

DISTRICT 72



Toastmasters International - New Zealand South Island
and Wellington Region

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Important Dates

**Moments of Truth Facilitation
Workshop**

Monday 17 October, 7-8.30 pm
Online
[Register](#)

Membership Payments
due

Catch our monthly video



[We've been around a while](#)

Members' Stories

We asked our Toastmasters who have been members for 10 years or more why they came to Toastmasters, why they stay, and their Toastmasters wish for the year. We also asked them what they have done in Toastmasters.

Catch up with their stories in our monthly video.

Local Focus



Turbine Talkers 25 years

Turbine Talkers celebrates twenty-five years.

On 30 August, Turbine Talkers Toastmasters celebrated twenty-five years of bringing public speaking and confidence-building skills to windy Wellington's Brooklyn community. Our Silver Jubilee brought together a huge range of past and current club members, and culminated with an impressive banquet.

We were lucky to hear speeches from Ray Wolken, our club founder, Carol Mitchell, an ex-member who went on to serve as District 72 Director, and Joy Ackrill, a current (and foundation) member, who has also served as District 72 Director.

All three spoke not just of Turbine's longevity, but also of the reasons for this longevity—the warm, welcoming environment that the club has fostered, and the strength, determination, and diversity of our membership base, both individually and collectively. With these in mind, Turbine Talkers confidently looks forward to the next twenty-five years of nurturing Pōneke's communication, leadership, and public speaking skills.

What is your club up to?
Please share your news
email: prm.d72@toastmasters.org.nz

Written by
VP PR Sam Day

Local Focus

Oaklands Club 30 years



In September 2022, Oaklands Toastmasters, who meet in Halswell, Christchurch, were recognised by Acting International President, Richard E. Peck, with a letter and certificate to celebrate 30 years in the Toastmasters family.

A special evening with balloons, cupcakes and the certificate on show was held on 5 September. Prior to this evening, their Area Director, Reuben Painter, had received a surprise as he scheduled his first visit to the Club to introduce himself on a theme that night - Red. Members wore something red, the rhetoric for the evening centred on all things red and Reuben was also coerced into wearing something red. The Club's latest new member was inducted by Reuben, in photo with President Claire, dressed in keeping with the theme.

Oaklands doesn't have any member who has lasted the distance of 30 years and has lost several experienced Toastmasters over recent years due to Covid restrictions, family and work commitments. However, they have members as far back as 15 years and this year alone, 8 new members !! (Approximately 52 years experience in all and 21 members.) Ongoing guests in September have seen us induct one new member with another by the end of the month and hopefully more. (President Claire Minty says - "we aren't greedy - just friendly and welcoming.")

Written by
President Claire Minty
and
VP PR Kody Pirika



Great promotion idea by Ngaio Club

Three new members, three more leads and hundreds of interactions with our club Facebook page all from one promotional campaign!

We had held open nights before with very little success. Our Treasurer, Tony, thought it might be easier to promote a “free public speaking workshop” rather than a Toastmasters open night. As there is a general rule of attending up to three meetings before joining, we made it a series of workshops. Fortunately, when we reached out to experienced Toastmasters who we personally admired, they generously agreed to help and present a 30 minute workshop/educational for each workshop. we had:

- Laura Bruce: “How to write a speech”
- Helen Cartmell: “How to present a speech”
- Karen Lynley: “Impromptu speaking”

These workshops were general and independent enough for non-Toastmasters to attend any or all of them, yet so valuable for the learning of even our most experienced members. I learned from each workshop and felt inspired by listening to each of these fabulous speakers.

In addition to the workshops we ran a table topics session and a prepared speech to demonstrate how Toastmasters work and have special suppers so we could all mingle on each night.

We knew a key to getting visitors in the door would be getting the word out into the community about our events. We made posters that we put up in several community locations. We paid for an ad and made individual events for each workshop on Facebook. The posts that got the most traction and views were the ones our members shared to their neighbourhood Facebook groups, the views on these far outweighed the paid advert. Posts put up the day after each workshop with a photo and an invitation to the next one also got a lot of interaction.

By the end of the third workshop we had three new members, and more leads to keep following up. Plus some great photos for our rejuvenated Facebook page. This series of workshops has inspired the current membership, brought us new members and leads and hope for bringing this club back to full strength.

The posts that got the most traction and views were the ones our members shared to their neighbourhood Facebook groups.



Written by
Stacey McGavin

Contest Focus

Hybrid Contests



Toastmasters International guidelines required all District to vote to decide if Area, Division and District contests would be hybrid or all online for the 2022 -2023 year. At the District Executive Committee meeting in early September, this topic was vigorously debated. The final vote was for hybrid.

Club contests are not impacted by this decision. Each club can decide whether their contests will be face-to-face, online or hybrid.

This is not reflected in the current Rulebook as this was published before the Toastmasters International decision. However the Rulebook will be updated and republished. While we are awaiting best practice information from Toastmasters International, we are developing some basic rules to assist going forward.

Running a hybrid contest will be new for many of us and it does provide an opportunity to increase learning as we upskill. The District team understand there will be many questions around this, and training will be provided for Area and Division Directors. The training will include tips and tricks to ensure the changes proceed smoothly. For now, please refer to the resource on the [District 72 website](#) – Technical Requirements for Hybrid Contests by Harry Fox.

There are already some clubs running hybrid meetings, and they are a valuable resource for these contests. I encourage clubs to work closely with Area Directors around contest planning and delivery – share knowledge, ideas, support, and – if possible – equipment.

Get in touch with me if your club is happy to assist others in the running of hybrid meetings.

Written by
Glen Pearce
Programme Quality
Director



Educational Focus

Inspiring better speakers – Better Speaker Series

We all want to be better at public speaking and Toastmasters International provides educational material which can be used in clubs to assist with this goal. Information about the Better Speaker series was provided in the September newsletter and whilst the information provided as part of each educational can be an effective starting point, here are some suggestions for 'going further' and making these educationals really inspiring for club members.

It's worth noting that adult learners enjoy problem solving, they are generally practical, and like to use life experience to assist their learning. Simply presenting PowerPoint slides to them may not encourage ongoing learning, and might also be disengaging unless the slides capture interest. A minimal number of words is a good idea but images which reflect an idea/point are far more powerful and more likely to be remembered. If you use the TI slide ideas, consider only using one image per slide which relates to the point you are making. People will then listen to you rather than read what is on the screen.

How then, can we make use the material in the Better Speaker presentations more engaging and inclusive?

Firstly, ten to fifteen minutes is, in my mind, an inadequate amount of time anything other than a presentation. Club members, however, may want to be involved in their learning and to be challenged to do some problem solving so you may want to consider scheduling a longer session. This could include a short presentation and then some further exploration of ideas with members working in groups; mixing newer and more senior club members up to allow for a variety of discussion. Problem solving in this situation can be fun but also encourages less confident members to contribute.



The ideas below relate to how the ***Opening your Speech*** educational could be adapted/extended:

- Using video clips of various speeches and ask people to explain why the openings used in the clips were effective or not. Would anything else have worked better? This could perhaps be done as a Table Topics session.
- Asking evaluators to give feedback which relates solely to the openings speakers have used during the meeting.
- Giving groups a couple of speech topics ideas each (try seemingly 'boring' topics, eg, **concrete**) and ask them to come up with a really attention-grabbing opening which would trigger interest from the start.
- Consider how the theme of a meeting could lend itself to openings from novels/works of literature. Most people know one or two of these. Do some research on famous openings and read these out between speakers. Perhaps give others out as table topics and ask people to explain what happens in the story.

The ideas above could be adapted to the **Concluding your Speech** educational.

The Preparation and Practice educational lends itself to getting members involved in brainstorming or a Q and A session. Consider these ideas:

- Running a session on how to use a microphone, if one is available at your club.
- Giving a demonstration on how to use PowerPoint and develop simple, easy to follow slides.
- Setting up equipment for a slide show presentation.
- Run a table topics session on '**What NOT to do when preparing to speak.**'
Topics could include:
 - Using the lectern
 - Using the speaking area
 - Rehearsing your speech
 - Using a microphone
 - Speaking at an unknown venue
 - Using props
 - Using technology



Another table topics session might ask participants to tell the audience about **various preparation and practice experiences / what went wrong because preparation and/or practice was not thorough enough**: Topics could include:

- 'Why winging it is not the way ...'
- Practising speeches - what works and doesn't work for you
- An unfortunate experience with technology
- The worst venue I have ever spoken at
- Pitfalls with stages
- Suddenly there were 50 people in the room and I was expecting 10 - what I needed to think about.



Aim for an interactive, participatory approach to any educational and your messages will be stronger, and your audience more appreciative and enthused.

Written by
Helen Cartmell

Recently added at Toastmasters International

- Facebook Ad Guide
- Club Coach Final Report
- Understanding Emotional Intelligence - Evaluation Resource
- Improvement Through Positive Coaching - Evaluation Resource

Check out the [Resources Page](#)

Toastmasters Values



INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

Recently the senior leaders got together and worked through what Toastmasters International Core values mean to us. Below are the key points.

RESPECT

We value people equally. We make time for people and appreciate what others achieve. In our work as leaders, we practice courtesy and kindness. Most importantly, we want to be supportive and see members gaining in personal growth.

We appreciate each other's uniqueness – while we may not always agree we can appreciate the reasons people came to Toastmasters and see the growth within them. Acceptance is essential to us, we focus on inclusion, embrace differences, and are open to others' ideas.

We also need to be aware that all Toastmasters are volunteers and have their own lives.

As leaders and members, we need to accept our own strengths and weaknesses. In our communication with others, we aspire not to say anything we wouldn't like others to say to us.

Although we abide by democratic principles, we respect that there is also a hierarchy within our organisation.

EXCELLENCE

We want to encourage members and leaders to step out of their comfort zone, so we are continually growing and learning. None of us start as excellent presenters or leaders however we offer a safe learning space to strive for excellence.

As Leaders we aspire to keep our standards high by challenging ourselves to exceed our standards and do more than is expected. We acknowledge everyone's understanding of what excellence is, is unique to the individual.

As a District, we want to create WOW experiences for our members by putting our best foot forward and creating brilliant projects of high quality. We want to train our leaders and members to enjoy the limelight and always check whether they are the best they can be.

Written by Kathryn Duncan
District Director

Toastmasters Values



INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

There are two aspects of integrity: being honest and morally upright and being whole and undivided. How do these two facets play in our work and play as Toastmasters?

Being honest is part of our culture as Toastmasters. For example, honesty is a key factor when we evaluate a speech. For an evaluation to be helpful, we must express what we truly feel and experience.

Being 'whole and undivided' means being congruent. We are congruent when our actions reflect our feelings and thoughts. You could say that we are in harmony. What we learn as members and leaders in Toastmasters helps us to develop integrity and harmony.

SERVICE

Is service, the act of helping others, important to you? Just last month, Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest. She dedicated her life to serving others. Is service still something we should aspire to in our society? We live in a world where looking after 'Number One' has become more important than looking after others.

As Toastmasters, we have a different perspective; we see **service as an opportunity to grow**. When we help others succeed, we also begin to shine. Every time we take up a role in a meeting or step up to leadership, we are in service, and it is an opportunity to grow. However, as the inventor, Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Will **you** take up the opportunity of service?

Written by
Mary Jaksch
Club Growth
Director

Dear Diary



September 7

First Area Director's visit today. Breathless after stiff walk up The Terrace, I was early and fortunately had time to recover before A came and collected me. I had a warm welcome from A and introduced to the meeting by the Toastmaster. I'm so pleased I decided to attend in person even though it's a hybrid club, and I could have joined via Zoom. It gave me an opportunity to talk to the visitors - of which there were quite a few.

September 8

Drafting my report - realised I allowed myself to be little side-tracked during the meeting and forgot to ask some critical questions - forwarded to A for comment and follow-up discussion.

Friday September 9

Awoke to the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Finding myself quite weepy and wishing I was Home

My Home club meeting today - another small and select group of people - no prepared speeches so I shared the winning speech from Toastmasters International, followed by a group evaluation and then our usual Table Topics.

District Executive Committee meeting this evening ... losing the will to live ... not helped by a nasty dose of vomiting and diarrhoea. Finally staggered off the white throne to my bed around midnight.

Saturday September 10

Decided I needed cheering up so dragged myself out of bed at 8.00 to attend comedy club meeting and have a laugh. Unfortunately, I hadn't finished preparing my scheduled speech last night and definitely not up to winging so I presented an apology instead. Fun tables topic, though - laughter really is the best medicine.

Sunday September 11

D72 District Council Meeting...or was it Groundhog Day? I'm sure we had the same discussions on Friday. It was a loong afternoon and all credit to the team organising and running it. Glad it wasn't me - coffee was essential.

Monday September 12

Home club committee meeting ... the clock is ticking towards the cut-off for fees ..., six members confirming they will renew - not sure where the other two members will come from. Everyone is so busy with work and just coping with the recent changes that there is little energy for recruitment...

Tuesday September 13

My 2nd Area Director's visit - this time via Zoom as the club only meets online also with members spread across the country. Another warm welcome - I could get used to this! Well organised agenda and lovely to hear a new member present her Icebreaker speech. Had a quick chat to E afterwards about the report and their Success Plan, which she will forward to me.

Thursday September 15

Follow-up meeting with the two clubs re my Area Report, just to confirm some details and to ensure there are 'no surprises'. Now I have to post them on the web-site.



Friday September 16

Home Club meeting ... just table topics today.

Sunday September 18

Another club meeting this afternoon in Upper Hutt – many thanks to J for giving me a lift so I don't have to drive. Hybrid setup much improved since we bought a new camera tripod and speakers. Great idea H. Two speeches this week - one about samplers, the other about Geishas – most fascinating. The use of te reo Māori by one of our Evaluators reminded us it was Te Wiki o te Reo Māori 2022 and to celebrate of 50th anniversary of Māori Language Petition.

Monday September 19

Finally uploaded first Area Director Report ... now for report two.

Friday September 23

Home Club meeting ... and one of our members delivered a speech – Yay! J's topic was on her Communications Style and was very funny. J acknowledged the progress has made since she's been attending Toastmaster and it was obvious to those of us who have been along for the journey with her. Made for a very enjoyable meeting. Wrapped up with the usual Table Topics – surely someone will put up their hand to compete in the Area Contest – the ones I haven't organised yet!

A blast from the past in the evening – literally! Band (brass) practice tonight, rehearsing for a concert in October. They must desperate for percussionists if they are pulling me out of retirement. Great programme – Berlioz, Beethoven, de Falla, and fabulous timpani parts. Remembered why I retired though – I hate having to pack up/unload and cart the equipment everywhere.

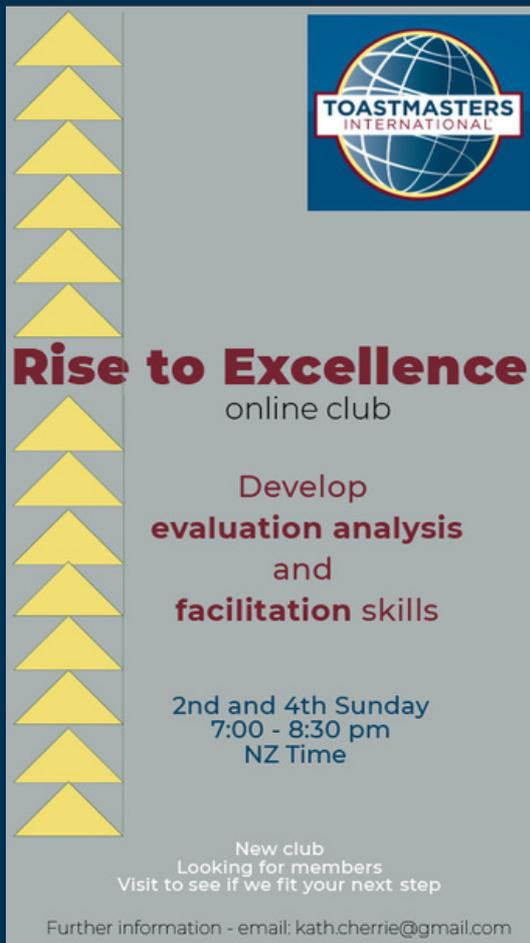
Saturday September 24

Comedy club again this morning, and I'm all ready for my speech this time, although I should have explained the title to my evaluator first to avoid some confusion. The visual aids were obviously effective, if the comments about members crossing their legs in sympathy were anything to go by. A few technology challenges today – easy to forget how new it is to some people – but another fun speech from S and table topics led by A. Must borrow 'The Comedy Bible' from the library.



Written by
a novice Area
Director

Promoting our Clubs



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Rise to Excellence
online club

Develop
evaluation analysis
and
facilitation skills

2nd and 4th Sunday
7:00 - 8:30 pm
NZ Time

New club
Looking for members
Visit to see if we fit your next step

Further information - email: kath.cherrie@gmail.com

Space to spare

How could your club
use it?

What could you
promote?

email: prm.d72@toastmasters.org.nz

Your Ideas

How are you finding the newsletter?

Does it have what you want to read?

What is missing for you?