



THE PARRA-NATTA

PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Parramatta Toastmasters Club
July Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the Parra-Natta of the new Executive Year! This is where we revisit the highlights and club achievements that have occurred. We have had an exciting set of events over the last month with our Changeover Meeting to kick us off!

CHANGEOVER MEETING

Our changeover meeting saw a change over of executives for the year. Thank you to our outgoing team Michael Fong (President), Sam Fenton (VP Education), Sabesh Sitsabesan (VP Membership), Christine Huynh (VP Public Relations), Vicki Sheehan (Secretary), Veronica Bayani and Allie Mariott (Treasurer), Vivek Singhal (Sergeant-At-Arms) and Elizabeth Wilson (Immediate Past President) for the amazing year 2018-2019.

Welcome to our incoming team Wendy Lipski (President), Sabesh Sitsabesan (VP Education), Rob Tibberstma (VP Membership), Christine Huynh (VP Public Relations), Anu Vijayan (Secretary), Edim Hujdur (Treasurer), Omar Ikhras (Sergeant-At-Arms) and Michael Fong (Immediate Past President).

The night was led by Monique Tonna who was the MC for the night and fun was had by all as Alicia and Sean Leise ran the fun and games. There were numerous awards handed out! Vicki Sheehan took out the Peter Poulson Memorial Award for Best Speech of the Year, Alicia Leise received the Timers award, Edim Hujdur was given the President's Encouragement Award for Most Improved Toastmaster, Sabesh Sitsabesan received the President's Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the Club and the recipient of the Club's Toastmaster of the Year Trophy was Sam Fenton.

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Page 3: A message from our Immediate Past President and President.

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Upcoming Meeting Dates and Themes

- July 18: The heat is on
- August 1: I'd like to see that
- August 15: Laugh 'til you cry
- August 22: Foster the spirit



Left: Outgoing Executive Team

Right: Installation of the Incoming Executive Team

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CHANGEOVER MEETING



A message from:

Immediate Past President—Michael Fong:

When I take a moment to look back at the 12 months just passed I find myself thinking “is it all over so soon?”

The past year as President has been the most fulfilling of my Toastmaster’s career. It gave me the opportunity to be the beacon that represents Parramatta Toastmasters. When I came into the role I was quite nervous on the task I was about to take on. Following the steps of Elizabeth Wilson is no easy feat, leaving me with big shoes to fill.

To ensure that we had the right track to run on and that we achieved our goals as an Executive, I went by a motto “I am a President by name but we work as a team”. This reminded me to put the Executive and the club before myself ensuring that we conducted ourselves with integrity.

I believe we successfully brought Parramatta Toasters into the 21st century. Sam Fenton introduced a special meeting iPhone application that allowed the creation of meeting agendas on the fly, we developed an ongoing platform that allowed seamless registrations for Speechcraft and Special Events and we introduced a cashless payment system which would make purchasing meals more convenient and make meeting reconciliation exponentially easier for our Treasurer.

All of these feats would not have been possible without the collective efforts and contributions of our Executive Committee. Their diligence and candor throughout their tenure ensured the ongoing success of the Club.

It is indeed sad to hand over the reigns to Wendy and her incoming team but I am confident that they will do a fantastic job. Thank you to our members for entrusting the Executive for the past 12 months. We appreciate the advice and guidance that you have given us and hope that you will continue to support the incoming Executive as they lead us into 2020.

Our President for 2019-2020—Wendy Lipski:

It was April 2008 when I first walked through the doors of a Parramatta Toastmasters meeting. I was apprehensive, and wanted to just stay close to the wall, and watch whatever happened from the sideline.

What a difference 11 years makes!

I now proudly walk through that same door, with my head held high. I have the honour of being your President for the 2019 / 2020 Year. What I’m excited about, is focusing on what Parramatta Toastmasters does best - enthusiastic and engaged members, rock solid traditions, and encouraging members to be the best version of themselves.

How I plan to do that, is actually really simple. We will -

Embrace Pathways!

The new educational program is 18 months young. Members choose their own Pathway specific to their own interests and desires. Parramatta Toastmasters will be providing the support, expertise and opportunities for all members to fully enjoy the benefits that Pathways offer.

Enjoy our Traditions!

Who loves the formality of the Business Session, and the following hilarity of the frivolous motion?

Can you recall the amazing Special Meetings of the past? Birthday meetings with Cake? Dressing Up?? Social events where we meet up and just enjoy each other’s company???

Our educationals are delivered by experienced members give us great advice and information.

Your new Exec Team will be working on creating special meetings to be remembered. Varied, fun and educational. The first of these will be happening next month! Stay tuned

Celebrate our Successes!

This year is the final opportunity for members to complete the old Toastmaster educational program. We have a few members who will complete their DTM’s!! And, let’s not forget all those who are planning on completing different Level stages in Pathways. Also, we will be acknowledging member’s contribution to the District, Speechcraft, and assisting other clubs. By encouraging each other to try out different things, we gain the opportunity to learn and grow.

Isn’t all this a great reason to celebrate??

It’s going to be a wonderful year! Make sure you come along, enjoy the meetings, try out something new in your Pathways journey, and above all – have FUN!

Meeting 1405

Our first official meeting of the new executive year was themed “What’s your dream”.

Speaking to theme John Taylor told us about his dreams – did you know that when John was younger that he wanted to become a motor mechanic and how this deviated to being a TV mechanic. He then posed five questions which were posed to two different people at a time.

Question 1: As a child what was your dream job?

Question 2: Do dreams come true? Alicia Leise

Question 3: What is your craziest dream?

Question 4: Are you currently in your dream job and if not what would you like to do?

Question 5: If you had a dream about toastmasters what would it be about?

We had five prepared speeches Peter Steinhour started us off with an Icebreaker where he told us about how he was dying—dying to leave school that is and his journey that he has been on since finishing school. Anu Vijayan brought us back to her childhood with vivid descriptions of where she grew up and told us about how her love of birds then has inspired her to pursue conservation work. Christine Huynh presented a speech with a moral and Michael Said presented a beautiful tribute to his late father Noel. Andrew Emerson presented a speech Onomastics! A wonderfully researched piece which had all of us thinking! If you missed it you can read it below!

Speech-Onomastics Andrew Emerson

What is the one thing that you own, that will always be used by someone else? No it's not your wallet, it's something even closer to home—Your name. Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and gentleman today I will be talking about onomastics which is the study of names and how it has an impact on our day to day lives.

The word name is derived from a variety of languages from the Old English word nama, the German namo, the Persian nam and the Tamil namam. In fact the word name in a variety of languages sound similar, and have been used for thousands of centuries to identify people, places and possessions. A personal name is one or more words used to identify you, usually consisting of your first name used as the personal identifier and your surname often shared by members of the same family in many cultures. In many lucky individuals around this table, you may even have one or more middle names. But did you know each of your individual names actually has a meaning? For example did you know that Vivek's surname, Singhal is derived from the Hindi word for lion, Christine's surname Huynh is the Vietnamese word for gold, or Vicki's surname Sheehan is the Irish word for peace. Or how about Ron. While Marriott may also be the largest hotel chain in the US, it is the medieval name for Marie which when translated means rebellion.

The names of places also have a symbolic meaning. For example did you know that the street name of our club, Macquarie Street is named because of the Macquarie River. Or our very own club name Parramatta is derived from the Indigenous word for the place of the eels. Many of you have been eating fish tonight, but in reality you should be asking yourselves have you been served eel. In fact have you wondered why roads are sometimes called streets. This naming convention started in Manhattan where roads that crossed from east to west were called streets and those that crossed north to south avenues.

The names of possessions often play an important role in our lives. For example a car's name whether it be a BMW, Lamborghini or Hyundai can be the difference between paying \$20,000 or \$100,000. A hotel's name such as Budget Hotel or the Hilton can influence whether it is busy or empty. Even a toastmasters club name ...such as Parramatta or (another club) can influence whether we are good or simply the best.

As one proverb put it a good name is better than great riches. So the next time someone says the word onomastics, just remember that there is more to a name than just a badge.

2019-2020 Executive Team

President

Wendy Lipski

VP Education

Sabesh Sitsabesan

VP Membership

Rob Tibberstma

VP Public Relations

Christine Huynh

Secretary

Anu Vijayan

Treasurer

Edim Hujdur

Sergeant-At-Arms

Omar Ikhras

Immediate Past President

Michael Fong

We meet 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 experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.