



Christchurch Toastmasters' Spread

Contacts 2018

President:

Brad Grootelaar

VP Education:

Kate Adams

VP Membership:

Thomas Mead

VP Public Relations:

Thilina Jayasundera

Secretary:

Kate Brooks

Treasurer:

Scott Simpson

Sergeant at Arms:

Oliver Lau

Amy Stewart

Need to get in touch? Please send all enquiries to:

christchurch@toastmasters.org.nz

Don't forget to follow us on Social Media!



December News

Christmas Dinner

We will have our club Christmas dinner on Tuesday 11 December, starting at 7pm.

The venue will be the Welles Street restaurant (44 Welles Street). You can view their menu via the website:

▶ Wellesstreet.co.nz

As always, you will receive a \$20 subsidy towards your meal. Please confirm your attendance beforehand so that the Treasurer can withdraw the correct amount of money.

This will conclude our Toastmasters' year. Meetings will start up again on Tuesday 22 January 2019.

The Toasties Awards

During the Christmas Dinner, we traditionally give awards to recognize members who have performed exceptionally well over the year.

Can everyone please put forward nominations for the following awards:

- Best Speech
- Best Evaluation
- Best Table Topic
- Most Humorous Speech
- Most Improved
- Service to the club
- Anything else that you can think of!

Reverse Meeting

On Tuesday 22 January, we are going to have a reverse meeting. This will be a fun way to start the year!

What is a reverse meeting? This is when the evaluators speak first and then the speakers have to try and live up to the evaluation. We start the meeting with the General Evaluator and finish with the Sergeant of Arms. This can lead to some rather humorous performances.

It is realised that some people will still be away on this date. It would be appreciated if you could confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

Moments of Truth

Our annual Moments of Truth workshop will be held on 19 February 2019. We typically hold these workshops in August. However, with the speech contests now taking place earlier, we had to shift this event to the beginning of the year.

This is your chance to have a say on the performance of the club. Some of the questions that we will discuss include:

- Why do people join our club?
- Why do people stay with us?
- What should we focus on this year?

Please put some thought into these questions over summer, as your feedback will heavily influence the direction of the club.

Contest Results



District 72 Evaluation Contest

Helen places 2nd in New Zealand



Humorous Speech Contest

1st Tomas Martin

2nd Thomas Mead

3rd Scott Simpson



Table Topics Contest

1st Peter Randrup

2nd Kate Brooks

3rd Ollie Hobbs



International Speech Contest

1st Thomas Mead

2nd Roy Knight

3rd Brad Grootelaar



Evaluation Contest

1st Helen Fitt

2nd Thomas Mead

3rd Grace McLeay



Helen Fitt placing second in the D72 Evaluation Contest in Auckland

Mid-Term Reports

We typically only give club officer reports during the AGM. However, given that it has been such a busy year, it seems appropriate that we share a few things as we go. This is also a good way to introduce the current club officers, which has not yet been done.



President

A year of trying new ideas!

This has been my vision for the club. The theory is simple: only one in seven ideas will dramatically improve the quality of the club. In order to find these ideas, we need to try as many things as possible.

Below are some of the ideas that have been implemented so far by myself and other committee members:

- Toastmaster of the meeting award
- Information booklet for guests
- Meeting theme every week
- Regular table topics practice sessions
- Set up a club Instagram account
- Club newsletter
- Cloud storage for club documents
- Update the website (work in progress)
- Pathways training sessions before meetings
- VP Mentorship

It has certainly been my personal challenge to make the most of this role. A person typically only has one opportunity to serve as president of this club, so it is my goal to not only maintain its vibrancy, but to improve it.

However, there are plenty of challenges ahead for us. By the end of next year, everyone will need to start Pathways. The club's financial position will also reach its lowest point when the next round of international payments are due, after which, it will begin to improve. And finally, focusing on club improvement means that we will continue to attract lots of new members, which needs to be well-managed.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting six months, but there will be plenty more to report by the end of the term!

Brad Grootelaar

VP Public Relations

As VPPR, I am responsible for coordinating an active public relations and publicity program in our club.

Our club already has an effective line of communication between members and committee members. My main focus with this role was to create awareness of Toastmasters, as well as our club (Christchurch Toastmasters Club) to the general public.

Mid last year, I took up this role as a challenge from the past VPPR, when he had to step down from the role due to personal commitments. Since then, I have successfully managed to grow in to this role and have been an active member of the club. The support that I am getting from other committee members is immense and it would not be possible to sustain and initiate so many new things to our club without their contribution.

The first thing that I have done was to create awareness through social media and below are some of key contributions from me to the club as Vice President Public Relations:

- Create / maintain club Facebook and Instagram pages. (Please 'Like' 'Follow' these pages, if you haven't done that yet)
- Keep up with 100% response rate of the Facebook page.
- Introduce the idea of club Newsletter.
- Developing our new club website.
- Speak about our club during some of my business meetings.

- Provide with prompt replies to enquiries via website (Share this with the president).

Since, we do not have a club budget for marketing and outreach activities, this is something which I would like to introduce when the club is financially ready to carry out these activities.

Since we have sufficient members in the club, we do not run any paid adverts or activities to attract new members. Since our SEO game is very strong, with having a popular Facebook page, we manage to attract reasonable amount of enquires.

What's coming up for the second half of the year with this role?

I am working with my fellow committee members developing our new website and you will see some fresh Facebook and Instagram posts from now on.

In summary, I am glad that I took up the challenge with the role and it has helped me developing my skills further. I encourage everyone to become a committee member and further develop your skills and guys it's fun to be in the committee of Christchurch Toastmasters Club!

Oh and you might have a great idea that we could implement to our club. So please talk to me or email me with your ideas. This will help me to further improve this role. (:

Thilina Jayasundera

Sergeant at Arms

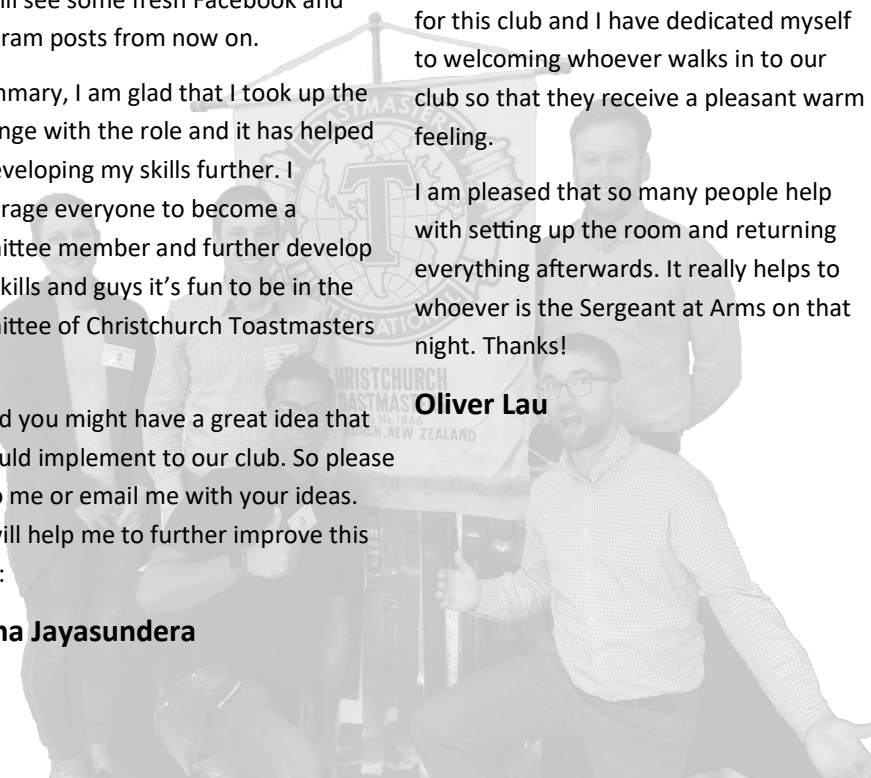
I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I migrated and settled in NZ with my family three years ago. I used to provide comprehensive financial and asset management to my clients to maximize returns in their financial portfolio. I also have passenger and cargo management experience from the airlines industry.

As English is not my mother tongue, it seemed that it was rather difficult for me to adjust myself to the community at the beginning. Joining the Toastmasters committee is certainly a way to improve my public speaking skills and to polish my English. Besides, it provides a good networking opportunity to meet people who like to improve their public speaking and communication skills.

It is an honor to be the Sergeant at Arms for this club and I have dedicated myself to welcoming whoever walks in to our club so that they receive a pleasant warm feeling.

I am pleased that so many people help with setting up the room and returning everything afterwards. It really helps to whoever is the Sergeant at Arms on that night. Thanks!

Oliver Lau



Secretary

Kia Ora,

I joined Christchurch Toastmasters at the start of this year. Immediately I was blown away by the talent in the club and the supportive and encouraging environment that the club offers.

So, when asked if I wanted to take on a committee role a few months later I said yes.

The main role of the secretary is to record meeting minutes. I am also here to help Brad with any behind the scenes stuff, and check the PO Box occasionally.

The committee is a bunch of great people lead by a great president and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the committee so far.

Kate Brooks

Treasurer

What I have learned is that Toastmasters is not just about public speaking. Being elected Treasurer of the Christchurch club has been an eye opening experience. The amount of organisation and leadership that goes into a well-oiled club is astonishing.

This year we, as a committee, have undertaken a large amount of projects to improve the club and bring in new members all while trying to keep costs low.

Personally I have found this experience, as Treasurer, to be of great value not only in my personal life but in my professional one as well.

Scott Simpson

VP Membership

As VP Membership, I'm responsible for helping new members sign up to the club.

We've had a massive year so far, with some meetings so full we've had to put out extra seating. That translated into a whole new crop of members and it's been exciting to see everyone folding into the club so easily and improving their public speaking. We're also lucky to have a group of long-term committed members who help everything run smoothly and others who pop in from time to time to keep their skills fresh.

All up, that leaves us with between 30 and 40 active and semi-active members at any one time. There is a real spread of experience and personalities which keep meetings fun and interesting. We are one of the healthiest clubs in Christchurch and the constant flow of new members keeps everything fresh and our speakers on their toes. I'm looking forward to 2019 - hang on tight though, the new year's resolution rush is on its way!

Thomas Mead



Christchurch Toastmasters AGM - May 2018



Thomas Mead competing in the Division G International Speech Contest.