



PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1243

5 Sep 2013

Theme

'Focus on the Positive!'

AWARDS

Best Speech

David King

Best Table Topics

Tom Woods

Best Evaluation

Tom Woods

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:

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'Focus on the Positive!'

With Federal Elections just two days away, our VPE **Ian L** inspired us to 'focus on the positive', whatever the outcome. It was also our first meeting of spring and 'spring being the season of love', we had a perfect meeting in every way; lots of enthusiasm & commitment with everyone turning up fully prepared and speaking on the theme. In Point of View, our President **Alicia D** reminded us that although choice is ours, there is always a 'silver lining', no matter what the outcome.



With Father's Day just gone, **Rob T** appropriately inspired us by a tale of his 90 year old father, who could just about do anything. He could have been an architect, plumber, electrician or even a builder. 'Can't Do' was not in his vocabulary.

In this **Toast to Democracy**, **Gary W** started by asking members if they were 'sick of the elections?' to which everyone quickly shouted yes. But when he asked who believed that our politicians will do as they promised, there were few takers!



Our Table Topics Master **Kirisha T** finds it so natural and easy to be positive. She asked 10 speakers to demonstrate positivity by expressions of excitement, surprise, enthusiasm, eye contact, vocal variety, raised eyebrows and a real connection with the audience. Wow that's quite a list **Kirisha** for a 1 min speech. But all speakers had fun and no problem in taking a positive stance of a negative situation. **Gary W** 'was Kevin Rudd addressing his supporters after losing the elections'. **Peter S** 'was stuck in a lift with his mother-in-law'; **Shirley's** 'work colleague got promoted instead of her'. **Monique T** tries online dating only to 'discover that her date looks more like George Washington than George Clooney'; **Tom C** 'proposed to his girlfriend and she said no', **Tom W's** 'son wants to quit soccer and take up ballet'. Finally **Michael S** had to be positive despite 'St George Dragons deciding to disband due to lack of funding and poor performance'.

In the second half, we were treated to four interesting speeches with three of them easily contenders for a Humorous Speech Contest.

'A Breath of Fresh Air'

WELCOME VISITORS

Trevor Dirckze
Tam Dirckze
Ali Sadeghi
Sandra Bond
Andrew Iverson
Manohar Aswal
Yash Rajdev
Jacqueline Pham
Joel Dye
Daniel Wilkinson
Amy Laxton

MEMORABLE QUOTES

- 'My Mother-in-Law loves Irish Whisky'
Peter S
- 'I'm a professional smoker'
David K
- 'Good things happen to good people'
Michale S
- 'Guinness makes you strong'
Tom C
- 'Tom C, as a fairly new TM, has today come of age as a TM'
Linda S
- 'Tom W gave a great evaluation despite English not being his first language'
Ian C
- 'People learn best during moments of enjoyment'
Alicia D
(quoting Ralph Smedley)
- 'If you get out of Toastmasters, all there is to get out of Toastmasters, you'll can never get out of Toastmasters!'
John T (Elizabeth W's blog quoting Helen Blanchard, 1st Female TM International President)
- 'Elections are bad; there's too much negativity'
Gary W

David K kicked off the speaking session with his best speech '**A Breath of Fresh Air**'. He was a brave man, talking up the positivity of smoking despite all the bad press. He didn't start smoking until later in life, at 14, and turned professional at 15. Living in England he smoked to attract girls! He tried convincing us that smoking helps with problem solving, which no one bought. He'll be having his next cigarette at 70. After all what harm can smoking at 70 do?



Michael S having just returned with **Linda S** from TMI Annual Conference was determined to '**Stay Positive**' even when his car broke down on the way to the airport. Even when there was one proxy missing with 5 min to go to voting. Even when the flight he was booked on was already full. But just to prove that every cloud has a 'silver lining' he got a bottle of designer aftershave for \$0 and was upgraded to Business class on his flight back to Sydney. So staying positive definitely pays off! As he reminded us 'good things happen to good people'. Yes Michael, they definitely do .

Third speaker was **Tom C** with a belly full of laughs speech '**I Was Not Always This Way**'. He took us through changes to his body caused by food and drinks that went into his stomach. At 14 he was so determined to attend Kayaking World Championships that he ensured absolutely no junk food went into his body, no coke, no chips, no lollies. But that didn't work so he tried a working holiday in UK where he lived on pasta, bread, tomato, vege-



mite for breakfast and **4 pints of Guinness**. He even tried chili diets because if there was anything bad in his stomach this would definitely kill it. In the end he realized that there is no one right way to eat. There are some wrong ways but it's fun to be experimental anyway'.

Final speaker was **Sam E** with '**Aligning Strategy and Efficiency**'. It was an interesting keynote address that he would present at an industry conference to inspire CEOs of licensed clubs. It was a 15 min speech and the club provided a perfect opportunity for him to practice his delivery. We learnt that 'bad behavior cannot be justified by alcohol abuse.



Again it was a most enjoyable and fun meeting with many members staying behind for a drink and chat. **Sunday 15 Sept is our Area 13 Humorous Speech & Table Topics Contest! Go Michael and Monique. Good Luck to them both (:**

Area Governor

Did you notice that at this meeting **Christine Pizzuti** and **Ian Chick** were introduced as visitors. This is because as well as being members of Parramatta TM Club, they were attending the meeting in their capacity as **Area and Western Division Governors**. So what do they exactly do. Lets take a look at Area Governor first.



We are in Area 13 and our Area Governor is **Christine Pizzuti**. Her role is to serve as a liaison between the district and its clubs via semiannual area club visits to understand how clubs are fulfilling member needs and how the district is supporting

each club. An Area Governor is responsible for leading his/her area by serving the needs of clubs. In order to understand clubs' needs, the area governor contacts club presidents monthly to discuss their performance in the Distinguished Club Program. The area governor also discusses district training and other district events with the area clubs. Area Governors follow up on items identified during previous contact with club presidents. Area Governor is the area council chair and holds at least two area council meetings each year. At area council meetings, the area governor discusses each club's plans and goals in the Distinguished Club Program and reviews attendance at club leader training. Finally Area Governor organizes two Speech Contests each year. As you can see it is such a big and busy yet rewarding role. **Next Newsletter we'll look at the role of the Division Governor.**

A History Lesson!

With our club turning 47 on 15 Sep, **Gary W** gave us an interesting 'history lesson' on our club. Ours is a club of achievers! It has produced 36 Area Governors, 14 Division Governors plus many District Officers. There are



41 clubs in our Division, and each one can trace it's ancestry to Parramatta TM Club; i.e. every club of Western Division is a child, grandchild or great grandchild of Parramatta TM Club. It is estimated that lives of about 10,000 people have been changed by Parramatta TM Club. Wow! So come along to the next meeting and lets celebrate this achievement in style. **Read more at:** <http://www.parramattatm.org.au/>

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

◇ **2013 District 70 Semi Annual Conference**

Fri 8th - Sun 10th Nov 2013

Ettalong Beach Club

Club Executive Officers for 2012/2013

President: Alicia Denis

VPE: Ian Lipski

VPM: Monique Tonna

VPPR: Malkit Banwait

Treasurer: Tom Cummins

Secretary: Mrinal Sarkar

Sergeant-At-Arms: Richard Aitkins

Immediate Past President: Linda Snalam

Webmaster: Gary Wilson

Speechcraft Liaison Officer: Tom Woods

Executive Support Officers: Melanie Wilson, Natasha Chan, Clare Walker

Join us for our Next **'Birthday Anniversary' Meeting** on 19 Sep 2013



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PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE