



THE PARRA-NATTA

PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Welcome to the June edition of the Parra-Natta where we revisit the highlights and club achievements that have occurred throughout in the earlier months of the year! We have had some exciting meetings and events going on!

Parramatta Toastmasters Club
May Edition

MEETING #1399 LEST WE FORGET

Meeting #1399 was themed Lest We Forget to mark ANZAC day. Appropriately John New presented table topics that allowed our minds run wild which were inspired by Easter and Anzac Day:

1. There is a three day bargain at Easter as you take three days off to get ten. What are you going to do with this time off?
2. Easter is a movable occasion. If you could pick another occasion movable what would that be? How would you work that out?
3. Why do we have hot cross buns right after Christmas? Why is it so?
4. How would you organise an Easter egg hunt to run smoothly with young children?
5. On the Royal Easter Show—when did you last go to the Easter show and what did you enjoy the most about it?
6. How would you explain ANZAC day in 60 seconds?
7. How is ANZAC day celebrated in New Zealand?
8. One component of ANZAC day is the dawn service. Have you been to a dawn service or watched one? What strikes you most about it?
9. What is it that you have noticed about the support that RSL clubs provide for servicemen and servicewomen.
10. Two up is a game that is only legal in Australia on ANZAC Day. Explain how it is played.

We had a range of speeches in meeting #1399, we started with Edim Hujdur who presented his Dynamic Leadership Level 2 speech which required him to share his experience as a protégé. Edim spoke about the lessons he learnt in research from his mentor Michael who he described as “funny and comfortably unprofessional”. Christine spoke from the Storytelling manual, Speech 2 Lets Get Personal where she had to tell a personal story. She spoke about her experiences in India in her speech entitled “Finding Meaning”. Sinu Thilak presented a speech on her parents and used wonderful metaphor when she highlighted that the love that parents have for their children being a cloak which you carry around with you for the rest of your life. Anna Luu the self-dubbed “procrastination guru” took us on an intense journey of her studies for GAMSAT which was from the CC Manual Persuade with Power. Wendy presented the last speech on the night and it was a speech which amplified what war meant to her family as she took us on the journey of her mother in law. Her speech reminded us to remember those who fought and those who were affected by war and this was a timely reminder a week before ANZAC day. Tom summed it up nicely when he said Wendy personified her speech. We ended the night brilliantly as Barbara gave us a wonderful bit of trivia at the end and handed out Easter eggs as treats!

In this meeting we inducted not one but three new members into our club during this meeting. Jennifer Buenconsejo and Christine Wern and John Boctor have previously completed Speechcraft!



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Upcoming Meeting Dates and Themes

- **June 6:** The Highs and Lows of Life
- **June 20:** Go Team! (Changeover to New Executive)

MEETINGS

Meeting #1400

We had our #1400 meeting in May! It was amazing to hear the rich history of Parramatta by Elizabeth Wilson! Elizabeth gave an extended Facts and Figures which chronicled the history of Parramatta! If you were not there on the night to hear it make sure you read it!



PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

FACTS AND FIGURES—ELIZABETH WILSON

Parramatta has a long and proud history, one covering 1400 meetings which we are celebrating tonight.

I do not intend to go into our history as a top club, contest winners and leaders. This information is recorded on our website and I recommend members look at this.

Parramatta Toastmasters Club is very different today to when it was formed in 1966. The first meetings were at Grace Brothers Restaurant with the Club soon moving to Parramatta Leagues Club. Here the meetings were attended by men, all dressed in suits and ties, who paid \$2 for a two course meal and two drinks. A regular assignment on the program was the Loyal Toast, a toast to the Queen, which was given to a photo of Her Majesty on the Leagues Club wall.

One of the highlights of the early years was the organising and hosting of the first D70 Conference in Katoomba. Parramatta decided, while at the Conference, to hold the inaugural D70 Humorous Speech Contest. In haste I was sent out on a very cold, May morning in Katoomba to purchase a trophy. It was a great Conference and was noted in the Parramatta, "The Annual dinner was a brilliant success, the Dining Room was packed, the QUIisine was excellent, the fellowship keen and the short sheeted beds popular."

At the meeting 10 May 1984 a stirring battle cry of the club was performed to "John Brown's Body":

*We're the boys from Parramatta
Parra, Parra, Parramatta
We're the boys from Parramatta
And we'll show you how its done.*

Parramatta Toastmasters Club has always been keenly supported by women but until 1990 only attending on the designated "Ladies Nights". The admission of women as members was first brought up on 12 April 1984 when a motion on notice "that the Club be open to people over 18 years of age was discussed." The Parramatta reported that "There were some interesting views put each way from the conservative chauvinists and the radical anti chauvinists until a motion was passed that the motion be not now heard. This was passed."

On 12 November 1987 a highlight of the meeting was the presence of women, two visiting Toastmasters from America. After they had spoken Bob Hince reminded members of why women should be kept out of Parramatta, "They're so good they show us up."

Because of falling numbers, at the Executive meeting on 14 June 1990, it was decided to have the issue of women members discussed and voted on at the meeting of 5 July 1990. The vote was 7/5 with one abstention. Because the vote did not get the necessary 2/3 majority it was lost. President Warwick Lee then advised putting the vote again on the meeting of 30 August. It was history in the making as the motion to admit women was passed with a resounding majority and Yvette Chaloub from Parrachievers and I became the first women members of this club. This was a turning point and by the end of 1991 our club had 41 members with 20 members joining that year.

Thoughtfulness of members' personal celebrations, births, weddings, birthdays and anniversaries has always been a part of our club. For Gary's 70th birthday a postcard was produced, one of his cherished momentos.

And so to conclude: wit and good natured humour have always been part of our culture:

For example:

A very brave Ian Chick once said: You speak at about 180 words per minute, about the right rate for a woman.

Me and grammar don't know each other (Ron Marriott)

GW managed to make our Wendy very red faced when he revealed that Wendy, in her enthusiasm said she, "would pass a motion tonight".

Tom Woods explained, "I am a seasoned Toastmaster. I have calluses on my hands from clapping."

My point for Demian, said Ingrid in her evaluation, is next time your face turns blue from blowing up a balloon is to have better eye contact with the audience.

Back to 25 March 1974 a mystery Toastmaster was appointed to notify the meeting on any member not greeting guests and fellow members with a hand shake or greeting.

7 June 2016 in "Meet the Member" Wendy Lipski was asked, "What are your fondest memories of your journey in TM?" She replied getting my DTM and finding my husband." (In that order)

For 1400 meetings Parramatta Toastmasters Club has hatched, matched and dispatched and has continued to uphold the standards of our organisation. May it continue for many more meetings.

2018-2019 Executive Team

President

Michael Fong

VP Education

Sam Fenton

VP Membership

Sabesh Sitsabesan

VP Public Relations

Christine Huynh

Secretary

Vicki Sheehan

Treasurer

Allie Marriot

Sergeant-At-Arms

Vivek Singhal

Meeting on the 1st
and 3rd Thursday of
the month between
6:30pm and 9:30pm
at Parramatta RSL

www.parramattatm.org.au

Club Mission

We provide a supportive
and positive learning expe-
rience in which members are
empowered to develop
communication and leader-
ship skills, resulting in great-
er self-confidence and per-
sonal growth.

Meeting #1401 Spin the Bottle saw a variety of speeches! Keeping with the theme we had speeches about memories and the history of spin the bottle. Rob Tibbertsma presented a ten green bottles along the wall keeping with the theme! There were ten green bottles along the wall that night and the topics included

1. What is more important than money?
2. Would you rather have free wifi or free coffee?
3. What is the worst thing about being grown up?
4. What movie character do you identify with and why?
5. Would you rather have a lamborghini or 9000 books and infinite knowledge?
6. If you could see 24 hours in the future what would you do?
7. Name something you regret buying and why?
8. If you were reborn in new life would you rather be alive in the past or the future?
9. What is your guilty pleasure?
10. If you could have one superpower what would it be and why?



We also had a range of speeches on the night! One of our newest members Christine Wearne made us consider how our minds work with her speech "What's love got to do with it"! Her speech detailed the ins and outs of the issues with internet dating! John New presented a speech aimed at graduates about Technical writing, Vicki Sheehan debuted her son's 21st Speech, Barbara intrigued us with her speech on Monalisa and Matt Tonkiss presented his winning speech Fearless!

Parramatta Toastmasters 2019 Change Over Meeting!

Come and celebrate our Annual Parramatta Toastmasters 2019 Change Over Meeting. \$20 per person will get you in the door for canapés, dinner and cake. The cost after 13 June 2019 and at the door is \$25 per person. Celebrate the changing of the guard and welcome in our new Executive Officers for 2020. For those members who have not visited us for a while we'd love to see you back.

6:00PM Canapés Start
6:30PM Meeting Commences
9:30PM Meeting Close

Drinks are not included and can be purchased from the bar.

All are welcome!! You can register at: <https://parramattatoastmasters.corsizio.com/c/5ce368311a64e26060d80367>

If you prefer to pay via direct bank deposit, please deposit your payment into the Parramatta Toastmasters Bank account with your name as the reference.

***Name - Parramatta Toastmasters**

***BSB - 032 078**

***Account Number - 525 479**