



THE PARRA-NATTA

PARRAMATTA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Parramatta Toastmasters Club

Club Number: 0002274, District 90, Area W13

Charter Date: June 1, 1966

Parramatta Club has always been a very large and successful one and has had a major influence on the Toastmasters movement in Australia, where there are now over 750 Clubs. Through the achievements of our Club and of the Clubs we have formed, we have provided communication and leadership training directly and indirectly to over 10,000 people. Our aim is to satisfy each member's need for friendship, recognition and respect, in a community organisation, as well as his/her need to learn and to make a creative contribution. A strong spirit of camaraderie has always existed in the Club. This helps us enjoy ourselves even while we are learning, since Toastmasters recognises that people learn best in moments of enjoyment.

October Edition

Area 13 Contest

By Wendy Lipski

Great day on Saturday at the Area 13 Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest! The event was well run by our Area Director Sally Lai, and the host club Western Gourmet did a wonderful job of making everyone feel welcome. Everyone even received a raffle ticket!! Parramatta Toastmasters was represented by our contestants Vicki Sheehan (TT Contest) and Michael Fong (Humorous Speech), plus Ron Marriott competing for Western Gourmet (TT Contest) They were cheered on by 15 members Parramatta Toastmasters! The results were:-

Table Topics

First Place - Vicki Sheehan

Second Place - David Vincente (Parramatta Pioneers)

Third Place - Ron Marriott

Humorous Speech

First Place - Meena Ramalingam (Winners Circle)

Second Place - Sandra Sweetman (Justice)

Third Place - Nith Ramani (Parramatta Pioneers)

A huge congratulations to Vicki Sheehan, who goes on to the Division Contest in March. Michael Fong did what I thought was a personal best, we'll done Michael!! Ron looked amazing in a brand-new outfit, and his table topic was very well executed. The winner of the Humorous Speech Contest, Meena, is a recent graduate of our speechcraft course. She confided to me that the skills she's learnt had contributed greatly to her achievement. Thanks to all who came along to support our contestants, and enjoy the event at The Carlo

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- **November 7: Its how you use it!**
- **November 21: The winning edge—International Speech Contest**



Meeting 1410

Meeting 1410 was theme was Spring has sprung. We definitely got into theme with speeches about change! Barbara started us off with a change starting with welcomes in different languages! This was then followed by John Boctor who encouraged us to change our ways and embrace and be comfortable with who you are. He presented us with three tips to achieve this: establishing a vision, eliminating noise and deciding on what you are willing to do to get there. Wendy Lipski gave a review in costume! She brought us to platform 9 3/4 as she reviewed the play Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Gary Azar who has just come back to the club after lots of celebratory events: a baby, a house and a successful operation and he toasted to wonderful nurses.

Table topics were kept to theme by Karl Pereira who gave the following questions and prompts: Favourite season, Why do you not like Spring?, Creative, Fresh Produce, Bloom, The outdoors, Open the windows, The outdoors, Day light and Cleaning.

In the second half of the section we had our prepared speeches which were introduced by Rob Tibbertsma. The first speaker was Omar Ikrahis who spoke about the power of words, pathways level 2 (persuasive influence). Omar spoke about three people who have influenced his life through words and reminded us about the importance of mentoring. Viviek Signal presented a speech about the wonders of life and how they allowed him to develop as a person. Matt Tonkiss presented entitled "Extis and Entrances". Thida Win presented a speech on multitasking and issues that are involved with multitasking and the importance of doing one task at a time. Sinu Thilak completed her research and presenting speech entitled "The differently able" she encouraged us all think about neurological disorders from another perspective. It was an inspiring speech which got us all thinking about the abilities...

On the night Karl Pereira and Tom McDonald were awarded their DTM Plaques by President Wendy Lipski. Our ribbon winners were: Sinu Thilak, Chrstine Huynh and Michael Fong.



The differently able by Sinu Thilak

The eyes see only what the mind knows.

A meeting with family and carers of young children with autism was an eyeopener for me. In all my time in Med school and working in health I have been trained to identify and manage 'illness' and 'physical disability'- which is clearly visible. The mothers of children with autism commented that the most common reaction when they are out with their children is of people staring rudely at their children in Woolworth and Coles. The expression on the face of onlookers is one of shock. On multiple occasions people have screamed out 'freak show' and even take out their phones to video without consent. The majority of families prefer to remain invisible.

Throughout history and even up to current times, mankind is known for segregation. Segregation in the name of religion, colour, gender, race, money AND what I am talking about- the differently abled or neurodevelopmental disorders.

WHAT IS A NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER?

Neurodevelopmental disorders are a group of **disorders** in which the development of the central nervous system is disturbed. This can include developmental brain dysfunction, which can manifest as neuropsychiatric problems or impaired motor function, learning, language or non-verbal communication. It may affect emotion, learning ability, self-control, and memory. The effects of neurodevelopmental disorders tend to last for a person's entire lifetime. This includes autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders or ADHD, tics, specific learning disability, specific language disability, intellectual disabilities and affects functioning based on severity of symptoms.

What is autism?

All people on the autism spectrum are affected to some degree in two main areas: social communication and repetitive patterns of behaviour. People with this condition have challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

Autism is also often characterised by sensory sensitivities. Autism is a lifelong developmental condition. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. The ways in which people with autism learn, think and problem-solve can range from highly skilled to severely challenged. Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder and can occur concurrently with other neurodevelopmental disorders.

How does our world create disability?

The social model of disability says that disability is caused by the way society is organised, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. ... When barriers are removed, disabled people can be independent and equal in society, with choice and control over their own lives. Our trains, shops, buses, high rise buildings have created physical disability because they were designed by people who did not consider the needs of the differently able. Our schools, university and jobs have created intellectual disability because they do not cater to the needs of the differently abled.

It becomes a disability only when it limits function.

1 in 70 Australians are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder

What is the importance of neurodevelopmental disorder in evolution? This is best understood by looking at the significant contributions made by 3 very autistic people in different areas like art, music and science.

Michelangelo—Michaelangelo was autistic and known for his repetitious behaviors. However when learning to master a skill, repetition for hours is what makes a master. Michelangelo' was considered "peculiar" as he was known to repeat his routines and without them would get frustrated.. However, would we have the Sistine Chapel if it weren't for his tenacity and his ability to stick to a routine, focus on the details that make up anatomically accurate painting, and then of course paint for lengthy hours at a time on his back?

Amadeus Mozart—Arms flapping, sensitive to sound, erratic mood swings and outbursts, and echolalia- Mozart. Mozart has been known for being a child prodigy and creating Classical music. His mathematical patterns, chord progressions, surprise endings, and goofiness are all what made Mozart's work and Mozart's life stand out- what made him unique.

Albert Einstein- Known for his theory of relativity, Einstein, like many people with autism struggled with relationships. Though married with children he asked that his children not touch him- it made him uncomfortable. Einstein struggled socially. Perhaps it is because of his autism that we have this incredible mind.



2019-2020 Executive Team

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VP Education

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Christine Huynh

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Anu Vijayan

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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.

Contribute to the Natta!

Would you like to contribute to the Natta? Do you have a speech? Do you have an upcoming event? Please email Christine Huynh VPPR—
vppr@parramattatm.org.au

53rd Birthday Celebrations

The History of the Club By Gary Wilson

The inaugural meeting of Parramatta Toastmasters Club was held at Grace Bros. Restaurant on February 28, 1966. It was organised by the President of Toastmasters of Australia, Russ Walkington who was a prominent radio personality. A strong organising committee was formed and a charter was applied for in May 1966. This was granted in June and was presented to the Club at a special presentation night at the Masonic Club in Parramatta, on September 15, 1966.

The Club experimented with weekly meetings for a while, before changing in January 1967 to fortnightly dinner meetings held at the Parramatta Leagues Club. The Club has continued to meet fortnightly ever since.

In late 1973, meetings were transferred to the Masonic Club while the Leagues Club was rebuilt, but the Club then returned to improved accommodation at the Leagues Club in 1974. The change in venue had disrupted membership, but a rebuilding program in 1975, took the membership over 40 for the first time.

In 1990, the Leagues Club closed for renovation again, and the Club then decided to transfer to the central business district of Parramatta (the geographic centre of the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area). Between 1990 and 1994, Parramatta Toastmasters Club met in local restaurants - Courtney's Brasserie at first, then Berlini's. When Berlini's closed in February 1995, the Club moved to the Parramatta RSL Club in Macquarie Street. Then at the beginning of 1999 the Club moved to The Parramatta Club in Hunter Street, before moving back to the Parramatta RSL Club in March 2003.

In October 2004 the Club held its 1000th meeting, a very large event attended by members and past members who had been helped by the Club and who had in turn helped the Club achieve and maintain a 38 year standard of excellence. Another large celebration was held in September 2006 on the 40th anniversary of the charter presentation.

In 2015 District 70 was reformed into 2 new Districts, with the Parramatta River the dividing border. Parramatta Club became part of the new District 90, being the State of NSW north of the boundary.

Our 50th anniversary meeting was held on Thursday, 15th September 2016 in the Parramatta RSL Club auditorium. It was a magnificent occasion with over 130 present. We had 2 special guests come to Sydney for the event, being Mike Storkey DTM, the President of Toastmasters International and Russ Walkington DTM, the founder of our club when TCA President. There are many photos from the event on our Facebook page. There are also videos of the Parade of Past Presidents at the function and of keynote speeches by Russ Walkington, Michael Said, Gary Wilson and Mike Storkey on our YouTube channel.

When the club celebrated its 53rd anniversary in September 2019, Gary Wilson gave a speech highlighting how, this club had for more than 50 years been the place where leaders have been made.

