



# PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1258

20 Mar 2014

THEME

'Cats v Dogs'

AWARDS

- ◆ Best Speech  
Peter Griffiths
- ◆ Best Table Topic  
Tom Woods
- ◆ Best Evaluator  
Alicia Denis

## WELCOME VISITORS

Dr Kinnar Shah  
Camel  
Mike  
Gordon  
David  
Bill  
Anustha  
Nitin

## 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:

[vp@parramattatm.org.au](mailto:vp@parramattatm.org.au)

## Western Division Speech Contest!



What do above Toastmasters have in common? They are all members of Parramatta Toastmasters Club AND they are all involved in the upcoming 2014 Western Division Speech Contest.

Member **Ian Chick DTM** is the Western Division Governor and members **Tom Cummins** and **Wendy Nielsen** are competing in the Speech and Evaluation Contests.


**Ian** has this message for our club members:

*"Twice a year Western Division holds a contest where the best eight speakers come together from each Area to compete for the opportunity to advance to the District final held in May, at the Annual Conference.*

*You have the opportunity to both support your Area winners and also learn what it takes to compete at the Division level. Here is an opportunity to learn about what wins competitions in both Evaluation and the International Speech Contest.*

*This is a great contest and you are more than welcome to come along, bring friends, family and workmates, allow Toastmasters to showcase the competencies from learning.*

*Register early as seating will be limited. Registration cut off is 3rd April so that catering can be accounted for. Come and meet with like minded Toastmasters, share your stories and have a great time.*




**District 70 Toastmasters  
Western Division**

**International Speech & Evaluation Contest**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Contest Starts: 1.00 pm  
Registration Opens: 12.00 pm  
Briefings: 12.10 pm

The Brewery,  
350 Annangrove Road,  
Rouse Hill



*"And of course, The Brewery is an amazing venue with great food and a boutique brewery...well worth the visit. (See Flyer at the end of Parra Natta for booking details)".*

**See you all there!**

# 'The Things We Do For Love!'

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a VIP Luncheon hosted by 'NSW Seniors' at Sydney Town Hall. It was for the winners of 2014 NSW Seniors Week 'Story Telling Competition'.

I received an email asking members to enter the inaugural Story Telling Competition. 'You don't have to be Charles Dickens' it said' but you must enjoy writing and telling a story'.

At school, English was not my favorite subject. I was more fascinated by 'science & moving objects than Shakespeare or Jane Austen'. I was a slow reader and even a slower writer. Even today, I would rather watch a good movie in 90 minutes than read a heavy novel over 90 days!

However, over the years, I have discovered the power of reading, especially inspirational books. Reading broadly, widely & deeply is where we are constantly expanding and deepening our horizons.



But writing is even more powerful and challenging than reading, as I have discovered in editing this newsletter. As Stephen Covey says in his '7 Habits of Highly Effective People' 'Writing is one of the most powerful mental tools. In fact I don't know any discipline of the mind that is as powerful as writing; that is more demanding, taking more concentration of effort. I believe what exercise is to the body, reading is to the mind. But writing is like concentrated mental exercise.



*Because you have to gather and distil and crystallise information into words for another person's mind. It causes one to think empathically and to get very conscious about the communication processes'.*

Luckily, in Toastmasters we learn not only the skills of public speaking, but also the skills of listening and writing.

So having been a Toastmaster for ten years and just completed my storytelling manual, I sent in my entry titled 'The Things We Do For Love' aka 'How I Survived My Daughter's Year 10 Formal'. And didn't think much of it afterwards.

You can imagine my surprise, when a week later, I received a phone call to say that I was a winner! Out of 1million NSW Seniors Card Members, 1,000 entered the competition, out of which they picked 50 winners. We were invited with our spouse or guest for an afternoon VIP lunch at Sydney Town Hall. Since Rita had work commitments that day, my golf buddy & TM Milan Zec had a great time as a 'stand-in spouse'.

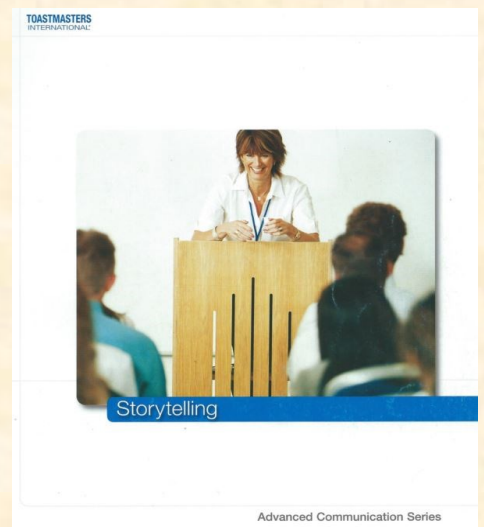
It was five hours of most enjoyable and well organized event with guest speakers, a Historian Professor from Sydney University, storytelling workshop, prizes and of course a delicious lunch.

With limited time, the names of just three speakers were pulled out of a hat and given the opportunity to present their winning speech from the stage.

I noticed that all speakers had a great humorous story, but little body language in their delivery. Standing behind the lectern I felt they missed a great opportunity to enhance their speech with skills we learn in Toastmasters in 'Your Body Speaks' project.

It was also interesting that all speeches had to be between 500 to 1,000 words, which equates to a 5-7min manual speech! (could it be that the judges were all Toastmasters?).

For me this experience proves, once again, without a shadow of a doubt, that Toastmasters does work, not just in our workplace but also in our personal lives.



Over the years I have learned just as much, if not more, about speech writing as speech delivery. If it were not for TM, I would not have entered the competition, let alone win. NSW Seniors will be publishing all 50 winning stories later this year. At the luncheon, I also had the opportunity to network with other seniors and staff of NSW Seniors Dept.. It was an excellent opportunity to promote the Toastmasters brand in general and our Club in particular. (VPM Monique, lookout for a big rush of Seniors wanting to join TM!).

**Malkit Banwait**

# What Happened at Our Last Meeting?



As always, the start of our last meeting was preceded by lots of buzz, excitement and enthusiasm. Members who arrived early were helping out and greeting the eight visitors of the night. SSA Desiree had the room all professionally set up, well before the 6:30 start.

Our VPE Ian always comes to the meeting fully prepared. With so many members and agenda items, the only change he reported for the night was the order of speakers. Well done Ian.

With theme Cats v Dogs, President Alicia opened the meeting by recalling a story of how she was bitten by a cat. So for her, dogs clearly are safer.

Jeeven welcomed our eight visitors in three groups comprising visiting TMs, Ex-Speech-crafters and other visitors. For each one, we got to know their who, why and where. Looking around the room, each one definitely looked & felt welcomed. Mission accomplished Jeeven.

Point of View by Desiree was not on cats or dogs but on another hot topic of the day *'Sydney's Property Prices Going Through the Roof'*. Everyone listened attentively to see if she had a solution. Yes she did, 'tax all overseas investors'. All first time house buyers would love to see that passed in law.

In his Toast, we discovered that John New is a member of The Beagle Club. So his Toast was appropriately to group of people who spend a lot of their time and energy helping animals, **The Animal Rescuers**.

Melanie's Useless Facts were about silly reasons for people having holidays. Melanie is always so bubbly & funny that just walking onto the stage we know that we're in for a good time. She delivered this assignment more like a Larfmaster. BTW, in some parts of India, there is an official Baby's and Sister's Day; any excuse for a holiday!

Steven Cox's Inspiration was 'something completely different'. He picked ten famous motivational quotes and had an interactive session with the audience.

Then we came to the highlight of first half - **Table Topics by Ron**. With theme 'which is the superior object?' he challenged his ten speakers with a simple instruction. 'I'm going to give you two objects or words and you have to tell me in just a minute which is superior. There is to be no sitting on the fence, one has to be a winner and you must tell us why'.



He started with his first question for Desiree on Cat v Dog. She has a cat and two dogs. Like Alicia, she also has been bitten by a cat, so the superior for her is definitely the dog.

Which is the superior beverage 'Tea or Coffee' was the question for John New. He couldn't resist the smell of Moroccan tea, which he discovered on his trip overseas. So for him tea is the winner.

Sports fan Andrew, was asked to chose between 'Cricket or Football'. He chose football because cricket is a gentlemen's game and he admitted to

being anything but a gentleman!

Other topics popped by Ron included 'Read the book or See the Movie?' for Kumi. For Steven Cox it was 'Summer or Winter Season'.

'Out at a Party or a Quiet Night Indoors' was for VPE Ian. 'What is Better Method of Contact, Phone or FB' for Rob T.

Michelle's superior method of travel was the plane in 'Plane or Cruise?'

'Is it better to chose Left or Right side'. John Taylor chose left because he can keep an eye on everyone coming into the meeting room. Good choice John.

Finally when asked for the superior alcohol beverage 'Beer or Wine' Tom Woods chose beer, but we're sure he wished it was whisky? His answer was so good it earned him the 'Best Table Topic Award' for the night.

In the second half, we once again had an impressive skilled line of speakers. David practicing his contest winning speech 'Climb the Tower'. Sam with 'Corporate or Community, Is It the Same Risk?'

Tom C went back to last week's theme 'What Makes Them Heroes?' And Melanie was hilarious shopping at new \$2.80 shop 'Daiso'. Watch out \$2 shop. We also had a guest speaker Gordon Brown from Hills Dist. TM Club with 'Inspiration is closer than You Think'.

Finally, during visitors comments, when Malkit's dentist Dr Kinnar Shah was asked for his opinion of the meeting, he replied 'Communications is the most important life skill one can master. Communication is what differentiates us humans from other animal species. Its interesting to see how you go about this in this Toastmasters meeting. I definitely will be back for more!' Spot on Kinnar.

All in all it was a fun, educational and entertaining meeting, ending just like it started - enthusiastically!

**Roll on next meeting with theme 'My First Car'.**

# 2014 International Convention

Be a Part of History. The International Convention is coming up in August (21-24).

For the first time in its history, Toastmasters is holding its International Convention outside North America. Join thousands of Toastmasters from around the world at the beautiful **Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre** this August. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned conventioneer, there's never been a better year to attend!

Some of our members have been to

the convention before, many of us more than once.

If you have not even thought about what this event is about, please take a few minutes now to click on this link

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/Convention.aspx>

and spend less than 3 minutes to watch this informative video on what is an International Convention and why we have them.

You will be surprised, it's much more than you think and there is plenty of value to be gained from attending.

## Did You Know That?

Toastmasters International (TI) is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the organization **has more than 280,000 memberships in 13,500 clubs in 116 countries.** Since 1924, TI has helped people of all backgrounds become more confident in front of an audience.

There are over 800 clubs with over 17,000 members throughout Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

## 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.

- ◆ **Sun 6 April: Western Division International Speech & Evaluation Contest.** Why should you attend? To support Tom Cummins our Parramatta Toastmaster winner, as he battles it out against the Champions from other 7 Areas in our Division. A high quality afternoon of International Speeches and Evaluations followed by high quality beer at the Australian Brewery is guaranteed.
- ◆ **Thu 22 May & Sat 24 May:** We are having a **Brazilian** special theme meeting followed by a **Brazilian** Social Mixer at Tom & Elaine's House. Come dressed in **Brazilian World Cup** football colours or show off your Samba dancing steps.
- ◆ **Sun 22 June 1-4pm: Next Sunday Seminar & Speakers Forum** at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Another great event to learn more and to deliver a speech to a

brand new audience to be evaluated by from outside our Club.

- ◆ **16 - 18 May 2014: District 70 Annual Conference.** Same but different: The value of communication at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. For more details see <http://annual2014.d70toastmasters.org.au/>
- ◆ **Speechcraft Update:** The last course was coordinated by **Robyn** from Wed 5th Feb to 12 Mar. **Next course starts on 6 May** and future courses on 22 July and 14 Oct. We conduct four Speechcraft programs each year, coinciding with four school terms. The programs run 1 night per week for 6 consecutive weeks and are conducted at **Rowland Hassal School, cnr of Harris and Hassal Streets, Parramatta** during the evening at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start, finishing about 9.30pm. The cost is \$350 and places must be pre-booked. Please contact Liaison Officer **Tom Woods** if you'd like to help out or coordinate in future courses.

### Club Executive Officers for 2013/2014

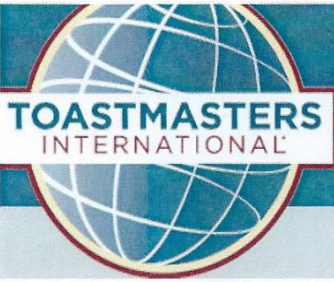
**President:** Alicia Denis    **VPE:** Ian Lipski    **VPM:** Monique Tonna    **VPPR:** Malkit Banwait    **Treasurer:** Tom Cummins  
**Secretary:** Mrinal Sarkar    **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Desiree Eddigehausen    **Webmaster:** Gary Wilson  
**Speechcraft Liaison Officer:** Tom Woods    **Executive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

Join us for our Next Club Meeting with theme 'My First Car' on 3 Apr 2014



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE



# District 70 Toastmasters Western Division

## International Speech & Evaluation Contest

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Contest Starts: 1.00 pm

Registration Opens: 12.00 pm

Briefings: 12.10 pm

The Brewery,

350 Annangrove Road,

Rouse Hill

**Cost: \$25.00**

Pre-Payment required and  
confirms your Registration

Contests, Socialising, Fun  
& Afternoon Tea



Enquiries to: Western Division Governor  
Ian Chick DTM      Tel: 0417 209 399  
Email: [ianchick70@gmail.com](mailto:ianchick70@gmail.com)

**Register now...** email your Name,

Phone Number & Email Address to:

Tony Yetton      T: 0432 721 164

Email: [tyetton9@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tyetton9@optusnet.com.au)

Contest Hosted By: **Quakers Hill Toastmaster Club**

Bank: Westpac ; BSB: 032 382 ; A/C: 154721 ; Cost: \$25.00 Ref: your name  
please email confirmation to: [tyetton9@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tyetton9@optusnet.com.au)

Pre-payment required.