



PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1251

19 Dec 2013

THEME

Merry X-Mas -Christmas Party

WELCOME VISITORS

Visiting Toastmasters

Joan Rinaldi, Nick Rinaldi, Wendy White, David Fisher, Margrit Fisher, Anna Perdriau, Philip Bendeich, Jan Vecchio, Geoff Henson, Chris Davitt, Lynne Harris, Greg Harris, Dale Rees -Bevan, Allan Rees-Bevan, Daniel Tucker, Allie Marriott, Kumi Matsunobu, Allan Davies, Rosie Davies, Bob Hince, Pamela McDonald, Juliana Jamal

Visiting Guests

Terrance Voss, Janet New, Shivaun Shakya, Rita Banwait, Elaine Woods, Andrew Tosti, Dick Williams, Eleanor Williams, Simon Bringas, Fred Nyamhunga, Zeld Stowers, Ralf Genuttis, Lyn Ling, Tam Dirckze, Trevor Dirckze, Leanne Phung, Delanni Madonsela

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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'Merry Christmas'



Christmas is a very special period in the calendar year. As well as being a religious event, it is also an occasion for reunion and celebration with family and friends. In our own TM calendar, our Club's Christmas Dinner Meeting is traditionally a popular event. And this year was no exception. The 2013 Meeting was well organized and attended by around 80 club members, visiting Toastmasters, their partners and guests.

The VIP guest list included District 70 Governor **Joan Rinaldi**, Lt. Governor Education and Training **David Fisher**, Lt. Governor Marketing **Wendy White**, Immediate Past District Governor **Jan Vecchio** as well as other District 70 officers, past and present, Distinguished Toastmasters and their partners.

MC **Robyn** opened the meeting with a lovely poem about Jabez Dawes, 'The **Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus**'. She kept the audience in suspense throughout the night by reciting just a few snippets in between her introduction of speakers.

Point of View by **Gary** was on the **International Sound Check Day**. Yes there is such a day and 'if you don't believe me check it on google' he assured us. It was a pity that this meeting was not held the previous Thursday on 12th of the 12th, or 1212 day, he laughed. But seriously, it was **Gary's** tribute to members of all our sound teams at District and Club level, like our own **Steven Cox**. And the best part of his assignment was his hilarious delivery, which could rival a Larfmaster any day!

Inspirational by **Sam** was appropriately to **Nelson Mandela** who passed away on 5 Dec. Sam highlighted his life's achievements and described how he survived decades in jail with his solid belief 'I am the Master of my Fate and I am the Captain of my Soul'.

Toast by Michael was to 'Our Volunteers' who work so hard in the background while we are enjoying ourselves over the festive season.





The highlight of the first half of any TM meeting is of course **Table Topics (TT)**, this time hosted by **Elizabeth**. As we all know Christmas is a time of Giving, Loving, Fun & Games. But for some, it is also a time of 'horror' in deciding what to buy for someone who has everything in the world! **Elizabeth** had the perfect solution with tonight's theme '**Christmas Gifts for Giving**'. She picked 12 Salespeople to make & close the sale of 12 interesting gift ideas .

We all thought she was going to be serious until she picked **Ron** to sell Borat's '**Mankini**'. Fun and laughter continued with **Jan Vecchio** selling us a '**Velcro Knife Throwing Set**'.



David Fisher with his '**Sudoku Puzzle Toilet Paper**' gave tips on how to solve the puzzle before using the loo.

Wendy White convinced us that there is nothing more yummy than a double baked, pork belly '**Bacon Flavoured Toothpaste**'. Not sure that there were many takers for this. And for all alcoholics out there, **Ian Lipski** tried to sell us an '**Alcohol Shotgun**'.

Elizabeth's present ideas got even crazier when **Juliana** was asked to sell a '**Blowup Boy Friend Kit**', while keeping a straight face.

Last year's Dist70 Humorous Speech Champion, **Allan Davies** was given '**Belly Bump Balls**' whilst visiting Toastmaster **Allan Rees-Bevan** was challenged by a '**Giant Swiss Army Knife**' having 85 tools and weighing 2 kilos. Following him **Lynne Harris** chewed on '**Instant Irish Accent Gum**'. **Suben** struggled with keeping on his '**Inflatable Toupee**'. Wonder why **Elizabeth** picked him.



Wendy had no problems with a '**Hot Pink Moustache for Car**'. It's a perfect gift, even for a mother-in-law.

But Salesman of the night was clearly **Philip Bendeich** who loved his '**Belly Button Brush**' so much that he unbuttoned his shirt and started giving us a demonstration, much to the delight of the audience. He would have continued stripping, were it not for the timer's buzzer. Perhaps a bit too much persuasion Philip. We don't see much of him, but today we definitely saw a bit more than we expected!

Our District Governor **Joan Rinaldi** presented her Christmas message, She took us back to her childhood days and what Christmas means to her. She also updated us on the District Reformation program currently ongoing with a new District 90 in the making. She encouraged us all to grab the many leadership opportunity that will come up our way.



At Parramatta TM Club, we love tradition; doing year after year what we love doing best. In line with this tradition, the first half of the meeting concluded with Club **President Alicia** delivering her '**State of the Union Address**'. She highlighted Club's many achievements, including winning the TMI Branding Competition and our Speech-craft courses.

The traditional **Christmas Cake Cutting Ceremony** was conducted by **Alicia** and one of our longest serving and hard working senior members **Ian Chick** and our newest member **Andrew Iverson**.

After the break **Melanie & Kirisha** continued with the traditional '**Fun & Games**'. They obviously put a lot effort in planning their hilarious topic called '**Wrap It Up**', whereby 3 teams had to decorate one of their members as 'Real Life Human X-Mas Tree'. The 'human' trees chosen were **Ian Chick, Margrit Fisher & Tom Woods**. After just a few minutes of decorating one of the team members had to sell the Tree to the audience, who then decided on the winner.



As the saying goes, a 'picture speaks a thousands words'. Taking a look at the crazy pictures, need we say more?



And the winner is

Margrit Fisher (wife of **David Fisher** Lt Governor Education and Training).



We then came to the highlight of the evening with three prepared speeches. Again going by our Club tradition, the First Speech is an Icebreaker followed by the 10th and Final Speech for Competent Communicator (CC) Award and concluding with District70 Humorous Speech Contest Winner.



Our newest member **Andrew** presented his icebreaker 'The Road Less Travelled'. He took us on a journey of growing up from early childhood to his present career. Coming from a large family his parents had to be economical with time and he quickly learnt to become independent. At high school, while most boys were discovering girls, he discovered bagpipes. This is his passion and he plays everywhere, even coming 14th in world championships! Well Done.

He has the lifestyle of rich and famous but without any of their money or popularity.

As an army recruitment officer he often recommends TM to nervous candidates attending interviews. So he joined TM 'to find out what the hell we are recommending to them!'.

The moral of his story was a valuable lesson for us all, 'in life what's for you will never go past you'.

Thank you Andrew for a great and enjoyable first speech and we look forward to your future speeches.



Nirish graduated to Competent Communicator (CC) with his inspirational 10th speech titled 'The Three Life Lessons I learnt From Toastmasters'. Although he joined to become a better communicator, surprisingly he realized that in the process he also became a happier person. It has taught him three valuable life lessons.

To live in the moment, to give and to be thankful. He honed in on his message with humorous anecdotal stories. For people who are more attached to their smart phones than to their loved he had a simple message 'When your phone dies, it can be replaced!'. And quoting John Lennon 'Life is what happens to you when you are too busy making other plans'. All members also felt proud to learn that 'when we are born we have a 1 in 140 million chance of becoming a Parramatta Toastmaster'. That's bigger odds than being struck by lightning. Well done **Nirish** to a most entertaining speech and a well earned CC Badge.

Final speaking treat was the Dist70 Humorous Speech Champion **Chris Davitt** with 'Three Doves'.



Chris entertained us with the wedding story of his friend Dave and his fiancé Mandy. Dave decided to release 3 Doves at their marriage ceremony on board a ship, only to realize that they cannot fly because their wings had been clipped. Normally we should not condone animal cruelty but a story like this is worth repeating because it was so hilariously funny. Thank you for being our guest speaker Chris.



Finally, Christmas would not be Christmas without Santa Claus. Once everyone had relaxed and wine and dined, Santa and his Elf (**Monique**) arrived to give out the beautiful presents, after speaking to each toastmaster and guest individually and having photos taken. Before the meeting closed he left us with a moving Christmas Story as he does each year.



For Your Diary

16 Jan 2014

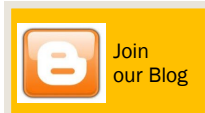
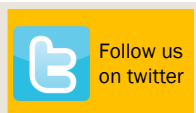
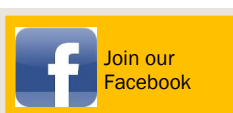
Club Evaluation Contest



Club Executive Officers for 2013/2014

President: Alicia Denis **VPE:** Ian Lipski **VPM:** Monique Tonna **VPPR:** Malkit Banwait **Treasurer:** Tom Cummins
Secretary: Mrinal Sarkar **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Desiree Eddigehausen **Webmaster:** Gary Wilson
Speechcraft Liaison Officer: Tom Woods **Executive Support Officers:** Melanie Wilson, Natasha Chan,

Join us for our Next Club Meeting with Theme 'Summer Fun' on 2 Jan 2014



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



Parramatta Toastmasters Club 2274

Christmas Dinner 2013

Thursday 19 December 2013
Parramatta RSL Club

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What
Your fav
Your favo

Agenda

Meeting No 1251

Theme: Merry Xmas - Christmas Party

Call to Order
Presidents Opening
Master of Ceremonies
Welcome
Mini Business Session
Point of View
Inspirational
Toast
Christmas Gifts for Giving
DG Address
Cake Cutting
State of the Union Address

Malkit Banwait
Alicia Denis
Robyn Peck
Linda Said
Tom Woods
Gary Wilson
Sam Ekinci
Michael Said
Elizabeth Wilson
Joan Rinaldi
Alicia Denis
Alicia Denis

Fun and Games

Break

Speaker 1 - Ice Breaker
Speaker 2 - 10th CC Speech
Guest Speaker
Time Capsule
Gifts Presentation
Christmas Story
Timer
Epilogue
Meeting Close - Club President

Melanie Wilson &
Kirisha Thanapalasu
Andrew Iverson
Nirish Shakya
Chris Davitt
Monique Tonna
Santa
Santa
John New
Tom Cummins
Alicia Denis