



PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1242

22 Aug 2013

Theme

'Supernatural Phenomena'

AWARDS

Best Speech

Alicia Denis & Mrinal Sarkar

Best Table Topics

Tom Cummins

Best Evaluation

Alicia Denis

The Mission

of a Toastmasters club is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Contact

To share any exciting news or to submit an article for Parra Natta, contact:

Malkit Banwait

Vice President for Public Relations at:
vppr@parramattatm.org.au

Supernatural Phenomena!

Science is powerful, but it cannot explain everything. With the theme 'Supernatural Phenomena' our SAA **Richard A**, got the meeting to a scary start by decorating the room with weird & spooky posters. President **Alicia D** has no doubt of the existence of *Supernatural Phenomena* because of her children's magic socks. Whenever she puts a pair into the washer, only one sock comes out. Now that is spooky! In Point of View, **Rob T**, explained



the value of a good book, especially when there is a blackout and you become 'unconnected' from your addictive media devices. A good book can educate, inspire, motivate & entertain; sounds just like a good speech Rob! Toast by **Kim G** was to The Magician. To most of us the word *Supernatural* stirs up images of ghosts, aliens, and UFOs. But to **Kim**, that's all boring. What really excites him is Levitation. At next meeting expect **Kim** to perform the Indian Magic Rope trick.

How a bit of dodgy wiring could prove ghosts don't exist

Some have seen them, some have not. Now a Wirral couple have a theory which could explain ghosts. **David Charters reports**

The man or woman who appears to see dead things don't exist will believe that their irregular pattern is the result of dodgy wiring in the house. In a theory which could explain ghosts, **David Charters** reports



Table Topics by **Monique T**, had 10 scary toastmasters imagining and convincing the audience that every *Supernatural Being* they experienced does actually exist. First up was our natural storyteller, **Tom C**. He was well qualified convincing us that Vampires must exist because according to him all kids are vampires. They suck your time & energy. Having four of his own he should know and all parents agreed. **Clare W** is totally convinced that Fairies exist because she's always losing things around her house; who else but a fairy would take them? **Kim G** had no doubt that ghosts are for real; he swears he saw one at Richmond cemetery; quite scary Kim. The Lochness Monster is definitely lurking around the depths of loch says **Rob T**. To prove his point, he's seen first hand pictures and videos of Nessy.



Unicorns are gorgeous as well as in Harry Potter movies so they definitely are for real says **Julie J**.

'Supernatural Phenomena'

WELCOME VISITORS

Tam Dirckze

Kumi Matsunobu

Monica Zheng

Michael Knight

MEMORABLE QUOTES

'I've actually seen a Ghost'
Kim G

'If I ever have a pet it has to
be a Unicorn'
Monique T

'I know Angels exist because
the moment I was born my
parents nicknamed me their
Little Angel'
Monique T

'Zombies do exist; you're
actually looking at one just
now'
Richard A

'Pimplly faced Sales Assistant'
Natasha C

'Uruguayan President Jose
Mujica donates 90% of his
income to charity and is the
'poorest President in the
world'
Alicia D

'India is a population of
1.2Billion. If I give way to traf-
fic in India I'll be stuck there
all my life'
Mrinal S

'Whiteboards are old school'
Julie J

'Traffic signals in India are
just a colour'
Mrinal S

'I'm a bit on the geeky side'
John N

According to **Wendy N** how can there not be angels, doesn't everyone have Guardian Angels?. **Ron M** believes that Leprechauns have been around since the beginning of time because he consistently sees rainbows and as we all know, Leprechauns store away all their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. **Richard A** had no problem in justifying the existence of Zombies; 'you're actually looking at one right now' said Richard. Finally **Gary W** asked us how can Santa Claus be make belief. He comes to our Christmas party every year giving out presents so he must be the real thing.



With **Gary W** as the Parliamentarian, we always learn something new. This time it was *'there are three people who cannot move or second an amendment. They are the mover and seconder of the original motion and the chairman'*. Thank you Gary.

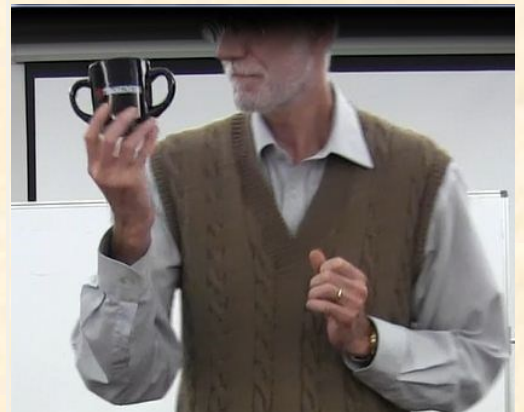
Whilst our polis are hard at work persuading everyone to vote for them, four of our speakers were delivering their own **'Persuade with Power'**, speeches from their CC manuals. **Natasha C** with **'The Big Black Hole'** persuaded us to ignore the whinging retailers and start saving big time money by shopping online. Online sales are only \$24Billion versus \$265Billion for bricks and mortar retailers! So don't blame us for the big black hole in the economy! And then there are 'pimplly



faced sales assistants, who don't know as much as Natasha does.

Alicia D in **'Growing up in Uruguay'** talked about her frightening childhood during the brutal dictatorship rule in Uruguay. She inspired us to enjoy, cherish and never give up our rights to democracy. Uruguayan President Jose Mujica donates 90% of his income to charity and is the **'Poorest President in the World'**. Good speech timing Alicia, with our own elections next week. Somehow, I can't see our leaders taking a pay cut!

Have you ever thought of throwing a brick at the dreaded blue screen of death? After confessing to being a 'bit on the geeky side' **John N** showed us how to stay calm by using **'Non Stop Computers'**. To prove his point he



showed us a 'non stop mug with two points of failure'. **Nirish S** with **Floss 1,2** inspired us to stick to our new years resolutions. Since starting is the hardest thing to do, why make it harder. If you're like Prof Forb and hate flossing then start by flossing just one tooth. Too easy Nirish. Final speaker was **Mrinal S** with **'I Haven't Learnt a Thing'**. In India, traffic rules and priority are based on the Indian Caste System; light signals, overtaking and give way signs all have totally different meaning than in Australia!

How Interesting Is Your Introduction of Speakers?

INTRODUCING A SPEAKER IS SOMETHING FEW OF US PREPARE

for very well. After all, if we are not giving the presentation, why should we care? For plenty of reasons. Can you recall the last time you watched someone recite a litany of degrees earned, positions held, books written and honors achieved. Remember feeling the audience's unspoken impression at this point? Chances are good it was a unified, "Let's get on with it!"

Opening comments can play an important role in piquing the audience members' interest, warming them up to the speaker and helping to create the all-important bond between the speaker and the audience. Here are three techniques you can use to engage an audience's attention while adding life and emotion to an introduction:

Link the Speaker and Audience

The age-old advice concerning introductions for speakers has always been to keep them short. But using the "nutshell" approach without proper consideration may cause you to compromise your responsibility as introducer. Instead, carefully consider your role and your objective. Your job is not only to make the speaker's expertise known, but also to rouse interest in hearing the speaker's remarks. Listeners need and want to hear the relevant credentials and prior experiences that uniquely qualify this speaker as the best choice for addressing the topic at hand. So rather than recite a laundry list of accomplishments, point out specific connections between the speaker's past and the audience's motivations for attending the meeting. Let's say, for example, that you are introduc-

ing a physician who will speak to a group of public health officers about domestic violence during pregnancy. When you comb through the physician's background, you find such noteworthy details as her dual residency in obstetrics and psychiatry, and her membership on the state's task force for developing legislative guidelines. These particulars reveal that this physician not only carries a strong background within the topic, but that she cares enough about the issues affecting public health to assist in government policy development. Both these points will build a critical link between the speaker and the audience, and will create positive expectations among the listeners.

Provide Stories Instead of Facts

It's a cruel fact that people generally find a biography that lists numerous degrees and titles to be meaningless and boring. That changes, however, if you can translate the facts into perceptible situations that mean something to the audience. You can accomplish this through a short personal story. Look for an example of how the speaker has earned respect in his field or an experience in which his actions showed knowledge and support for the topic. To find this information, before the event, ask the speaker a few simple questions, such as "How did you get started in this field?" or "What's the oddest thing that's ever happened while you were conducting research?" Simply put, people are interested in people, not degrees, and if you bring out the speaker's human side, his accomplishments will ultimately mean more to the audience.



Tell Why You Chose the Speaker

One challenge you face during an introduction is broadening the audience's opinion of the speaker, stirring them from neutrality to anticipation - through your personal endorsement. Why was this speaker chosen for this event? If you haven't touched on it already, communicate to the audience why your organization is so pleased to have this particular individual here and willing to present. For example, statements such as "We have chosen this individual based on..." or "The speaker's experience with the topic makes us very pleased she is here today, because ..." are good ways to engender feelings of importance and value. The audience, in turn, senses your respect and admiration for the speaker before she has uttered one word. As a result, you help create excitement in both the audience and the speaker, and all you have left to do is clearly pronounce the speaker's name.

Regardless of how easy it may seem to make an introduction, it is those who exert some time and thought that transform their comments into a successful start to any presentation.

(Michael McCann is a Toastmaster in Southern California)

For your Diary

- ◇ Area 13 Humorous Speech & TT Contest

Sunday 15 Sep 2013 at 1:00- 5:00 pm

Parramatta RSL Club

- ◇ Western Division Humorous Speech & TT Contest

Sunday 13 Oct 2013 at 11:15 - 4:00 pm

The Hills Club - 2 Jenner Street - Baulkham Hills

Join us for our Next Meeting on 5 Sep 2013 with theme 'Focus on the Positive'



Join our Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Join our Blog



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE