



# PARRA NATTA

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

## Meeting no 1255

6 Feb 2014

### THEME

'Dr Seuss '

### AWARDS

#### Best Speech

Jeeven J

#### Best Table Topic

Kumi M

#### Best Evaluator

Ron M

### WELCOME VISITORS

Alan Thompson

John Turner

Els

Mark & Kim Flores

Murray & Joy

Victoria

Peter

Elisa

Greg

Keith

### 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:

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# A Full House!



It's not often that we have a Scotsman delivering a speech in a Kilt but when we do you can guarantee a full house, as at our last meeting. Not sure if word had leaked out, but we had 27 members and 12 guests in attendance, all wanting to see **Andrew** deliver his 2nd CC Manual speech. Speakers spend years learning the skills of an attention grabbing opening, but Andrew found a quick and easy way around! His speech was just as entertaining as his kilt to watch. When his siblings dressed him as a girl they used lots of makeup, lipstick and high heels. But the best part was using tennis balls as implants. When one of his 'boobs' fell out, everyone ran after it, only to see it roll into a drain! Can't wait for your next speech!

## A New Member

### Is Born!

On Thursday 30th January at 1:00pm our Club Secretary **Mrinal Sarkar** and his wife Aparajita welcomed into the world their beautiful son Avik Sarkar weighing in at a heathy 3.3kg. From the Sarkar family we learn that baby, mum and dad are all doing well, although mum and dad are not getting more than 2-3 hours sleep so starting to feel very very tired. Don't worry Mrinal if there are too many typos and mistakes in the minutes over the coming weeks, we understand!. Congratulations to both Mrinal & Aparajita and we look forward to seeing you, and hopefully Avik, at the club soon.



### Proud dad Mrinal with son Avik

**Mrinal: 'Come on son, it's time for your Icebreaker'**

**Avik: 'Oh dad, can't it wait till the next meeting?'**

## What Happened at Our Last Meeting?



After the Australia Day announcement of Gary Wilson DTM OAM, receiving the Order of Australia Medal, 39 excited club members and visitors were in attendance to witness a special Toast and tribute to Gary by Ian C.

After the break, Gary couldn't believe that the first assignment our VPE **Ian L** gave him after all the tributes, is the Larfmaster and the Timers role, the two jobs given to newest club members or 'poor sods who don't know any better' as Gary put it eloquently. Sounds remarkably like a DTM starting all over again with an Icebreaker from the CC manual!



**Ralf with his Icebreaker**

For members who always wanted to visit Germany but never got around to it, **Ralf G** brought Germany to us in his Icebreaker speech 'From Then to Now'. He painted some beautiful

word pictures of his Bavarian surroundings and childhood days.

Unfortunately, we'll have to wait some time for his next speech because just after the meeting, Ralf was offered a job that he's been after for a long time. A job that involves some interstate travel.

Ralf is a raving fan of the quality of **Speechcraft** and how much that course helped him. He also noted how Toastmasters was discussed at length during one stage of his interviewing process. **God Luck Ralf** in your new job and your fellow members look forward to your next speech.



**Kumi with Best Table Topics Award**

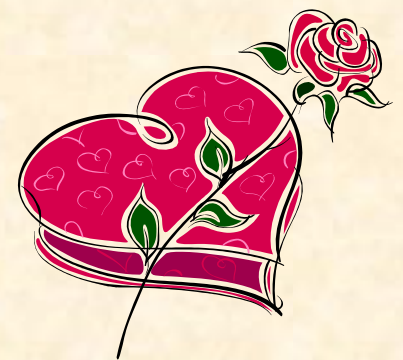
'Howzat'. Our newest member and ex Speechcrafter **Kumi**, inducted only few weeks ago, walks off with the 'Best Table Topics Awards'. What an achievement Kumi and well done to beat so many seasoned TMs. We now look forward to your Icebreaker at the next meeting. The other four speakers on the night had better watch out, you now have competition for the "Best Speech Award".

Our returning former member **Elisa** is so excited & inspired by what she's seen in our last two meetings that she took an enrolment form & is ready to rejoin. Welcome back Eliza.



**Jeeven with his Best Speech Award**

## And Don't Miss Our Next Meeting!



With theme 'A Rose by any Other Name . . .', Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder - what matters is what something is, not what it is called. Going by last meeting's turnout, members better get there early, before the 'full house' sign goes up!

This will also be **Nirish's** last meeting before he heads overseas. He'll be presenting an Inspirational before he leaves us. Judging by his speech at our X-Mas meeting this should be a cracker, don't miss it!

Also to look forward is **Kumi's** Icebreaker, **Andrew's** first Chairman 1 role, special presentation by **Robyn**, an address by our Area 13 Governor **Christine**. As well speeches by **Ian C**, **Michael S**, **Richard A**.

# 'The Little Wave'

By Rudolf Wirawan

As a new member of a Toastmasters Club, some-time you feel intimidated by the speeches delivered by more experienced Toastmaster speakers.

Through my own experiences at Parramatta Toastmasters, I must confess that at the beginning, that feeling overwhelmed me as well. As a new member, despite lots of preparation, I found myself making lots of silly mistakes.

But, when I feel that I am about to come crashing down, suddenly there are invisible hands supporting me. These invisible hands are not only specific to me, but also to other Toastmaster speakers who are in need of help. This reminded me on an old story about a tiny little wave.



Once upon a time, there was a little wave bobbing along in the



ocean, having a grand old time. One day, the little wave noticed that before the tiny wave ahead of it could roll up, a bigger wave rolled down upon it, and crashing it on the shore and it dissipating it into nothingness.

The little wave saw wave after wave suffering the same fate and this made the little wave fear that it too will soon 'crash down onto the shore' and die.

While pondering upon its fate, along came another wave. It saw the little wave looking sad, and it said: "You look so afraid and very unhappy. May I ask, what is troubling you?"

"Don't you realise that, before each tiny wave can roll up, a bigger wave always rolls down upon it and crashes it down to die?", replied the little wave sadly. "Oh, if that is the reason of your sadness, then I want you to know

that we are not waves, but water. We are all part of the bigger ocean! Since we are all water, waves cannot be born and cannot die. Water simply changes its form, trickles onto shore, and then rolls right back into the ocean."

Soon, the little wave began rolling up and up, higher and higher. As it finally rose to the top, about to come crashing down, it realised that the other waves were simply changing form!

They changed from waves into spray and drops then rolled back into the great ocean, but the whole time, they were still made of water. The little wave realized that it was really water ... and it wasn't afraid anymore.

So, if next time you feel overwhelmed by the speech delivered by more experienced Toastmaster speakers, just remember that you are part of something bigger. You are a part of Toastmasters. Other Toastmasters were simply changing form! They were tiny little waves too, before they changed into skilled Toastmasters.

You have made the first step, keep going and follow Robyn Peck's advice: "Put your hand up, always!"

# Grab Your Audience!

## Why You Need to Start and End Strongly?

The two concepts are primacy and recency. "Primacy" states that people remember most vividly what they hear at the beginning of a speech; and "recency" says those same people will strongly recall what you say at the end. In terms of public speaking, of course, this translates into your Introduction and Conclusion. Here are three reasons why your Introduction needs to be engaging and interesting immediately:

1. Audiences make value judgments

about you, your organization, and your message in the first 30-60 seconds of your presentation. After this point, you'll be able to change those opinions about as easily as you can change a hamster into a ham sandwich.



2. Your opening sets the entire tone of your presentation (including whether you'll be interesting or not).

3. The first minute is when you introduce your message and tell the audience why they need to hear it. Your audience, in other words, needs to be both fully engaged and predisposed favorably toward you and your message. Neither will happen unless you can grab their attention sufficiently that they're ready, willing, and able to listen to you spin your verbal magic! ([www.publicspeakinginternational.com](http://www.publicspeakinginternational.com))

## For Your Diary

There is so much happening at the moment in the TM calendar; at club, area, division or district level. Something for everyone! Pick and choose from below.

- ◆ **Speechcraft:** 6 Week course co-ordinated by **Robyn** started on **Wed 5th Feb** at Rowland Hassall Public School. Contact Liaison Officer **Tom Woods** if you'd like to help out in future courses.
- ◆ **Club Officer Training:** Free course, open to every member of TM and compulsory for all Club Officers. There are a number of dates available. For a full list you can check out the District website: <http://www.d70toastmasters.org.au/club-leadership-training-sessions/>. At least attend on Sat 15th FEB from 2pm at Parramatta RSL in the Linden Room.

- ◆ **Area 13 Contest: Sat 1st Mar.** Why should you attend? To support David Griffiths and Michael Said, our Parramatta Toastmasters winners, as they battle it out against the Club champions from the other clubs in our Area. A high quality afternoon of International Speeches and Evaluations.
- ◆ **Sunday Seminar and Speakers Forum: on 16 Mar** is another great event to learn more and to deliver a speech to a brand new audience to be evaluated by from outside our Club.
- ◆ A **BRAZILIAN Special Theme** meeting with BRAZIL social mixer coming up -> watch this space for more info.

### 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 'A Rose by Any Other Name' on 20 Feb 2014



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PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE