



# PARRA NATTA

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

Meeting no 1259

3 Apr 2014

THEME

'My First Car'

AWARDS

- ◆ Best Speech  
Tom Cummins
- ◆ Best Table Topic  
Kumi Matsunobu
- ◆ Best Evaluator  
Demian Coorey

## WELCOME VISITORS

Jim Hatzidimitriadis  
Rick Capel  
Kao Lee Lor  
Rebecca Ren  
Michael Fong  
Karl Pereira  
David Gane  
Allan Thompson  
Frank, Monica , Anu

## 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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## Tom Cummins Crowned

# Western Division Speech Champion!

### Hot off the press...

Just returned from The Australian Brewery at Rouse with many Parramatta Club members, where we witnessed Tom Cummins crowned as the 2014 District 70 Western Division International Speech Champion.

And club member Wendy Nielsen, representing Parramatta Pioneers Club, is the new 2014 Western Division Evaluation Contest Champion. How good is that?

I'm sure I speak for all fellow club members when I say that we are all very happy and proud of your outstanding achievement Tom & Wendy. Well Done and Congratulations.

On 17 May at the Dist. 70 Annual Conference, they will now compete against all the other Division winners for a place at the World championship of Public Speaking.

Stay tuned to Parra Natta for more news and photos.



# My First Car



Everyone has an interesting story to tell about their first car and it's mostly a story of nostalgia and passion. So what better way for members to share their stories than for our VPE Ian to schedule a 'My First Car' theme meeting.

With the 'finishing line' of another TM year just months away, our standby SAA **John N** was all set with his chequered racing flag. Seeing all members revved up, he briskly raised the flag at 6:30 and got the meeting off to a roaring start. We were in for fun learning experience.

President **Alicia** was first off the mark with a story not about her car but her brother's car named Tina and how he forgot to put on the brakes.

Chairman1 **Richard A**'s first car a Mazda 323 named Will is also his last car. It's his soulmate and has been with him for 11 years (that's long for a 1st car) and has gone with him everywhere. He quickly discovered that with a new car also comes new responsibilities, like paying speeding fines, parking tickets, rego. reminders to name just a few.

In his Visitor's welcome, **Michael S** reassured our many visitors of the night, that at one stage, every TM sitting in the room came to the meeting as a visitors so 'don't feel you're a fish out of water, you're one of us'.

**Ron M's** Inspirational left us all with an interesting food for thought. We come to TMs two days in a month for

a 'lifelong of learnings' but what about the other 28 days? When driving, he's now switched from listening to the radio to listening to podcasts & audio books. And watching 'dramatic loads' of Youtubes (hopefully not when driving Ron).

**Gary W**, when evaluating John N's blog 'The Drip Method' said 'it was right up there with the best'. John looked at the journey of life differently. To him it's the journey not the goal (his blog on page 3). The thoughtful blog gave Gary an insight into John and continued to maintain the high standard of Parramatta TM club blogs.

Toast by **Rob T** was to the man who brought the motor car to the masses, Henry Ford. From expensive cars we got cheap production cars. Half of all cars sold between 1908 and 1918 were Model T Fords. Clearly Henry Ford is the Steve Jobs of the motor industry.



Table Topics by **Mrinal** was all about cars. Everyone has a 'my first car' story except for **Kumi**. When asked 'what is your 1st car and why did you chose it' she immediately got a belly full of laughs and put TT master in his place with 'I haven't even got a driving license how can I get a car'.

After practicing for 30 hours she realized that she is a dangerous driver. So 'to keep Parramatta safe' she will not drive! Thank you Kumi.



**Demian C** persuaded us with a powerful alternative viewpoint on Toyota and the over subsidized car industry. Judging by his performance, a successful career in politics await Demian, if he chooses.

**John N** when asked about his first accident, promised not to name and shame but then he did. When he caused an accident, he was one of rare drivers to leave his details on the windscreen.

If money was not a problem, **Richard A**'s dream car would be Ferrari. Being a fan of F1 and Michael Schumacher what else. Having plenty of experience of paying speeding tickets also helps.

**Wendy's** best driving holiday was with her children on a trip to Melbourne in a . . . fully paid company car.

According to **Gary W**, all the marketing beat up between Ford and Holden is 'much ado about nothing'. After all, all we want is a car that suits our character and our pocket.

**Tom W** asked us to guess what a Scotsman looks for in his 1st car? The price of course. For him it has to be a cheap car and where better to go than a family friend.

Larfmaster **Rob T** did such a good job at the last meeting that he got another crack at the whip. Once again he got plenty of laughs with four witty jokes on the theme. No stopping him now.

# The Drip Method

by John New

One of the best parts of the Toastmaster program, and its communication and leadership tracks, is flexibility.

What does this mean in practice? Three things. The program meets people at their point of need, provides them with opportunities to develop, and gives people the control to develop skills at their own pace.

Many Toastmasters begin their journey by completing a Speechcraft course. By the end of this course participants have improved their skills, have an excellent idea of their current abilities and needs, and know how they can progress further if they want to.

Often people will visit a Toastmasters club to observe what happens during a meeting. There is no pressure to join a Toastmasters club and this, I think, is a big incentive to join. Visitors typically recognise the excellence of the Toastmasters program and want to participate. There is no pressure needed because the Toastmasters programs sells itself.

New members are assigned a mentor and are provided with an early speaking opportunity for their Icebreaker. After they have finished a few speeches and received plenty of encouragement, the flexible Toastmasters program becomes clearer. Members have the choice to do as much or as little as they like, to progress as fast or as slow as they want in the two tracks.

Many people want to do as much as possible as quickly as possible. And that is perfectly OK. There are so many things to do. Work through speaking manuals, take on club leadership roles, participate in club competitions, and go beyond your own club at the Area, Division and



District levels.

Others take it slower. And that is OK too. The method I use in Toastmasters, and other areas, is called the drip method. This is a method of achieving success where you focus on the journey of reaching your goals rather than the goals themselves.

It's a long-term, laid back, incremental method of progress. This approach enables you to enjoy reaching goals as they come rather than seeking out specifically to meet them.

It's not for everyone, especially since we live in a such a busy time-driven world with pressure to meet dates. But it can mean:

- ◆ Less pressure because you are happy with small steps toward a bigger goal, not so much stress.
- ◆ Greater likelihood of reaching your goals because you are satisfied with the slow and

steady approach, less chance of dropping out.

- ◆ More appreciation of the journey you're taking to reach your goals because you have been able to slow down and enjoy the process.
- ◆ Opportunities to develop patience because rewards are likely to be delayed rather than immediate

The beauty of Toastmasters is that any method of progress can work – fast or slow. It's up to the individual to pick the pace they are most comfortable with and the flexible Toastmasters program will ensure their success.

You can read a good summary of the drip method of achieving success at <http://bemorewithless.com/the-drip-method-a-minimalist-guide-to-success/>.

# Our Last Meeting cont ...



**Gary W** as Toastmaster was well prepared for what is always the highlight of the second half. Keeping to the meeting theme, he introduced each speaker with some interesting facts about their first car.

First speaker was **David K** whose 1st car was a 1970 MG Midget. His speech 'The Unsung Hero' was not about returned servicemen or a famous sportsman, but plain old water! A good cup of coffee requires good coffee beans, a good machine, a good barista and wait for it - good water. The type of water can make all the difference. Since coffee is a big business (and a drug) it amazes David how people can spend

\$2,000 - \$3,000 on a coffee machine yet use the cheapest water around.

**Rudolf's** first car was a German VW Beetle and he told a German story with a moral 'The Paradox of Freedom', It was a moving tale of his days in Germany. We know, German Autobahns are built for fast cars, where even 160km/hour seems like a crawl. But when his friend put his foot down to 200km, he lost control, with fatal outcome. The message for all was 'Having freedom does not always make one free'.



In **Richard A's** speech 'A Sporting Chance', he asked 'what do you do if your knee is kicked backwards in a soccer match?' First you 'scream like

a girl' and then you take up another sport like cricket, of course. After a disastrous bowling start, like conceding 40 runs in an over, he realized that in real life, as in cricket, 'without a sporting chance you never realize your full potential'.

**Monique**, whose 1st car was a Holden VH Commodore nicknamed 'Commie', presented an interesting speech on charitable restaurants in Thailand called 'Tree Alliance'. Not only do they provide yummy food & high quality service, they are also training restaurants & social businesses with an ultimate goal of providing young people, many of them former street youth, with the skills they need to become employable in the thriving hospitality industry. Sounds like a win-win cause Monique.

Final speaker **Tom C** practiced his Area Contest winning speech 'When Did You Last Compete?' Gary jokingly reminded evaluator Alicia not to offer too many points for improvement. After all we don't want Tom to totally rewrite his speech with the Western Division Contest just days away.

## For Your Diary

◆ **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.

◆ **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/>

### Club Executive Officers for 2013/2014

**President:** Alicia Denis    **VPE:** Ian Lipski    **VPM:** Monique Tonna    **VPPR:** Malkit Barwait    **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 'Opportunity Knocks' 17 Apr 2014

