



# Christchurch Toastmasters' Spread



## Club Officers

### President:

Thilina Jayasundera

### VP Education:

Leonie Wilkinson

### VP Membership:

Scott Simpson

### VP Public Relations:

Brad Grootelaar

### VP Mentorship:

Stephen Moore

### Secretary:

Amy Stewart

### Treasurer:

Jayson Elliott

### Sergeant at Arms:

John Baigent

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

[christchurch@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:christchurch@toastmasters.org.nz)

## July 2019 News

### New Committee

On 1 July, the Toastmasters year begins and the new club officers take over.

A lot of effort goes into keeping the club running smoothly, so it is important that we support our new committee whenever possible. If everyone helps in a small way, we can make this the best year the club has ever had!



### Google Maps

Christchurch Toastmasters is now on Google Maps! This provides guests with another way of finding us.

Please take a moment to post a review on our listing. This helps us perform better in search results and makes guests feel more comfortable about visiting.

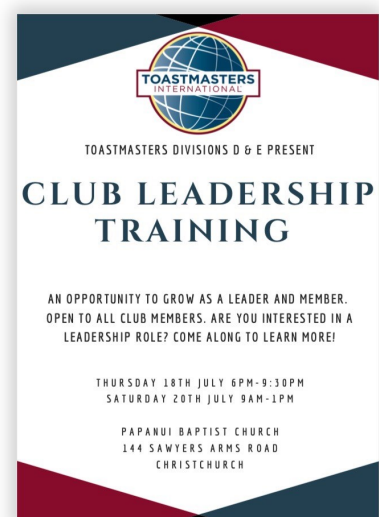
### Leadership Training

Club Leadership training will be taking place in July. There are two workshops, with each covering the same content:

- ▶ *Thursday 18 July*  
*from 6 pm to 9.30 pm*
- ▶ *Saturday 20 July*  
*from 9 am to 1 pm*

The venue is the Papanui Baptist Church (144 Sawyers Arms Road).

These are designed for the incoming club officers, however, any member who is interested in leadership is welcome to attend.



# District 72 Mosgiel Convention Summary

Every year, members from across the South Island and Greater Wellington gather together for the District 72 Convention. This year's event was held at the Burns Lodge in Mosgiel between 10 - 12 May 2019. The venue was an old catholic monastery built in 1900 and it was certainly unique in character!

This was the first time that all four District level contests were held over one weekend. This included Table Topics, Humorous Speech, Evaluation and International Speech contests. Before the recent reformation, these contests were divided between two separate events and encompassed all of New Zealand.

Helen Fitt made a surprise appearance in the Evaluation Contest, serving as the backup person for Division D. The long drive was worth the effort, as she returned home with a shinny Bronze Medal! Well done Helen.

Lark Doley, the International President of Toastmasters, also attended the event. This does not happen often! She gave two keynotes over the weekend. The first was an educational on how clubs can deliver a "Golden" Toastmasters experience. The second keynote focused on her personal journey with leadership, which demonstrated how anyone could reach that level.

On the Saturday, we had a District Council Meeting. This is where Club Representatives vote on policy changes and elect incoming District Officers. Diane Isherwood (based in Lower Hutt) was elected District Director for 2019/2020. I was confirmed as the Area Director for D4.

The personal highlight for me was meeting so many new people. These events are a good opportunity to make new friends and extend our networks. Plenty of ideas came from talking to members from other parts of the country. This is the second convention that I have attended, and on both occasions, I came to appreciate how big Toastmasters is.

Next year, the District 72 Convention will be held in Christchurch. It would be good to see a few people from our club attend!



**WRITTEN BY  
BRAD GROOTELAAR**

Photos of the event can be found on the District 72 Website:  
[toastmasters.org.nz/district/district\\_conferences](https://toastmasters.org.nz/district/district_conferences)



# Educational - Evaluate To Motivate

The more effective we are in evaluating each other, the more each one of us will profit from the experience - whether we are delivering a speech, evaluating, or sitting in the audience. For audience members, we learn from the good example an effective evaluation presents. As evaluators, we learn to sharpen our listening and impromptu speaking skills. And as speakers, effective evaluations benefit us by:

- ▶ **Providing immediate feedback.**

Supportive commentary and helpful suggestions reinforce positive speaking behaviors, as well as assist in focusing on areas that need work.

- ▶ **Offering methods for improvement.**

An evaluator can offer a new perspective. This perspective will allow the presenter to recognize and then solve any difficulties with the presentation.

- ▶ **Building and maintaining self-esteem.**

As the presenter's speaking improves from speech to speech, more self-esteem will be gained.

## ✓ HOW TO EVALUATE EFFECTIVELY

Giving an evaluation is an excellent way to demonstrate the skills you are learning as a Toastmaster. The following are 5 basic points to remember when evaluating:

### 1. Before the speech

- ▶ Review and discuss the project objectives and evaluation guidelines.
- ▶ Ask about any concerns regarding the speech or the speaker's ability.

### 2. Show that you are interested

- ▶ Demonstrate that you are truly interested in the speech.
- ▶ Exhibit your interest in the speakers ability to grow and improve.

### 3. Personalise your language

- ▶ Put yourself in the position of the speaker before giving the evaluation.
- ▶ Stay away from words like "You didn't" "You should have" "You failed to".

- ▶ To stimulate improvement, use words like "I believe", "My reaction was", "I suggest".

### 4. Evaluate the speech - not the person

- ▶ Always keep your main purpose in mind: to support, help and encourage the speaker.
- ▶ Pay attention to the speakers goals for self-improvement.
- ▶ Watch for symptoms of fear or insecurity.
- ▶ Evaluate what the speaker does – not who they are.

### 5. Promote self-esteem

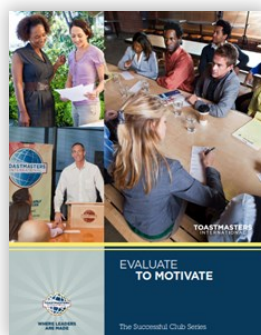
- ▶ Encourage and inspire the speaker to participate again by giving honest and sincere feedback, positive reinforcement when improvement occurs and helpful direction when necessary.
- ▶ Always end your evaluation positively.

## ✗ AVOID BEING DISINGENOUS

An evaluator can give evaluations that only praise the speaker. This may be flattering at first, but over time, will demoralize the atmosphere of a club. Honest evaluations can and should be upbeat and encouraging, while still pointing out areas for improvement.



**WRITTEN BY  
CHARLOTTE STEELE**



The article is based on a booklet from the Successful Club Series.

[toastmasters.org/resources/the-successful-club-series-set](https://toastmasters.org/resources/the-successful-club-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](http://christchurchtoastmasters.co.nz)

### Facebook:

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

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

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## 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**

## Speech Contests

Club Contests will soon be upon us! Below is an outline of when they will be taking place:

- ▶ August 2019 - Club Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest
- ▶ September 2019 - Area Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest
- ▶ October 2019 - Club Evaluation and International Speech Contest
- ▶ November 2019 - Area Evaluation and International Speech Contest

### Humorous Speech Contest



This consists of a 5 - 7 minute speech on any topic. The content should be comical in nature, but the winner will ultimately be determined based on structure, body language and other speaking techniques.

Anyone who speaks for less than **4:30** minutes or more than **7:30** minutes is disqualified.



### Table Topics Contest

A Table Topics Contest involves a 1 - 2 minute impromptu speech on a topic chosen by the contest chair. All contestants will be given the same question.

At the beginning of the contest, all contestants will be asked to leave the room so that the question can be given to the audience (this ensures a level playing field). Each person will then be escorted back into the room one at a time to answer the question.

Anyone who speaks for less than **1:00** minute or more than **2:30** minutes is disqualified.

Does competing in a contest sound scary? Remember, the only way to improve is to give it a go! However, if you do not wish to compete, we will also need help with the following roles:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▶ <b>Timer x 2</b>         | ▶ <b>Contest Chair x 2</b> |
| ▶ <b>Tally Counter x 2</b> | ▶ <b>Sergeant at Arms</b>  |

Club contests can be an enormous logistical challenge. In order for them to run smoothly on the night, it will help if everyone enters at least one contest or takes on a role.