearly Everything'. He said the book was filled with antidotes, discoveries and if your New Year's resolution is to read more then get a copy of this book.



**A Short History of Nearly Everything written by Bill Bryson**

Inspirational was given by **Mark Pankhurst**. Mark told us a man died by giving his life to another. This man made a difference and was described as a very caring person. His name was Michael Wilson a NSW Paramedic. Michael tried to save a family in a burning home and gave the ultimate sacrifice and gift, that of his own life. Lots of people do things to help others, they do it not for fame, glory or money - they are volunteers. Mark asked us "what type of person would sacrifice themselves for another?" – my answer would be a very selfless and loving person indeed.



**Michael Wilson, was a very special person.**



## *A Clean Canvas - you can do anything you put your mind to!*

**Selvi Jayaganesh**, gave a wonderful Toast to everyone who makes the world a better place to live in. She acknowledged those who helped to inspire others to have healthier, happier lives.

“Be the change  
you want to see  
in the  
world.”  
- Mahatma Ghandi

## *Next was the Table Topic Session*

Presented by, **Jeeven Jayanathan**. Jeeven said a clean canvas was needed for table topics and he was introducing a new version.

Jeeven said that since the 14<sup>th</sup> century interesting works of art had come about and each speaker tonight would be given a masterpiece from the collection and have to describe or emphasis what it was without naming it or giving any sounds like it. Speakers would choose a piece of paper with the name of the masterpiece written on it.



The following table topic speakers are all Superb Masterpieces and our stars!

*A Clean Canvas means Jeeven giving us a new version of Table Topics ...*

**First clean canvas Table Topic speaker** for the evening was **Mark Pankhurst**.

Mark told us there was a lottery for this masterpiece. He said it was a great design and bantered about the stage giving us a lucid description. His masterpiece was guessed by most of us as the Opera House.



The Sydney Opera House

**Second Table Topic speaker** was **Sam Ekinci**.

Sam said this was a traditional thing done in the bush; you sit around this circle of bush rocks, bring wood and light it. Toast marshmallows by it and enjoy the evening. He gave a very descriptive and detailed vision of what he was talking about. His masterpiece was guessed by his audience as a Camp Fire.



Who's got the snags?

**Third Table Topic speaker for a clean canvas** was **Steven Cox**.

'Picture looking at the sky at night and seeing things in the sky' said Steven. He tried to describe what we seeing in the night time sky. Some of the Toastmasters guessed right, it was, stars, 'Starry, Starry Night'.



Starry night

## *A Clean Canvas - create your own Masterpiece*

**Fourth Table Topic speaker** up was **Tom Woods**.

Tom told us the credit goes to grandma and to flour. The flour used to make dough which was thrown into the oven. He said he has it with cream the result of which is that he can only wear a Santa Suit! Lots of shouting out from the audience over this one, we finally found Tom's masterpiece was, Apple Pie.



Apple Pie



I'll have mine with cream thanks!

**Fifth Table Topic Speaker** was **Barbara Beveridge**. Barbara described a hot day and a swim at a water hole in the Blue Mountains with water cascading down. Several times she repeated water cascading down and the audience and guests guessed what her masterpiece was – a Waterfall.



A Waterfall

**Sixth Table Topic Speaker** was **Ron Marriott**. Ron got straight into describing his masterpiece. He described orbs in the sky, rays coming down. "Umbrella, umbrella!" he cried out. Balls, bouncing balls, blow up balls – lots of fun and humour used Ron, but I personally think Ron had one too many balls in his speech! After lots of guesses it was revealed that Ron's description was that of Summer Time at the Beach.



Ron and friends, complete with umbrella and ball, on way for Summer Time at the Beach!



## *A Clean Canvas - get into things, what are you waiting for!*

**Speaker Seven at Table Topics** was **Linda Snalam**. Linda painted a great canvas for us based on her description and made it easy for us to guess her masterpiece. She said we celebrate this once a year and usually put something up in our house – a beautiful decoration. It usually has an angel on top of it. That's right, it was a Christmas tree.



A Christmas Tree with angel on top

**Eight Table Topic Speaker** was **Selvi Jayaganesh**. Selvi told us that she had seen this film. She said it was very good and had Indian culture. Selvi liked the movie and told us all to watch it if we hadn't seen it. Her masterpiece was revealed to us as being – Slumdog Millionaire.



Slumdog Millionaire

**Ninth Table Topic Speaker** was **Suzanne Berkeley**. Suzanne said many people have this at the front of their house, others at the side. She used lots of descriptive words to describe her masterpiece, great job Suzanne. Her masterpiece was a Rose Garden.



A Rose Garden

*A Clean Canvas - start afresh, start anew, you can dust yourself off and try to be the best you can be!*

**Tenth Table Topic Speaker** tonight was **Ian Chick**. Ian has admired this painting for many, many years. He said this lady doesn't smile and some have not known if the person was actually a female or not. Ian's sense of humour assisted us in knowing immediately what his masterpiece was, the Mona Lisa.



The Mona Lisa



and a newer version of Mona Lisa as Tomb Raider!

**Evaluators** – for the **odd numbered speakers** was **Linda Clark**. Linda said this was a challenging Table Topic Session and she was thankful for those who didn't get picked! She gave a wonderful evaluation of each of her speakers with lots of great advice and encouragement.

**Elizabeth Wilson** was the evaluator for the **even numbered speakers** and again provided each speaker with very valuable feedback to assist them further. Elizabeth also provided lots of positive information to keep everyone's motivation going. She told Ron Marriott, once again, not to laugh at his own jokes and he was going to get a whack on the backside if he did it again.



Watch out Ron – do not laugh at your own jokes or you'll cop a whacking!

## *A Clean Canvas - why don't you help with your clean canvas 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 :*



*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!*

## *A Clean Canvas - do good this year, be charitable, loving and kind*

Well done **Chairman 1 – Wendy Nielsen**, what a fantastic job you did in your role tonight. You certainly got us off to a terrific start this year. You gave us a colourful canvas for our first meeting in 2012. Thank you Wendy!



**Chairman 2** was **Gary Wilson**. Gary brings expertise and culture to our club. Gary said Elizabeth will probably have him committed this year for being insane – he admitted his new year's resolution was to be nice to Michael Said! He said it was the start of his clean canvas for 2012.

**Sergeant of Arms, Christine Pizzuti** confirmed we had a quorum for this evening with 21 active members present.

**Linda Snalam, VPE**, told us there were lots of apologies for members not attending this evening.

**Ian Lipski**, announced the minutes to be taken as read for Meeting 1195.

*Highlights:* **Christine Pizzuti** will be running our first Speechcraft Course for 2012 which commences on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012. Anyone wanting to assist her and help out please contact Christine as soon as possible on: [saa@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:saa@parramattatm.org.au).

**Linda Snalam** wants everyone in the Evaluation Contest on 19 January 2012 to be here at 6.15 pm for a briefing.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012** there will be a January Leadership Program run by **Ian Chick**. It will be held at 1 pm – 4 pm at Bankstown Sports Club, **Leadership Opportunities** – facilitated by our own Ian Chick. All Toastmasters who are interested in learning (either at Club or District Level) are invited to attend this interactive workshop. Please email [seminars@d70toastmasters.org](mailto:seminars@d70toastmasters.org) to register for this free seminar.

## *A Clean Canvas - if at first you don't succeed, try, try again*

We then had a motion by **Ian Chick** for **Michael Said to** be the Club Crawler. The Club Crawler position commenced back in the early 1990's when Greg North was nominated. Greg would say nice things about Club Officers and puff up the Present!

It was further put forth that the 'new found marriage between **Gary and Michael**' was the right ticket for a clean canvas for 2012 and they should both be Club Crawlers.



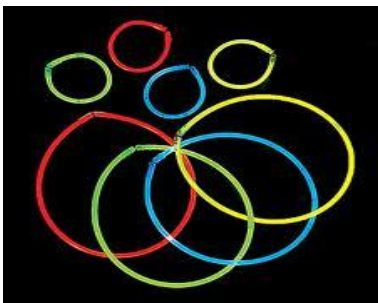
Club Crawlers role

**Gary** wasn't keen on that idea and was told by **Elizabeth** not to be such a stick in the mud. **Gary** told **Elizabeth** that there could only be 1 Club Crawler, it was the Chairman's ruling and the 'No's' have it.



Don't be such a stick in the mud, Gary.

**Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram** then gave us the Frivolous Motion. She wanted Toastmasters to wear flashing necklaces and bracelets so visitors would know who they could talk to and we would clearly be seen of an evening in the car park.



Toastmasters to wear flashing necklaces and bracelets



## *A Clean Canvas - join the executive committee this year - give back something to Toastmasters*

Lots of fun was had during the frivolous motion with suggestions that the Club Crawlers wear flashing dog collars! Thank goodness the motion was squashed and we got back to normal with the General Evaluator being called upon to do her presentation.



**New look for Toastmasters, luminous dog collars!**

**Joan Abelia** as **General Evaluator** brought us all back down to earth. She told us that Wendy did a great job as Chairman 1, provided us with fun, laughter and excitement. Wendy set the tone for the evening. Melanie Wilson did the Welcome, "Melanie has a nice way about her", said Joan. She is very welcoming but she needs to stop using so all the time. Steven Cox's Point of View was nicely put, great use of props, his point of recommendation was to say something not somethink. Ron Marriot's Book Review has prompted Joan into reading Bill Bryson's book. Ron also needs to watch saying somthink. Mark Pankhurst's Inspirational got hearts going and started us thinking, Joan told us. She suggested Mark not read from the page but to read from his heart. Selvi Jayaganesh's Toast was worthwhile; Joan mentioned that with more practice Selvi would lose the nerves. Jeeven Jayanathan as Table Topic Master with his new style of table topics was fun for all!

Joan's tips to those doing Evaluator Roles was every helpful, she provided some points to remember - they should be clear and concise, and provide proper feedback to each and every speaker. Thank you Joan, we will take this on board for the Evaluation Contest.

**Parliamentarian, Tom Woods.** Tom said it was a very well run meeting, the passing of the gavel was very important and was handed over correctly. Tom commented on Gary Wilson's ease of the role as Chairman 2 and that each and every motion moved smoothly. Gary gave a good ruling on a question from Linda and gave an open invitation for member's participation. Well done Gary and thank you Tom!



**Thank you to Tom and Gary for a job well done!**

## *A Clean Canvas - don't let fear hold you back!*

**Ian Chick** was **Larfmaster**. Ian said he would be breaking all the rules tonight telling us about a political joke. He told us about a red phone to ring Earth from Hell could be used by Vladimir Putin, The Queen and John Howard. Putin called and took the most time using the phone and was charged heaps for the call. The Queen called and used the second longest time and was also charged a large amount. Howard called and used the phone for 40 minutes but was only charged \$50.00. Why was John Howards call the cheapest for a 40 minute call? they asked the Devil. The Devil smiled and said that Julia Gillard has lead Australia to hell and John Howard was therefore only charged for a local call!



**Calls from hell are costly unless it's a local call!**

Toastmaster, **Suzanne Berkeley** did a sensational job introducing all the Speakers for tonight. She used her wonderful smile throughout and looked very professional and confident in her role. Terrific job Suzanne!



**Big smiles from Suzanne**

**Wendy Nielsen** gave a little speech regarding the Rotary Youth Leaders going on a camp for 1 week with all meals provided. She said it was all about impromptu speaking for 18-28 year olds.

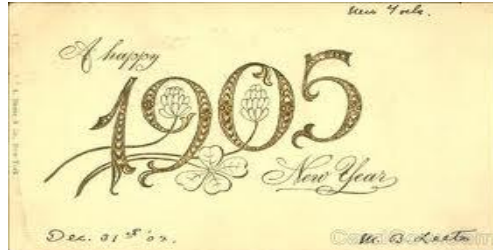
**Sam Ekinci** also gave a short speech to Toastmasters as a Rotary Club Leader. We were all young people and he was our teacher. He told us to put our pens down, sit up. Why do we need to shift and change our psychology? he asked. He said if we conquered our fears we would do more externally. Who's afraid of public speaking – show your hands? He said to show value in ourselves and to show our employer or community group what we were made of, let go of fear. Brilliant speech Sam!



**Don't be a captive, let go of fear**

## *A Clean Canvas - means moving forward in 2012*

**Suzanne Berkeley** told us she goggled a Speech from 1905 which was about a Pastor in Ontario, there were ringing bells and clanging chimes with a steady march to begin the New Year for 1905.



**A New Year's Card from 1905**

### **The speeches began –**

#### **First Speaker – Michelle Hunt** with her speech “**Someone Important**”.

Michelle told us she wanted to be someone important. She shared part of her life with us. She told us when she was born 16 August 1962 at 1 minute to midnight. Michelle took us through her early years, the breakup of her parents and about her step brothers and step sisters. Her work, her marriage, her children and what she has aspired to today. She is indeed an important person and her work reflects that as an educator, teacher and counselor at Northside Clinic, Greenwich. She is also writing a book about eating disorders. Great speech Michelle, well done!



**You are someone important, Michelle**

#### **Second Speaker – Christine Pizzuti** with her speech ‘**The World’s Greatest Drug**’.

Christine launched into her speech by telling us that Christmas is the world’s greatest drug. There is a big lead up to it and a huge let down. She said it was a time for family and the church. Three days worth of food was eaten in one afternoon. The 25 December was decided as Christmas Day in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Santa Claus was based on St. Nicholas in Greece who went down a chimney. There were 19 billion Christmas cards sent in 2006. Christine believes that Christmas is the world’s greatest drug!



**19 billion Christmas Cards were sent in 2006**

## *A Clean Canvas - don't let fear hold you back!*

**Third Speaker – Michael Said** with 'Time in Running Out'. Michael told us to live a no regrets. At the age of 52 Michael decided to get married. He said he couldn't change the past and we all only get 1 chance. He said we need to take time to change. To resolve conflicts is easy, just apologise. Do a bucket list; both Michael and Linda did a bucket list for themselves. Michael has only 1 illegal thing on his list! Linda and Michael climbed Mt Kosciusko on the weekend. Michael told us about his health issues and how he has overcome them and lives life to the full now. **Highlight of Michael's speech** was when he called **Rick Haynes** and put him on loudspeaker. Rick is battling bowel cancer and is very hopeful and optimistic the chemotherapy treatment will help him. Rick told us that his cancer could have been avoidable and if we are 50 years old to get ourselves checked out, it may well save our lives later. Everyone wished Rick all the best to get well and come back to join us very, very soon. A very inspirational speech by Michael.



**Michael Said, strong and courageous**

**Evaluator 1** was **Barbara Beveridge** for Michelle Hunt. Barbara told us that Michelle introduced herself beautifully. Michelle told us all about herself from her early childhood days, through all levels of her life to the present day. Michelle used no notes and spoke from her heart. Her only recommendation was to have smoother transitions throughout her story. Excellent speech, Michelle, you truly are an important person.

**Evaluator 2** was **Wendy Nielsen** for Christine Pizzuti. Wendy said that Christine had met her speech goals tonight. She said Christine had a great voice and gave a great speech. Christine had good use of her hands and eyes and used them to emphasize her points. Only recommendation was to watch the use of filler words, just pause if in doubt. Great speech, well done Christine.

**Evaluator 3** was **Sam Ekinci** for Michael Said. Sam came up and said that Michael called us to action and shared a personal story with the audience. Michael had a great opening and structure. He gave us 3 points and linked them with his own personal experiences. He hammered home action item – to look after our health. Sam recommended Michael to focus on delivery, anchor his pain and emotion into the story. Terrific speech Michael, you gave us inspiration.



## *A Clean Canvas - set your goals and go for them*

**CL Evaluator** was **Ian Lipski**. Ian only had 1 manual to evaluate, that of Joan Abelia. Ian said it was fun to evaluate Joan's role.



**Ian Lipski had fun as CL Evaluator tonight**

**Linda Snalam** was **Timer** for this evening. She took us through the times used by everyone up on stage. Linda said that Sam Ekinci kept his time trim and then added, "not your figure though!". Don't worry Sam, the rest of us think you cut a trim figure!



**Sam kept his time trim!**

Chairman 1, **Wendy Nielsen** called up **Elizabeth Wilson** to talk about Evaluations for the contest. Elizabeth told us that timing is 2 – 3 ½ minutes. Wendy asked what time the orange light hits. Elizabeth told us all to stop at the red light. Ron Marriott asked Elizabeth about the objectives we can use, Elizabeth said best to read manuals – inspirational, humorous, motivational etc. Do your homework she told us!

Tom Woods said do preparation beforehand. Elizabeth asked Kirisha what her role was in evaluation – Kirisha said it was to help the speaker to improve. Elizabeth asked Melanie what the most difficult thing was to evaluate, Melanie answered to find a flaw with someone almost perfect in order to help them to improve.

Elizabeth told us not to cover too much of the story heard and to give 1 or 2 recommendations.

Michael Said told us the 1 pitfall of evaluations was focusing on the speech too much and not being uplifting.



## *A Clean Canvas - enter the contests, have a go!*

We were told that it is more difficult to evaluate a weak speaker than the wonderful star speakers we already have. We need to provide empathy for the newer people. Lots of good advice was given by **Elizabeth Wilson has been a two time District 70's Champion Evaluation Contestant Winner**. Elizabeth wished all contestants good luck.

**Thank you Elizabeth for providing us with information to give us courage so we may excel as contestants in the Evaluation Contest on Thursday 19 January 2012.**



**Some great advice has been provided by Gary Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, Demian Coorey and David Griffiths for the upcoming Evaluation Contest. David Griffiths kindly edited all information provided below.**

### **Keys to Championship Evaluations**

We often say of our club that evaluation is our most prominent strength – we pride ourselves on giving members the very best feedback possible. With six District 70 Evaluation Champions coming from our club (more champions than any other club), there is a degree of truth to our boast. Four of those champions (including myself) remain active members of the club, so I asked each of them to provide some insight on what makes a champion evaluator.

#### **Purpose and Method**

**Gary Wilson (1981 D70 Evaluation Champion)** has been at the forefront of the Parramatta evaluation culture for over forty years, and consistently reinforces the importance of understanding speech purpose. Gary explains:

“The key [to effective evaluation] is to establish the speaker's purpose. Is it to **Inform, Entertain, Persuade** or **Inspire**?

The evaluator then needs to inform the audience of this at the beginning and to focus the whole evaluation on whether this was achieved, and if so WHY, and if not fully, HOW it might have been improved.

The defined purpose then leads to the points to be looked at in the evaluation. For example in an entertaining speech the evaluator would concentrate on presentation skills. But for an informative speech, the evaluator would concentrate on structure, organisation, transitions and support material, with only a brief mention of any problem in the presentation.

Thus the best preparation for an evaluation contest is to study the manual guidelines for each of these 4 types of speeches and to bring prepared notes of how these purposes should be achieved. If the purpose is to persuade say, then the evaluator would use the "Persuade with Power" manual assignment as their guide and so forth.

This is the key difference from evaluating a manual assignment. In the latter case you have the guidelines in the book of what the speaker is trying to do. But in a contest you don't. So you need to find the purpose in order to demonstrate to the judges and the audience your analytical skills. Once you have fixed the purpose and the speaker's objective, the rest should fall into place.

In contrast there is nothing worse than hearing evaluators running through the general range of speaking skills in some pre-programmed way that in no way reflect on what the speaker is aiming to achieve and the relevance of each of those skills to the objective."

Having been given the benefit of Gary's wisdom since my first steps as an evaluator, I sometimes find it incredible that in contests, some evaluators could fail to properly identify the speech purpose. Others will state the purpose, but the rest of their evaluation has no relevance to what the speaker was trying to achieve.

As I was preparing for the 2010 D70 Final, I was following Gary's advice above – I made my own set of notes on critical elements of each of the four speech purposes. I had also begun to realize why some other evaluators had not managed to easily identify the purpose – they got confused between the purpose and the method:

"There are a lot of speeches that make us laugh, but they're not entertaining speeches. Some persuasive speeches are crammed with information. Confused?"

The presence of a certain element in a speech does not necessarily indicate the purpose of the speech overall. Watch any of the World Championship Speeches from the last ten years – every single one of them will make you laugh, but the purpose is always to inspire, not to entertain. The humour is simply a method the speaker uses to remain engaged with the audience, or sometimes to give them a much-needed break following particularly dramatic or sensitive material.

In order to properly identify the speech purpose, the evaluator must separate the purpose of the speech from the method used to achieve it.

Try asking yourself this question: "What does this speaker want this audience to think, feel or do **when they leave the room**"? That's the speech purpose, and if the audience didn't leave the room that way, it doesn't matter if the speaker was confident, funny, interesting or knowledgeable – the speech did not achieve its purpose."

Gary and I have some clear ideas on what is most important to understand about the speech as you analyse, so how do you go about getting your ideas across in your evaluation delivery?

## Delivery

**Elizabeth Wilson (1993 D70 Evaluation Champion)** is often remembered as the “Caring and Sharing” District Governor. This approach extends to her evaluations:

“To me, the most important strategy for a champion evaluator can be summarised by the words, ‘**Help**’, ‘**Why**’ and ‘**How**’.

Firstly an evaluator needs to truly want to help a speaker. An evaluator is not the star, the entertainer, the clever one but the person who has a desire to help someone.

If as an evaluator you can listen to a speech and decide WHY the speech was a good one and WHY it was not so good you can then elucidate HOW the speech could be better.

As an example I see no value in telling a speaker that they had little eye contact without explaining to the speaker how to develop this skill in their next speech.

My final tip is not to cover too much in the evaluation. You only have 2 – 3 minutes and in that time, if properly covered you are only able to focus on two positives and two areas for improvement.

I like the formula of “plus, minus, minus, plus.”

Elizabeth highlights my own cardinal rule in evaluation – it must be about the speaker, not the evaluator. Other contests exist for members to show off their own speaking skills – evaluation both in competition and in the club that is truly focused on helping someone will always be recognised as genuine and effective.

**Demian Coorey (2006 D70 Evaluation Champion)** furthers Elizabeth’s concept of “How” by using his analytical skill to determine what it is about the speaker that needs attention.

“When I’m trying to help someone improve their speaking, the one thing I focus on is – what’s holding them back?”

I observe people with poor eye contact, erratic gestures, speaking too fast, or any of a number of common problems. These people may have been told dozens of times that they have the problem and what to do to fix it - look at the audience, keep your hands by your sides, slow down, and so on. Why does the problem so often persist?

Usually there’s something going on deeper that’s holding the speaker back. With eye contact, it is often that the speaker is preoccupied with remembering what they have to say. So the answer to poor eye contact may well be to write simpler speeches. Similarly erratic, meaningless gestures are often a visual spillover of stumbling that’s going on in our mind. The answer here is often to clarify what we’re thinking, and deliver a single thought. Speaking too fast is often fear induced adrenalin, but may also be a carryover from when we were young and felt that nobody wanted to listen to us, so we felt we had to say what we needed fast because people would very soon start getting impatient.

When a speaking problem persists, we need to go beneath the obvious and truly seek to understand the psychology of speaking, and identify what's holding us back."

The skills and processes that Gary, Elizabeth and Demian use in evaluation – both in contests and in the club each meeting – have taken years to develop, but we can all learn a little from their experience and begin to apply it to our own style. So whether you're a contestant next week in the club's contest, or just looking at ways to improve your evaluation skills beyond "C.R.C.", consider how these approaches could benefit you (and more importantly, your speaker!)

If you understand speech purpose, don't get it confused with method or strategy, truly care about helping your speaker and look at what could be holding them back from a major improvement; Parramatta will continue to pride itself on its evaluations, and we see the benefits this skill has for our members.

### David Griffiths

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**A big thank you to Gary, Elizabeth, Demian and David in providing all of us with such excellent information.**



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## *A Clean Canvas - by giving we receive*

The Winners tonight were:

- Best Table Topic Speaker - Ron Marriott
- Best Speaker - Michael Said
- Best Evaluator - Sam Ekinici
- Stirrers Spoon - Melanie Wilson



**Sam Ekinici** invited all our guests for their feedback for the night and invited 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors to look at joining our Speechcraft Course. He declared Meeting 1196 was closed.

Sam then invited our guests to stay for a drink and a chat.



stay for a drink

and a





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



*See you soon!*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## COMING EVENTS

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

**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](mailto:vpe@parramattatm.org.au) as soon as possible.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012** there will be a January Leadership Program run by **Ian Chick**. It will be held at 1 pm – 4 pm at Bankstown Sports Club, Leadership Opportunities – facilitated by our own Ian Chick. All Toastmasters who are interested in learning (either at Club or District Level) are invited to attend this interactive workshop. Please email [seminars@d70toastmasters.org](mailto:seminars@d70toastmasters.org) to register for this free seminar.

## PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS

Meet fortnightly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

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:  
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Email: [info@parramatta.org.au](mailto:info@parramatta.org.au)