

DISTRICT 72 TOASTMASTERS PRESENTS  
THE MAY 2025 CONFERENCE

We work  
better together

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*Yes Minister!*



We work  
better  
together



*Yes Minister!*

## 2025 Conference Committee

Roger Hynd, Ohariu Toastmasters

Chair

Sarah Li, Ohariu Toastmasters

Registrations

Sheryl Ryan, Cook Strait Toastmasters

Treasurer

Pauline Cook, Toastmasters of Waikanae

Secretary

Steve Kiernander, Cook Strait Toastmasters

Floor Manager



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# Welcome

## Carol Mitchell

District Director 2024 – 2025

Kia ora Toastmasters whānau,

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to this year's District 72 Conference—an especially momentous occasion as we celebrate **100 years of Toastmasters International!** For a century, Toastmasters has empowered individuals to become more confident communicators and leaders, and today we continue that proud tradition.

We are also incredibly honoured to welcome our special guest, Toastmasters International President, Radhi Spear. Her presence is a testament to the strength of our global community and the impact of our shared journey in personal and professional growth.

This conference is an opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired. Whether you are here to attend the annual business meeting, develop new skills, compete or simply celebrate the Toastmasters experience, I encourage you to embrace every moment. Together, let's make history as we look ahead to the next 100 years of transforming lives through the power of communication and leadership. Enjoy the conference!

## Roger Hynd DTM

Conference Chair

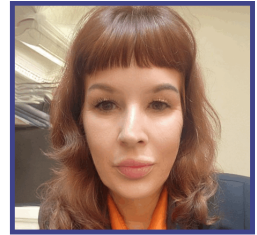
Fellow Toastmasters and friends of Toastmasters,

Welcome to Parliament! I am grateful for your support, making it possible to be here in this marvellous place.


We are a nation of vigorous debaters, and eventually all roads lead to Parliament. Every time I come here, I am conscious of the mana it carries in the life of our small but feisty nation. What an opportunity to remember that Toastmasters is, first and foremost, where we learn to raise our voices in effective ways, so we can go out in the world and make a difference!

**We work better together** is the conference theme. Here we are at the national heart of working together – of debate, listening, speaking, leadership and progress for the country. My dearest wish is that you go away from here on Sunday feeling refreshed and inspired to resume and enhance your Toastmasters journey, and to make a difference in the things that matter to you.


My heartfelt thanks to Pauline, Sheryl, Sarah and Steve, who have been with me since we started this. My warmest thanks to all those who have stepped up as needed! Truly we do work better together. Carpe Diem!



## Karakia Timatanga – Opening Prayer



Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
 Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
 Kia mākinakina ki uta  
 Kia mātaratara ki tai  
 E hī ake ana te atākura  
 He tio, he huka, he hauhū  
 Tihei mauri ora!



Cease the winds from the west  
 Cease the winds from the south  
 Let the breeze blow over the land  
 Let the breeze blow over the ocean  
 Let the red-tipped dawn come with a  
 sharpened air  
 A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious  
 day!

## New Zealand National Anthem

E Ihowā Atua,  
 O ngā iwi mātou rā  
 Āta whakarangona;  
 Me aroha noa  
 Kia hua ko te pai;  
 Kia tau tō atawahai;  
 Manaakitia mai  
 Aotearoa

God of Nations at Thy feet  
 In the bonds of love we meet,  
 Hear our voices, we entreat,  
 God defend our free land.  
 Guard Pacific's triple star  
 From the shafts of strife and war,  
 Make her praises heard afar,  
 God defend New Zealand.

## United States National Anthem

Say, can you see  
 By the dawn's early light  
 What so proudly we hailed  
 At the twilight's last gleaming?  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
 Through the perilous fight  
 O'er the ramparts we watched  
 Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare  
 The bombs bursting in air  
 Gave proof through the night  
 That our flag was still there  
 O say, does that star-spangled banner  
 yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home  
 of the brave



# Keynote speakers



## Radhi Spear DTM

### Toastmasters International President

Radhi is a retired software engineer who worked in the telecommunications industry for over 30 years. She has expertise in software development, systems administration, and acceptance testing.

She holds a master's degree of science in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey.

Before retiring, she participated in employee resource groups at AT&T, including Women of AT&T and InspirASIAN, which fosters development and leadership opportunities for its members. She was also an assistant Girl Scout troop leader for five years.

Radhi says, "Toastmasters is an investment in yourself. The skills you learn in Toastmasters can be used in all aspects of your life."

As an officer of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Radhi is a "working ambassador" for the organisation. She works with the Board to develop, support, and modify the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.



## David Downs CMInstD

### Genetically Modified Optimist

David has had a successful career in the private and public sector and is now CEO of The New Zealand Story, an ambitious government-funded organisation marketing New Zealand to the world. He also acts as a consultant and is a director on several boards, including as Chair of The Icehouse, and the Hi-Tech Trust.

David is an ex-comedian, TV and radio actor, semi-finalist for New Zealander of the Year, cancer survivor and a published author of the books *No.8 Re-wired*, *No.8 Recharged*, *A Mild Touch of the Cancer*, and *Silver Linings*.

David is the Ambassador for the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research and a living example of the effectiveness of advanced Cancer treatment – CAR T-Cell Therapy.



# Workshops

## Comedy as Therapy – How to get a Chuckle out of Life!

Jenice Jean Goveas prides herself on being Wellington's shortest comedian and co-produces two comedy shows: 'Laughs on Drafts' and 'Sidesplitters'. Formerly an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, then Public Servant, now a Comedian by choice, she utilises her PhD in Chemistry to 'get a chuckle out of life'.



Jenice Jean Goveas

She is also a freelance trainer and has conducted over a hundred technical and soft-skills workshops.

Jenice has been a Toastmaster since 2010, taking up club officer roles and competing in speech contests at the District level. Formerly President of Mangalore Toastmasters back home in India, and currently VPPR of Cook Strait Toastmasters, she has been slowly transitioning from a Mango (person from Mangalore) to a Kiwi. Like the fruit, she is sweet and, like the bird, she's most active in the evening, where you can find her entertaining the locals at bars around Wellington with her stage name, 'Jenice the Menace'.

Laughter is a pressure valve and everyday annoyances can become gold for your speeches. Join Jenice to unearth your nuggets:

- Annoyance + details = funny
- Craft the laughs
- Exaggerate confidently

Jenice invites you to this **Laugh-and-Learn Workshop** to transform everyday experiences into 'LOL' content to **ACE** those speeches! .

## Workshop Rooms

Workshops will be held in:

- The Legislative Council Chamber,
- The Grand Hall, and
- Select Committee Room 5.

**Your MC will direct you.**



# Workshops continued

## How to bring out the best in anybody –the fine art of empathetic conversations

Glenys Forsyth, who is currently Division C Director, is a dedicated educational support specialist who works with second-chance learners – individuals ranging in age from mid-thirties to sixty plus, returning to higher education to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Many of these learners have faced difficulties in traditional schooling systems, struggling with feelings of inadequacy, low self-worth, and confidence, often compounded by challenges such as dyslexia and neurodiversity. With a deep commitment to empathy, Glenys fosters an environment where each learner is seen, heard, and valued.

Empathy is a powerful tool for leadership, communication, and building relationships. In this interactive workshop, you will explore the core practices of empathetic conversations and learn how to apply them in Toastmasters.

The aim of this interactive workshop is to equip Toastmasters leaders with tools for empathic listening and communication, to better understand and engage members, particularly around common club challenges. You will:

- Gain an understanding of the core practices of empathetic conversations;
- Practice using the core practices in typical Toastmasters' situations;
- Reflect on what you learned and what you will do differently next time you are mentoring or giving feedback.



Glenys Forsyth



# Workshops continued



## Capital Chatterers

### **Creating a Culture of Success – Engaging your members!**

Do you want to improve member engagement and participation? Do you want to know what others are doing to successfully engage and retain their members and consider how this may apply in your club?

Please join Wellington club Capital Chatterers for an interactive workshop where club members

- Juliet Blyth, President
- Sidney Dillon, VPPR and
- Cameron Hyslop IPP

share the strategies that work for them, and how they keep these alive week after week.

Their three-part presentation speaks to aspects of their club culture that contribute to the greater whole:

- leadership and legacy;
- show and tell – what makes our meetings work, plus communication and community;
- how we bring it all together.

By the end of the workshop, you will have some simple tools and ideas to implement in your club, that will increase your member engagement and work towards building a culture of success, within the context of your own clubs.





# Programme

## **Thursday 8 May 2025**

**19:00** Online Speech Contest

## **Friday 9 May 2025**

**17:00** Candidate Showcase – **Atura Hotel**

**18:00** Entertainment – **Atura Hotel**

## **Saturday 10 May 2025**

**07:15** Table Topics & Evaluation Contestants' Sound Check

**07:30** Registration Desk Opens

**08:30** Opening Ceremony

- featuring Blue Notes Choir from Tawa College

**09:00** Workshops

- Comedy as Therapy –  
How to get a Chuckle out of Life
- Creating a Culture of Success –  
Engaging your members
- How to Bring Out the Best in Anybody –  
The Fine Art of Empathetic Conversations

**09:45** Keynote Speaker Radhi Spear DTM, International President

**10:30** *Morning tea*

**10:45** Table Topics Contest

**11:45** *Lunch*

**12:45** District Council Meeting

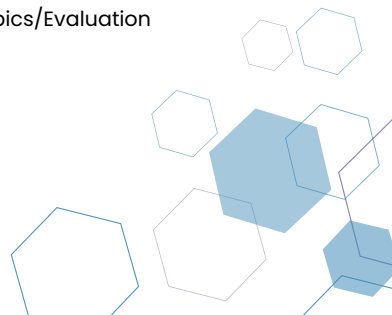
**15:45** *Afternoon Tea*

**16:00** Evaluation Contest

**17:00** Contest Results Online/Table Topics/Evaluation

**17:30** Closing

**19:00** Dine and Dance – **Atura Hotel**



# Programme continued

## Sunday 11 May 2025

**07:30** International Speech Contestants' Sound Check

**07:45** Registration Desk Opens

**09:15** Welcome

**09:30** International Speech Contest

**11:00** Keynote Speaker David Downs

**11:40** *Morning Tea*

**12:05** District Awards

**12:30** Debate with Radhi Spear, DTM, International President

**13:15** Workshops

- Comedy as Therapy –  
How to get a Chuckle out of Life
- Creating a Culture of Success –  
Engaging your members
- How to Bring Out the Best in Anybody –  
The Fine Art of Empathetic Conversations

**14:00** International Speech Contest Results

**14:30** Closing Ceremony

## District Awards

*Presented by Lisa Coppins, Club Growth Director*

- 25 year Memberships
- 50 year Memberships
- Club long service awards



# Blue Notes Choir



## A privilege to have Tawa Blue Notes Choir to perform for us!

The Tawa College Blue Notes is a chamber choir of 43 dedicated students who already sing in the school's main singing group, the Dawn Chorus, and the barbershop choruses. The choir places an emphasis on good classical vocal technique, excellence in performance, and service to the school and community. They've been privileged to be selected for the Big Sing National Finale every year since 2014.

## Conference raffle

Raffle tickets can be purchased from the Registration Desk with cash or a direct deposit to the District 72 Conference BNZ bank account.

### Bank account name:

District 72 Toastmasters

### Bank account number:

02-0100-0666790-004

### The raffles will be drawn during the Conference

### Reference:

Raffle + Your Name

**\$3 = 1 ticket**

**\$10 = 4 tickets**



Temperance



Coalition



Bellamys

## Closing prayer – Karakia Whakamutunga

*Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a te mea ngaro  
Ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o tātou  
Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi  
Kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha, toi te Reo Māori  
Kia tūturu, ka whakamaua, kia tīna! Tīna!  
Hui e, Tāiki e!*

Let the strength and life force of our ancestors  
Be with each and every one of us  
Freeing our path from obstruction  
So that our words, spiritual power, love and language are upheld;  
Permanently fixed, established and understood!  
Forward together!

### The Conference Team thanks the following people and organisations for their support:

**Amanda Plimmer** – Brochure sourcing  
**Anonymous Donor** – Sponsorship  
**Angel Barham** – Conference design  
**Brad Grootelaar** – Web page support  
**Clare Hynd & Roz Ellis** – Saturday night decor  
**Cook Strait Toastmasters** – Raffle prizes ('Temperance' & 'Coalition')  
**Craigs Investment Partners** – Sponsorship  
**Cross Financial Services** – Sponsorship  
**Jeremy Ellis** – Saturday night music  
**Lighthouse Cinema Petone** – Movie fundraiser  
**Moumita Jamindar** – Karakia  
**Ohariu Toastmasters** – Raffle prize ('Bellamys')  
**Tawa College Blue Notes Choir** – Opening anthems  
**Tim Law** – Technical support  
**Wellington Professional Toastmasters** – Friday night entertainment

*Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped out!  
We work better together!*





# Online Speech Contest

Please note, this form is for your notes only and is not to be used as an official ballot.



## Online Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES															
		EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR												
<b>Speech Development</b> Structure, Organization, Support Material	<b>CONTENT 50</b>	15	11-14	6-10	0-5												
<b>Effectiveness</b> Clear purpose, Achievement of Purpose, Relevance		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>Speech Value</b> Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		25	17-24	9-16	0-8												
<b>Physical</b> Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	<b>DELIVERY 30</b>	10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>Manner</b> Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>Appropriateness</b> To Speech Purpose, and Audience	<b>LANGUAGE 20</b>	10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>Correctness</b> Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
<b>TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)</b>																	

(Detach and submit to chief judge)

### Judge's Official Ballot - Online Speech Contest

Write contestants' names in the space below. Counters will assign points.

First Place (receives three points): \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place (receives two points): \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place (receives one point): \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)

## Table Topics Contest

Please note, this form is for your notes only and is not to be used as an official ballot.



### Table Topics® Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES																	
		E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y	G O O D	G O O D														F A I R
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
Speech Development Opening, Body, Close, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T E N T  5	30	23-29	17-22	0-16														
Effectiveness Logic, Directness, Enthusiasm Achievement of Purpose, Audience Response		25	18-24	11-17	0-10														
Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L I V E R Y  3	15	11-14	6-10	0-5														
Voice Flexibility, Volume		15	11-14	6-10	0-5														
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E  1	10	8-9	6-7	0-5														
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	2														
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)																			

(Detach and submit to counters)

### Judge's Official Ballot – Table Topics® Contest

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

Name of Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

First Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE**      **RANKING POINTS**  
(for counters' use only)

First Place      3 points

Second Place      2 points

Third Place      1 point

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Judge)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Judge's Name; Please Print)

## Evaluation Contest

Please note, this form is for your notes only and is not to be used as an official ballot.



### Evaluation Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS	SUGGESTED POINT VALUES													
	E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y  G O O D	G O O D	F A I R										
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Analytical Quality</b> Clear, Focused	40	28-39	17-27	0-16										
<b>Recommendations</b> Positive, Specific, Helpful	30	22-29	13-21	0-12										
<b>Technique</b> Sympathetic, Sensitive, Motivational	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
<b>Summation</b> Concise, Encouraging	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> (100 Points Possible)														

(Detach and submit to counters)

### Judge's Official Ballot - Evaluation Contest

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

Name of Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

First Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE	RANKING POINTS (for counters' use only)
First Place	3 points
Second Place	2 points
Third Place	1 point

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)

# International Speech Contest

Please note, this form is for your notes only and is not to be used as an official ballot.



## International Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES															
		EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR												
Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	CONTENT 50	15	11-14	6-10	0-5												
Effectiveness Clear purpose, Achievement of Purpose, Relevance		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		25	17-24	9-16	0-8												
Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELIVERY 30	10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
Voice Flexibility, Volume		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose, and Audience	LANGUAGE 20	10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		10	7-9	4-6	0-3												
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)																	

(Detach and submit to chief judge)

### Judge's Official Ballot – International Speech Contest

Write contestants' names in the space below. Counters will assign points.

First Place (receives three points): \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place (receives two points): \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place (receives one point): \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)



# Things to do in Wellington

## Houses of Parliament

Entrance to Parliament is free.

For tours check out:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/visit/guided-tours>



## Te Puna Mataranga o Aoteroa

### National Library

Home to New Zealand's founding documents.

<https://natlib.govt.nz>



## Te Papa Tongarewa

National Museum

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/>



## Cable Car

Take a 5 minute ride from Lambton Quay to the lookout perched high above the city. Enjoy easy access to the Botanic Garden, Cable Car Museum, Space Place at the Carter Observatory and Zealandia via free shuttle.

<https://www.wellingtoncablecar.co.nz>



## Weta Workshop

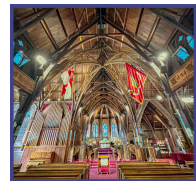
Visit Wētā Workshop Experiences in Wellington and learn about the making of movie effects, from armour to aliens, creatures to costumes and makeup to miniatures.

<https://www.wetaworkshop.com>



## Old St Paul's

Old St Paul's Church and its grounds at 34 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, sit on a part of Pipitea Pā, with which it remains closely connected today. Explore the beauty of this historic carpenter gothic church.



## Notes

## Notes



## We work better together

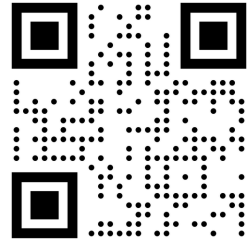
**Yes, District Director!**

*Thank you for supporting the 2025 District 72 Conference.  
We look forward to seeing you in May 2026!*

## Programme QR Code

*Access this programme online!*

*The QR code takes you directly to the Conference webpage. Open the programme from there!*



## Lanyard & Parliament Name Tag

*Please wear your lanyard and your Parliament name tag at all times while inside Parliament Buildings.*

*This is to meet Parliament's security requirements.*

### **Got Questions?**

**Ask a member of the Conference Committee or Crew! Look for our orange lanyards!**

**Wifi: Parliament Guest**  
(press connect - no password)

