



Christchurch Toastmasters' Spread

Club Officers

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

May 2019 News

Pathways Workshop

Our next club Pathways Workshop will take place on Tuesday 28 May, starting at 6.30 pm in the usual meeting room.

Leadership with Lark

Lark Doley, the International President of Toastmasters, will be visiting Christchurch on 8 May 2019.

To make the most of this rare occasion, a special event has been organised. This will take place between 5.30 - 9 pm at the Turanga Library.

Space is limited, so it is important to register via Eventbrite. Use this shortened link to access the page:

<http://bit.ly/2v9CzKt>



Pre Toast

If you are running early and have some time to fill before the Toastmasters, feel free to attend our Pre Toast! This will be a regular social get-together, every Tuesday from around 6 - 7 pm in the Cashmere Club.

Please note that only members of the Cashmere Club can make purchases.

Club Officer Training

To help incoming club officers prepare for their roles, we will be running a few workshops before the main meetings:

Using Club Central

Tuesday 21 May, starting at 6.30 pm

Organizing Club Contests

Tuesday 11 June, starting at 6.30 pm

All are welcome to attend. These will be beneficial to someone who is considering a leadership role in the future.



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AGM Summary

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 30 April 2019. With Formaggio's as the venue, it was a vibrant social evening.

Helen Fitt did a wonderful job of chairing the event. Outgoing officers gave reports of the past year and Incoming Officers for 2019 / 2020 were elected.

This was also the first year of the AGM awards. The following members received prestigious ribbons for their outstanding speaking skills:

- ▶ Scott Simpson - Best Speech
- ▶ Kate Brooks - Best Speech
- ▶ Stephen Moore - Best Table Topic
- ▶ Jayson Elliot - Best Table Topic
- ▶ Erina Metcalf - Best Evaluation
- ▶ Helen Fitt - Best Evaluation
- ▶ Amy Stewart - Most Improved
- ▶ Oliver Lau - Most Improved



Incoming Club Officers

Congratulations to the members who are taking on leadership roles! For the benefit of newer members, below is a summary of what each person does:



President - Thilina Jayasundera (TJ)

Provides general oversight of the club and represents us in the wider Toastmasters community. Ensures that important notices are passed on to members.



VP Education - Leonie Wilkinson

Assigns the Toastmaster, General Evaluator and Speakers on Easy Speak. Signs off education achievements.



VP Membership - Scott Simpson

Encourages guests to become members. Signs people up on Club Central and formally inducts new members.



VP Mentorship - Stephen Moore

Supports new members and manages the club mentoring program.



VP Public Relations - Brad G.

Promotes the club, responds to enquiries and encourages guests to attend meetings.



Secretary - Amy Stewart

Records committee meeting minutes. Keeps club records well organized.



Treasurer - Jayson Elliot

Keeps track of club finances and pays membership fees to Toastmasters International.



Sergeant at Arms - John Baigent

Ensures that the meeting room is set up correctly and maintains club supplies.

Educational - Beginning Your Speech

The first moments of a speech are critical to its success. If they are dull, lifeless, and unimaginative, the audience can lose interest in the rest of the speech. However, an exciting, creative beginning will help grab and keep listeners' attention.

Successful speech openings meet four criteria:

- ▶ Get the attention of the audience
- ▶ Introduce the topic
- ▶ Establish rapport
- ▶ Take less than 5 to 10 percent of the entire speech time

Take the extra time to create an exciting beginning that will keep your listeners' attention focused on you. Ensure that the first impression is positive by using some of the techniques below.

✓ Good Techniques

▶ State the importance of your topic

Tell your listeners why the topic is important to them.

▶ Make a startling statement

Startle your listeners with an intriguing statement that will compel them to listen further.

▶ Arouse suspense or curiosity

Use a series of statements related to the topic that will pique your listeners' interest.

▶ Tell a story or anecdote

Telling an amusing tale, dramatic story, or anecdote arouses interest and gets an audience involved.

▶ Ask a rhetorical question

Ask one question or a series of questions that relate to your speech topic. The audience will think about an answer and thus your topic.

▶ Memorize

Once you have written the beginning, memorize it so you do not have to refer to notes. A memorized, polished introduction helps to establish credibility and rapport with your audience.

✗ Bad Techniques

▶ Avoid acknowledging the amount of preparation

The audience does not need to know how much a speaker has prepared for the speech he or she is giving. Unless the amount of time specifically pertains to the speech, it should not be addressed. If a speaker has spent little time preparing and states that fact, the speaker may invalidate his or her expertise with the audience and lose his or her authoritative voice.

▶ Avoid delaying mention of the topic

Some speakers think that delaying mention of the topic creates anticipation and arouses curiosity, but this is not so. If the audience does not know the subject matter and purpose of the speaker's message, they will immediately lose focus.

Give it a go! Try some of these techniques in your next speech and see for yourself how a well-crafted opening can improve how the subject is received by the audience.



This article is based on a booklet from the Better Speaker Series.

toastmasters.org/resources/the-better-speaker-series-set

Club Details

Christchurch Toastmasters

Club 1866
District 72

Meeting Location:

Cashmere Club
50 Colombo Street
Christchurch

Meeting Times:

Every Tuesday at 7.30 pm

Website:

christchurchtoastmasters.co.nz

Facebook:

[facebook.com/
ChristchurchToastmasters/](https://facebook.com/ChristchurchToastmasters/)

Editor Contact Details:

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Christchurch 8022

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.

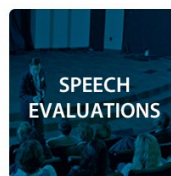
EST. 1965

Pathways Troubleshooting

It is really good to see so many members embracing Pathways! However, there are a few areas where users are consistently experiencing difficulty. Below are a few tips to help you navigate the new system:

1. Focus on Education Transcript and Evaluations

The Pathways home screen is full of useful links and buttons. This may seem rather confusing to a new user. Keep it simple and focus on the **Education Transcript** and the **Speech Evaluations** buttons, as these are the ones that you will be using the most.



2. Disable Pop Up Blockers

Pathways uses Pop Ups Windows to display slideshows. Most computers block these features as a default, which results in nothing appearing. For instructions on how to disable the Pop Up Blocker for your computer, go to the **check compatibility** button on the home screen.



3. Maximize Pop Up Window Size

When running a slideshow on Pathways, make the window as big as possible. There are little arrows on the side that are hidden if the window is too small. These allow you to move back and forward through the presentation.

4. Answer All Self-Evaluation Questions

There are self-evaluation questions scattered all throughout each speech project. These need to be filled in before you can move on the next one. This is simply a check to make sure a person has read through the slideshow and is not trying to cheat the system.

We are all here to help each other with Pathways. Now that almost everyone has started using the new system, there are plenty of people who can provide support if needed.