## 17 May 2012 District 70

# Parra Natta



Welcome to Meeting 1206

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 <u>www.parramattatm.org.au</u> – Short Courses) and others to join our Toastmasters Club or one nearer to your home.

District 70

Parramatta Toastmasters

Special thank you this week goes to Kirisha Thanapalasuntheram and Michael Said for taking notes for this edition of the Parra Natta and Christine Pizzuti for photographs supplied



Tonight's Theme; "Mums the Word"



Mark Pankhurst our stand in Sergeant at Arms didn't keep mum about making sure everyone was ready for tonight's meeting. Mark kindly assist Christine Pizutti, our regular Sergeant at Arms as she was running late. Mark did a terrific job, as usual!

Sam Ekinci, our President gave a fantastic Opening. Telling us all about Mothers Day with his mum, who is nearing 80 years old. He went to take her out but she grabbed his ear and made him sit down. She told him he didn't listen to her anymore and was a bad boy. Sam told her he was 50 now, but she told him to sit down, listen to his mum and eat!



but mum I'm 50!

Linda Snalam, our VPE, took us through the Program Changes this evening. Linda is a great mum!



Linda is a great mum!

Welcome to our guests for Meeting No. 1206 17 May 2012

Darren Ngo – First time visitor Bernie Albano – Member of Quakers Hill Toastmasters and speaker tonight



Why don't you come along and enjoy a night at Parramatta Toastmasters. Where you can have a meal, relax and be entertained

Plus you may even learn something along the way!



"Mams the Word" -

Come and join us here at Parramatta Toastmasters Club.

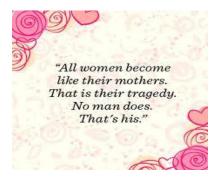
A Special Welcome to Mothers

We welcome all new Toastmasters to our group and extend our warmest and best wishes to all newcomers –



Pictures and images in this edition of the Parra Natta were provided via Google by Barbara Beveridge, VPPR.

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



"Mums the Word" -

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 advise us if you can't attend a meeting, call or email the VPE, Linda Snalam - vpe@parramattatm.org.au

Please read our Club's Minutes go to – http://www.parramattatm.org.au/introducting club.htm.

If you are interested in the Speechcraft Course run by Parramatta Toastmasters Club please go to – http://www.parramattatm.org.au/speechcraft.htm



Come along to a Speechcraft Course and learn from Toastmasters!

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



"Mums the Word" -

**Chairman 1 – Barbara Beveridge.** Barbara mentioned that being a Mum is a never ending job and not one to be taken lightly. She wished all mum's a happy Mother's Day for last week and handled her role tonight with motherly confidence!

MOM, I LOVE YOU! AGE 10: I love you, mom! AGE 14: My mom is so annoying! AGE 18: I wanna leave this AGE 25: Mom, you were AGE 30: Mom, forgive me? AGE 50: I don't wanna lose my mom! AGE 70: Mom, I love you so much.

So true!

Giving the **Welcome** tonight was **David King**. David did a quick job of the welcome tonight as there was only 1 guest present at the time! David has a natural welcoming charm about him and gave a very warm welcome to Darren Ngo.



#### A warm welcome was given by David

**Travel Tips** segment was provided by **Peter Steinhour**. Peter is such a comedian without even trying. He told us there are two types of travelers, Domestic, e.g. campers and International (this includes 2<sup>nd</sup> class International travelers, backpackers). With campers he recommends that 1 person packs the car and to always bring a tent in case the car breaks down. International backpackers are recommended to pack 3 times as you will find you don't really need things you pack. Peter described new traveler's underwear, a pair of undies with pockets on the inside. Tom Woods wanted to know if they were g-strings?



Keep your money & documents safe

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can I get that in a G-string?

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

"Mams the Word"

**Inspirational** was given by **Michael Said**. Michael told us about his mum who is 83 years old. He said tonight's theme is mum's the word but his mum can't keep a secret. He said his mum had lots of kids but only 1 gem, himself! Life was tough for his mum as she lived on a property with no running water, no electricity and no mod cons. Michael said his mum was a marvel. I reckon Michael really loves his mum!



The Toast was proudly given by Tom Woods. Tom spoke about marriage and keeping a famous happy marriage out of the media and away from prying eyes.



#### It's hard to keep away from prying eyes!

Table Topics

#### Table Topic Master – Elaine Aviola.

**Elaine** said that God couldn't be everywhere so that's why he made mums. She then launched into an array of great questions and provided us with fabulous entertainment tonight. Elaine is a fabulous mum herself and did a fantastic job tonight!



Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall. A mother's secret love outlives them all. - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

"Mams the Word"

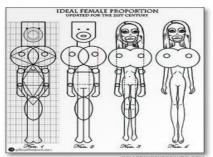
1<sup>st</sup> Table Topic speaker tonight was Nirish Shakya answering "If it were easy being a mother God would have let men do it too – what do you think?" Nirish said that it was no easy task being a mum, and we should ask him mum. She raised 2 brilliant kids whilst working on her PHD. Kids complain about doing uni what about mothers? It would be hard to juggle the responsibility and Nirish couldn't do it. Nirish shared with us that he really only cares about women and beer! He did, however, give thanks to all mothers.





Now here's something to think about!

**2nd Table Topic speaker** was **Gary Wilson** answering the question of "A man always looks for his mother's qualities in his wife, did you do the same?" *Gary said he believed he has to evaluate himself as he's the even numbered evaluator. Elaine quickly told him that Malkit Banwait would have that honour and Elizabeth would also give her evaluation as well! Gary doesn't believe this saying is true because he looked for something better than his mum in his wife. He said men usually look for the ideal women they want to marry. Very good answer Gary!* 



What is the idea women?

**3rdTable Topic Speaker** tonight was **Linda Snalam** ready to answer her question, "If mother's rule the world ....." finish the question? Linda told us that mothers do rule the world, there is no if. Women are the strength behind the throne. Women rule differently to men, they like to get people together. They don't have iron fists and there would not be as many wars. Linda gave a powerful answer, go mum power!



When I stopped seeing my mother with the eyes of a child, I saw the woman who helped me give birth to myself.

"Mams the Word"

Nancy Friday

4<sup>th</sup> Table Topic Speaker – Melanie Wilson was enthusiastic to tell answer her question "If you could do it all over again, what would you change in your relationship with your mum?" Melanie lovingly told us that she wouldn't change a thing because she has a relationship with her mum like the Gilmore girls! She said her mum is her shopping buddy and they both love different foods plus her mum was her best mate! She took her mum on a 'coffee crawl' for mother's day, where they went from coffee shop to coffee shop just enjoying the day. What a terrific idea Melanie!



5<sup>th</sup> Table Topic Speaker for this evening was Ron Marriott. Ron's question was "Men are what mother's made you, are you?" Ron said he sure was! His mum was short, so is he, she had Ollies disease. She was stubborn and a pain in the butt! Ron loves his mum. Glad you love her Ron!



A pain in the butt!



Ron loves his mum!

**Cheryl Piper Speaker No. 6.** Cheryl answered "What did you end up doing about things you didn't like about your mum that you do now?" She told us that her mum used to make special things to eat after school. Cheryl's daughter recently told her that she remembers there was always something for them to eat when they came home from school. Cheryl said her mother was also a strong disciplinarian and she is like that. One thing she would have done would have been to relax more with her own children but she does that with her grandchildren now. Good on you Cheryl, enjoy those grandkids!







and loves her grandkids



Mothers and Daughters are losest when Daughters become Mothers.

"Mums the Word"

The **7th Speaker** tonight was **Wendy Nielsen**. Wendy had to answer "Now that you're a mum, is it possible to be your children's best friend?" Wendy said she is her children's best friend and worst enemy all rolled into one. She said she couldn't stand her mum as she always knew what she was going to do before she did it! Wendy's daughter confides in her about boyfriends and they often have long chats. Wendy is a great best friend as she is so loving and caring!



Wendy is best friends with her kids



Wendy is a great friend

**Pam McDonald** was the 8<sup>th</sup> **Speaker**. Answering "Three best lessons you learnt from your Mum?" Pam gave us a very strong answer and told us about her mum and things she learnt. The most important thing she learnt was to be a good listener, just like her mum. Great lessons are learnt from our mothers, good answer Pam!



"Mams the Word"

Making the decision to have a child -it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

**Toastmasters**, in order to join in our meeting you should become a member of the Parramatta RSL Club. You will need to show your membership card for entry to meetings. Remember this helps our club too and is not just for Toastmasters but for 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 and can use their card to attend Castle Hill RSL Club as well! Now that's value for your money!





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



Love to everyone who's harting oat there, we really do care and are thinking of you!



"Mams the Word"

Malkit Banwait - evaluator for the odd number speakers. He said that Nirish Shakya told a good story and has a great voice. Nirish just needs to the slow the pace down a little to give a better presentation. Gary Wilson gave us a great vocal variety. Linda Snalam opened with a very positive statement; she had good hand gestures and a connecting smile. Linda could improve by adding more body movement. Ron Marriott provided us with humour and had so much energy, Ron made us listen. Point of recommendation would be for Ron not to move from side to side as often as he did. Wendy Nielsen, Malkit said that he liked Wendy's story about her daughters, she used good facial expressions and body language. Well done speakers and many thanks to our wonderful evaluator, Malkit Banwait!



Gary Wilson was tonight's evaluator for the even number speakers. Gary told us that Elizabeth Wilson's evaluation of his Table Topic was, that he will get on! Gary evaluated Melanie Wilson and said she did a great job by giving a proud answer. Point of recommendation would be to repeat her opening statement. Excellent answer by Melanie! Cheryl Piper gave us a well though and well worked through answer. Cheryl would improve by using good eye contact with the audience. Pam McDonald gave a very positive answer and did it well. Pam just needs to watch her hand gestures to bring more impact to her speech. Thank you Gary, another helpful evaluation!



use eye contact



give good hand gestures



"Mams the Word"

**Chairman 2 was Stephen Cox.** Stephen commenced his role as Chairman 2 by telling us that mum is like A,B,C,D of the alphabet and that they do rule the world. Stephen did a fantastic job as Chairman 2 tonight and obviously loves his mum lots!



Mum's rule the world!

The normal **Business Session** began with apologies announced by **Linda Snalam**, Vice President Education for members not attending tonight. We had a quorum of 25 members present. **Peter Steinhour**, Secretary, told us that the Frivolous Motion was left out of the Minutes for Meeting 1205 and asked if the minutes be taken as read. **Gary Wilson** said he didn't need to mention the Frivolous Motion. To which **Ian Chick** said it was a good motion and should be reflected in the minutes. **Tom Woods** also said it should be reflected in the minutes. The motion that the minutes be taken as read without the Frivolous Motion mentioned was voted against. The correspondence in was received and there was no correspondence out.

Linda Snalam reported that she was very proud that the club has reached its 10 goals for the Distinguished Club Program goals. "Whew!" she said as she wiped her brow, "that was a big job!" Well done Linda, we are all proud of you!



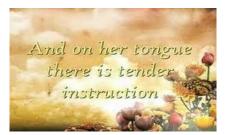
Christine Pizzuti said that the Speechcraft Course is on track and all the Speechcrafters were doing well. Please contact Christine if you can help out

**Ian Chick** told us that the new Parramatta Club was called the 'Parra Pioneers' and invited members and guests to come along to the RSL Club's Macquarie Room next Wednesday. The meeting starts at 7 pm and finishes at 9 pm.

**Peter Steinhour** offered an invitation to a charity lunch at the Riverside Theatre for disabled people. It is on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 commencing at 12.30 pm to 3 pm, the cost is \$130.00 per head. It is a terrific event and everyone has lunch on the stage. It's for a good cause, if you can come along please contact Peter Steinhour.



Come along for a lunch on stage



"Mams the Word"

Malkit Banwait put forth the frivolous motion tonight "That all members of Parramatta be dressed in traditional dress of a red coat, white starched front shirt, bow tie, white gloves and a black top hat". Malkit said it is an awesome thing to see Toastmasters in traditional dress and it would be a lovely thing to do here at Parramatta. Ian Chick said that would be great and we should do it at the next meeting, for which he is an apology! Ian has actually dressed up in the traditional costume and knows that it may be a bit, err, restricting, Cherve Piper asked that the motion be amended to read 'All male Toastmasters' as the outfit wouldn't be nice for the female members. Wendy Nielsen seconded the amendment, adding that guys look great in that outfit, but we don't. She then said the ladies always looked nice. Gary Wilson told us about an email he received from a non-member who regularly checked out the Minutes of our Meetings and mentioned a motion of coming naked to our meetings some 4 years ago. Immediately Tom Woods said he was speaking against the motion but liked the idea of the ladies coming naked and said he wants Ian Chick to come along as a test trial in the traditional outfit! Robyn Peck said that women shouldn't be discriminated against. Nirish Shakya then mentioned that he comes straight from work and doesn't have the time to change into any that formal and if he wore that outfit to work he would risk being fired! Malkit Banwait said it was a great motion and we should give it a try. The motion was not voted for but we had a great debate and lots of fun over this one. Thank you Malkit, great idea!



Toastmasters traditional outfit

Our General Evaluator – Jeevan Jayanathan who said that everyone did a superb job in their roles tonight. Jeevan did a great job too.

thanks for a job well done!



"Mams the Word"

**Michael Said** was **Parliamentarian**. Michael told us that Stephen Cox was well prepared for his role as Chairman 2. Steve had heaps of electrical gadgetry with him –his ipod, iphone plus a cheat sheet. Michael said that Stephen did a great job and ignored the rabble rousers. He reckons that Steve should do it again as it will help him learn!



#### Stephen Cox was well prepared with all his electronic gadetry!

Christine Pizzuti was Blog Evaluator. Christine said that Melanie Wilson posted a great blog called Just Practice. Christine told us that the blog was great and it was about learning in a supportive environment. It was Melanie's own personal opinion. Good work Melanie!



Great blog by Melanie

We then had a well deserved coffee break





"Mums the Word"

**Nirish Shakya** was our **Larfmaster.** Nirish said there are 3 important people in a man's life, his mum, wife and mother in law. He said his mother in law to be doesn't let him miss out on the experience of having a mother in law! He had her as a friend on Facebook but she started posting things that drove him nuts. She'd send him games too, all in all he was getting about 20 messages a day and it was clogging up his inbox. He couldn't find his friends anymore and did what any man would do, complained to his partner. Now he gets even more messages from her, it's a war he will never win! Recently for mother's day he did something nice for her and bought her a chair, but she woouldn't let him plug it in! Poor Nirish.

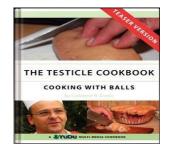


Mother in Laws, some are really quite nice!

Time for the speeches

**Michelle Hunt** - **Toastmaster**. Michelle is a wonderful Toastmaster and exceeded herself in her role tonight. She introduced everyone beautifully and managed to have everything flowing nicely. Well done Michelle!

**First Speaker tonight was Monique Tonna** – with her speech "**Lost in Translation**". Monique talked about being in Morocco. She described a coffee shop where she sat outside, she wondered why she wasn't being served and notice there were no other women sitting out there. Eventually, she was politely asked to come inside or leave as women were not allowed to sit on the street. Monique then got lost in France and managed to get directions from charades conducted by a French man who was passing by. She ended her story by telling us that she ate heaps of land oysters until she found out what they were! A very entertaining speech by Monique.





Monique liked land oysters - hmm?

#### You Are Loved

Mom

I don't tell you this often enough, but I really love you. You're such an important person in my life, and I appreciate all that you do for me. Thanks for all the sacrifices you're made. Please know that they don't go unnoticed.

"Mams the Word"

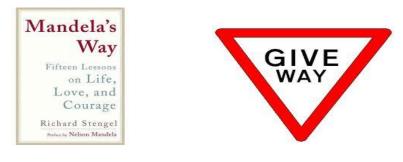
Second Speaker – Wendy Nielsen – with her speech titled "Stand Up, Stand Out". Wendy has suffered from workplace harassment. Her story was about her daughter who worked in the gaming industry and met with sexual harassment. At first she brushed it aside but then felt sick and eventually came down with depressions and ended up on medication. She eventually did stand up and stand out by speaking up for herself. She complained and also quit her job. The company was dumbfounded as they never knew it was happening, she was the only female that ever complained, yet other employees were enduring the same harassment, but never spoke about it. Wendy gave great advice on what to do if you encounter this type of situation. Fantastic speech Wendy, very informative!



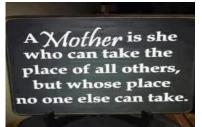
Stop harassment

tell others about it!

Third Speaker – Bernie Albano – with his speech "Nelson's way". Bernie talked about driving in the Philippines and about his daughter. He likened his giving way whilst driving to giving way to her dream of being in show business. Eventually, he gave way and made peace with other drivers down narrow alleys and with his daughter. He took Nelson Mandela's advice and did it Nelson's Way. He told us that two people can't quarrel if one will not. A very inspirational speech Bernie, a brilliant speech! Bernie is competing in the District 70 Contest on the 18/19 May 2012. Good luck Bernie!



Bernie gave way!



"Mams the Word"

**Speaker Four – Michael Said** with his speech called **"Test Speaker**". Michael did an 'off the cuff' speech for tonight as a fill in for Lyndal Eager who is away sick. Michael did an excellent job of telling us about being a test speaker for a competition. He said there were no rules, there would be no bad comments from evaluators or Judges, as no one likes them. There would be no negativity only good points. He wanted great comments for good stuff and anyone doing anything bad toward the speaker would be written off and get bad points. Michael mentioned that Timers are dorky and we should make him feel good as he is our guest. Well done Michael, you were very funny and entertaining!







No negativity here,

you will get written off



**General Evaluator – Jeeven Jayanathan.** Once again, Jeevan provided a thorough evaluation of all roles conducted in our second half. Jeevan is becoming a very powerful, innovative and entertaining evaluator. Jeevan put in a great effort as General Evaluator tonight!

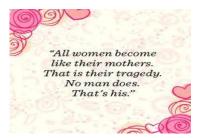


Excellent job Jeevan!

**Our 1st Evaluator – Cheryl Piper for Monique Tonna**. Cheryl thought Monique was very entertaining, she gave us a clear opening, body and conclusion. Her stance was excellent she took the centre stage and gave good gestures. Point of recommendation was to tie in the places travelled to for an even flow. Monique met her objectives this evening. Wonderful evaluation given by Cheryl!

**Our 2nd Evaluator – Sam Ekinci for Wendy Nielsen.** Sam told us Wendy gave a great delivery; she gave us a terrific sequence of events and called us to action. Point of recommendation for Wendy would be to include how she felt as a mother in that situation. Wendy showed us courage and conviction in her speech tonight. Smashing evaluation given by Sam!





"Mams the Word"

**Our 3rd Evaluator was Elizabeth Wilson for Bernie Albano.** Elizabeth is a very inspiring evaluator and we were not disappointed by her this evening. She told us how creative, inspiring and touching Bernie's speech was. Elizabeth said Bernie gave a superb presentation. Points of recommendation just watch the time, check out your dress and smooth yourself over, this way you will be a winner! Fantastic evaluation by Elizabeth, she gave some great points for self improvement to Bernie to help him win in the District 70 Contest on 18/19 May 2012.



Watch the dress



smooth it down!

**Our 4th Evaluator was Ron Marriott for Michael Said.** Ron said Michael did a good job for an impromptu speech. He said Michael showed his true colours as a test speaker. Michael had a good structure. Point of recommendation was to twist the tone, vary the rate of speech. Great speech by Michael and great evaluation by Ron!

and



Twist the tone Michael and be the voice!

**Our CL Evaluators were Mark Pankhurst and David Pasipanodya.** Mark asked for everyone to kindly hand in their CL Manuals early in the evening and not at the last minute. He only got 2 evaluations and there could have been lots more. Poor David Pasipanodya didn't receive any CL Manuals. Surely there could have been roles Toastmasters could have had signed off on tonight, double check you are not missing out on moving through your manuals Toastmasters!



Don't wait until the last minute to hand your CL Manuals in!

A man loves his Sweetheart the most, his Wife the best, but his Mother the longest.

Trush Proverb

"Mums the Word"

**Quiz Master was Robyn Peck.** Robyn provided great fun and entertainment by running a quiz on how well we had been listening to the meeting tonight. She threw some good questions at us and not all of us knew the answers. Robyn did a great job at trying to catch us out!



Robyn hosted a great Quiz, thank you

Our Timer was Melanie Wilson. Melanie ran through the times of speakers with us tonight. She told us that almost every Table Topic speaker went over their time by 30 seconds. Toastmasters you need to watch your time and the lights! Thank you Melanie for being on the ball this evening.



Watch the time



Melanie was on the ball tonight!

Congratulations to tonight's Winners:

Melanie Wilson for Best Table Topic Speaker

Bernie Albano for Best Speaker

Sam Ekinci for Best Evaluator

Robyn Peck - Stirrers Spoon

Robyn won the Stirrers Spoon for her constructive criticism



"Mams the Word"

Sam Ekinci, President decided to have a bit of banter with guest and Toastmasters who had been keeping mum through the night! He asked David Pasipanodya how he enjoyed tonight. David told us that he did enjoy the night but his role was CL Evaluator and he had prepped himself up for his role but didn't get any manuals to complete! Our visitor, Darren Ngo told us he liked the Parliament/Business segment but not the yelling! He thought it was well structured and enjoyed tonight's meeting very much.

**Nirish Shakya,** our Social Media Officer, shared the fact that the social media platform was going well and was in full swing. He thanked everyone for their blogs, tweets and posts on Facebook. Nirish went on to tell us that a blog can be about anything to do with Toastmasters, how it has helped us, our experiences or thoughts. We don't need to explain ourselves in the blogs, just tell others about what we have learned and share our experiences. He mentioned that the blog is due the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday after the meeting and he will assist to post it on the web if we are unsure of what to do. He offered to assist with our Tweets and Facebook postings too. He warned that if your assignment is not completed by the due date you will be arrested and charged by the Social Media Officer! Nirish may not be a huge man but jee he's scary!!



Sorry Nirish, I just couldn't get my blog done on time – NO EXCUSES please!

**Elizabeth Wilson and Gary Wilson** will be running a Table Topic Skill Builder at our next Meeting on 24 May 2012 – the theme for this meeting is aptly named 'Talented Table Topics'. Don't miss out as there will be lots of contest tips, information on preparation. They will tell us about how, when and past, present future consequences and results. Don't miss this meeting!

Michal Said thanked people who worked behind the scenes especially for contests; lots of work goes into them.

Just like the work that goes into each and every one of our Club Meetings, a big thank you to everyone that chips in and helps out, you are all champions.



You can be a champion too by helping out & lending a hand



"Mums the Word"

Our President, **Sam Ekinci** then invited everyone to stay and catch up for a chat and a drink and declared the meeting closed.



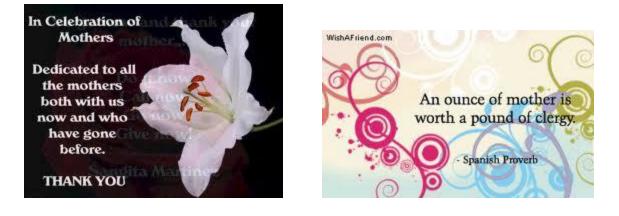
Catch up for a chat and a drink



This is an award to all of our Mum's

"Mams the Word"

For your enjoyment here are a few more lovely quotes.



Parents are not irresponsible because their children experience pain. The irresponsibility comes when parents do not teach children the lessons found in the pain.

Best wishes to every mother past, present and future, you are a very special person!.

Vice President Public Relations

For those of you who couldn't attend tonight-

You were very much missed, join us next time!

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them up from your mind and hug them. Just like now.

See you soon!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **COMING EVENTS**

24 May 2012, is our next meeting date, the theme is "Talented Table Topics", any member not attending please email Linda Snalam, VPE at <u>vpe@parramattatm.org.au</u> as soon as possible.

Our next Speech Craft Course has commenced, if you can lend a hand and come along please contact Christine Pizzuti at saa@parramattatm.org.au as soon as possible.

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