

# G WHIZZ

## New from around G Division

"If it doesn't  
**CHALLENGE**  
you, it doesn't  
**CHANGE**  
you."

– FRED DEVITO

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



Happy Easter. I hope you all enjoyed a break from routine and taking time out to do something that makes your heart sing. Too often we can become slaves to our routines without giving ourselves the opportunity to look up to check we are still heading in the direction we want. Thank you to those who sent me stories and photographs. To those who have not yet contributed have a think about what you could add to our newsletter. Please forward your short stories and photographs to Fiona on **shawsy@me.com**

### In this edition:

- Division G Director
- A new role for Ellie
- Sadly missed - Donald Walker
- A Case for Opportunity
- In Memory of Annabel Mae Clouston
- Words with Impact
- Wedding Celebrations
- Rotorua Convention May 2016

### Division G Speech Contests

The Division G International Speech Contest and the Evaluation Contest will be held on Saturday 16th April at the Papanui Baptist Church.

For contest tutorials have a look at the link below

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials>

**Division G has a Facebook page. Have you liked it yet?**

**Division G District 72 Toastmasters**

## A New Role for Ellie

For the coming year Ellie Young of District 72 will be the Region advisor for Region 12, which includes NZ and Australia.

What is the Region Advisor? Here is a Toastmasters International description of the person and the role.



### REGION ADVISORS

Region advisors support district success by working with the District Directors, Program Quality Directors, Club Growth Directors and Public Relations Managers in their efforts to fulfil the District mission of building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence.

Region advisors are appointed by the Board of Directors and serve a fifteen month term (April – June).

### ATTRIBUTES OF SUCCESSFUL REGION ADVISORS

- Expert-level knowledge of marketing strategies and skills
- Strong leadership, mentoring and coaching skills
- Knowledge of Toastmasters International structure and programs
- Proven ability to establish and maintain relationships within a volunteer organization
- Demonstrated ability to successfully facilitate training programs
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills
- Conflict-management and problem-solving skills
- High level of integrity and history of ethical conduct

This is going to be another huge role for Ellie, I am sure that, as she has done with all her other roles, she will give her all to achieve the best for her fellow Toastmasters.

*Ellie said "I'm thrilled to be appointed as the Region 12 Region Advisor. I'm only too aware of the shoes I'm stepping into. Our region has been blessed by those whom I am following. I love this organisation, as it does what it says it will do. Toastmasters Where Leaders Are Made. I'm blessed to have first hand experience of this and even more blessed now to be given the opportunity to support those who are leading within their Districts. Go Region 12 !!"*



Many of us knew reliable / dependable Donald Walker (charter member) from Hereford St Club of Christchurch. Sadly, he died on 19th January 2016.

Here is a brief overview of Donald that many may not have known and may find interesting!

Born in Glasgow, he was with the middle child, with an elder sister and a younger brother. His father, also Donald, was a doctor and had a surgery at 180 Colombo St. They lived at 220 Colombo St (now Essie Summers Retirement Village). Donald emigrated as a 7yr old when the family flew out from Glasgow on board a Constellation aircraft with Pan American Airways.

He met his lovely wife Beverley at the Centaurus ice rink. They were married for 51 years and had 2 daughters and a son. Donald excelled in science whilst at St Andrews

College, ironically it was near this hill where he lived latterly!

He joined the Post Office in 1958 as a telephone technician, switched to Tower Insurance (Government Life) in 1992 as a financial adviser and retired from Tower upon reaching 65 in 2005. Donald worked in Rotorua for 6 years, still with Post Office, returned to Christchurch in 1978.

A lifelong volunteer, he belonged to Kiwanis, Jaycees, and Boys' Brigade, was on the Mt Pleasant Kindergarten committee, he was president of the Mt Pleasant Community Centre for seven years, and latterly Chairman with the City –Sumner community patrol.

### A Case For Opportunity

I have noticed that a lot of new Toastmasters stay for their first three speeches, some stay for 10 and a few stay more than two years. In my own experience I was ready to leave after 5 speeches as I had found that I had hit a wall. I needed a challenge. A good friend and fellow Toastmaster gave me a set of high performance leadership manuals at speech 5. The program allowed me to look inward at my leadership style and develop my own skills. It gave me self confidence to accept advise and the contribution of a team of people that I lead, My communication style had to develop into a cooperative approach as volunteers seldom respond to motivation by dictate. I had to develop plans, consult and delegate to make progress. At the end of the manual I had the opportunity to review my growth as a leader and saw material growth in those traits. My zest for Toastmasters has been re-ignited. I know there was real gems to be found in our program, sometimes it takes someone else to point it out.

Andrew Elphick DTM

## In Memory of Annabel Mae Clouston

Annabel was a much valued and treasured member of Lincoln Research Toastmasters. From day one she set our meetings on fire with her charisma and cheeky personality. Over the precious 2 years she was with us, she extended our vocabulary (not always for the faint hearted!), entertained us with her stories and antics, and inspired us with her drive for facing life's challenges head on. Few can forget the scary 'reverse' meeting where she used a horse whip to tell people off for using too many 'ums' and 'ahs'! As soon as she joined, Annabel took on major committee roles (VP-Ed was her first!) and mentored many new members. She taught us that not knowing how to do something is not an excuse to avoid it. Annabel recently passed away at the age of 29, 8 months after she was given a second chance at life when she received a lung transplantation. All her life Annabel strongly and courageously fought the complications of Cystic Fibrosis (CF), the most common life threatening genetic disorder affecting children in New Zealand. Children with CF will have a number of organs affected by the disease, lungs and pancreas being the main ones. The disease causes a clogging of the organs' ducts with a sticky mucus and which can lead to repeated chest infections and malnutrition due to problems digesting and absorbing food.

If you wish to know more about this disease or you wish to donate, please visit the following page: <http://cfnz.org.nz/>

Annabel, it was a privilege to have met you and call you our friend. You were an inspiration to all of us and we will never forget your determination and zest for life. Lots of love from your LRT friends.



From left to right: Annabel Clouston, Carol Thomas and Beryl Williamson

## Words with impact

Mr Toastmaster, fellow Toast... actually, that's the problem I want to talk about. ToastMASTERS. How many women do we have here tonight? I don't know about you, but calling myself Master feels kind of wrong.

In fact, when I first saw Toastmasters advertised, I thought it must be one of those male-only boys' clubs, something like the Freemasons or Lions. I probably wouldn't have investigated further, except I happened to meet someone who was a member, and discovered that in fact anyone was welcome to join.

So maybe we need a new name. Toastmistresses? Probably not – a bit too whips and chains. We need something more gender neutral. Toastpeople? Toastgivers? I know – Toasters!

Mr Toaster, fellow Toasters. Ok, so I may have my tongue slightly in my cheek, but I do have a serious point to make: Sexist language has an impact.

Something as simple as the name of our club might be stopping potential members from joining. Of course, you could argue that the "master" part of "Toastmasters" is just about "mastery", about becoming an expert. And I'm sure that is the intent. But no matter the intent, the fact remains that the word "master" has a strong connotation of maleness, and if someone is put off joining our club because of that connotation, then that's important, and we need to be aware of it.

Because when we use language that excludes half of our audience, we're sending the message that we don't think those people are important. And I'm sure that's not a message any of us wants to send.

As Toastmasters, we need to be aware of the kind of language we use, and what message that sends. Are we unknowingly making members of our audience feel excluded through the words we use?

Research has shown that sexist language has an impact, both on how the hearer feels about the speaker, and how they feel about themselves. And it doesn't matter what you intend, it's what the hearer hears that has the impact. For example, some people would say it's ok to use "he" to refer to a generic person of either gender, as in a sentence like "When a potential new member is welcomed to our club, he should be introduced to the President".

But psychological experiments have shown that when someone hears "he", even if they know the speaker meant it in the generic sense, they will unconsciously picture a man.

### **Words with impact (continued..)**

And if a woman hears "he" used in that way, she'll feel less included, like she's not entirely welcome.

If instead we say, "they should be introduced to the President", then everyone feels included.

Now you might be hearing the voice of your English teacher in your head, telling you it's wrong to use "they" as a generic singular. Rubbish. Singular they has been around in the English language for centuries, and was used by such august authors as Chaucer, Shakespeare and Jane Austen. I reckon if it's good enough for Shakespeare, then it's good enough for me. And anyway, making everyone feel included wins over grammar pedantry any day!

Sexist language is damaging, but it's so ingrained in our culture that we're often not consciously aware of it. It takes practice to notice who you're excluding and devaluing with your language, and to recognise those damaging messages you're unwittingly sending.

When you ask, "Is anyone man enough for the job?" what message does that send to the women in your audience? Are you really saying a woman couldn't do it? Why not just say, "Is anyone good enough for this job?"

When you use terms like "male nurse", or "lady doctor", you're sending the message that you think they're weird, and a bit wrong. What message does that send to the young man in your audience who's thinking of training as a nurse? Why do you even need to specify the gender? You could just say "My friend Bob is a nurse at Christchurch Hospital".

Sexist language has an impact, and sends a message to your audience – usually a message you didn't intend. So while you're crafting your speeches, think carefully about your language. Think about who's going to feel excluded. Think about the words you've chosen and the messages they send.

Fellow Toasters, I'm not really suggesting we should change our name.

But I am asking you to be aware of the language you use, and make sure that it includes and values everyone in your audience. Because at Toastmasters, we want our words to have impact. So let's make sure they have the right sort of impact.

Jennifer Middendorf from Cathedral City Toastmaster

## Wedding Bells in Area G5

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Adrian and Aleicia Humphries who were married at the Playhouse, Tasman on Saturday 19th March. Adrian, who is the Area Director for G5 and Aleicia (nee Lines), both of the Nelson Club, celebrated along with family and friends. A beautiful and personal service followed by a fun karaoke session. A wonderful day for a truly wonderful couple.



### Area Director Testimonials

#### Gail Daley G3

I am having a thoroughly enjoyable time being Area Director of G3 which includes Avon, Bishopdale, Cathedral City and Riccarton clubs.

I feel I have grown with my leadership role and gained more confidence speaking to our fellow toastmasters. Especially when we have such a high caliber of senior toastmasters in our Region.

It's a little daunting at the start but thankfully we have a great support network and helpful leadership manuals.

I encourage anyone to take the Area Director role on, as its a great personal challenge and helps towards becoming DTM.

**Adrian Humphries G5**

I actively avoided stepping up to becoming a District Officer for many years because I wanted to compete in TM Competitions. I then heard someone say "take a year off and work on the perfect speech for when you return", I'm glad I took the advice – although I haven't perfected the speech yet!

As an Area Director you have to think at a strategic level, by considering how to support all clubs in your Area (6 in mine). You also have the challenge of offering the right type of support to each club – some will be flying high, others will be in real trouble, and some will be doing just OK!

You also have to accept that there are some circumstances where no matter how much you try, you can't do everything, or force people to change who do not want to! In my Area distance is also an issue, with two clubs being an hour and a half from home, however, I do enjoy trips to Blenheim!

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 9 months as an Area Director, not only have I managed to assist many fellow TM, I have learnt from all of my clubs and have got a far better understanding of how our organisation works. Most importantly I have gained a far greater appreciation of how much positive influence our organisation has on individuals and on our society in general.

Yes, there are some frustrations – getting Club Officers to respond to emails and phone calls is probably the greatest! But I would definitely encourage anyone to take on the role.

**Kerri Meidema G9**

Do you have a good knowledge of Toastmasters and the desire to find out more?

Can you see potential in others?

Are you ready to challenge yourself?

Then you'd make an ideal Area Director.

My experience as G9 Area Director for 2015/16 has been a positive one, working with the wider TM team, extending my network, and myself. Visiting clubs, taking part in division and district events; I've got to learn from others in the wider Toastmasters organization. Sure, there's paperwork but it's not too bad if you organize yourself ahead of schedule - a useful and transferable skill.

So, take the next step, move beyond your club and into an Area Director role.

**Gillian Perano G6**

I have enjoyed the challenges along the way. Throughout my time so far I have made sure that I have been available to all our members and provided support and resources where needed. There is always someone that you can approach for different issues and concerns. All the Toastmasters I have met and their family and friends, have been an inspiration to me and others. I particularly enjoy hearing each other's stories and experiences in life.

The benefits of being an Area Director are immense and the resources available are becoming more and more accessible. Just this month people are able to use their smart phones to access information. I prefer the personal touch and I am always amazed at the knowledge and information that each and every one gives. I feel that it is important to always have open communication with each other. A sense of humour can be helpful if used appropriately. Many hours are spent for each Area Director and other officers to organise club visits, seminars, contests and different speeches. The support from each Area Director in our allocated areas in Division G has been extraordinary and exemplary.

I have really valued the training sessions in Wellington and at conferences. So much work has gone into each session, for us all to learn and develop more. Thank you very much to our Division Director Dave Young and to all the other officers for providing us with a wealth of information as well as unseen opportunities that come our way. Together we can do it.

**Celina Templeman G8**

I felt extremely unprepared to become an Area Director my first time around. Now, I wholeheartedly recommend to everyone who wants to grow in confidence and be a better leader that they should seriously become an Area Director. I became more confident as a speaker, with the ability to be able to speak more confidently off the cuff (without preparation) at all my Area Visits and other meetings I attended. My personal growth was phenomenal along with my confidence. I found I learnt even more being an Area Governor/Director the second time around.



## Rotorua May 2016 Convention Newsletter 2      Theme: Celebrating Diversity

Welcome to everyone and thank you to those who have already registered using [www.tmcrotorua.co.nz](http://www.tmcrotorua.co.nz). Please make use of the discounted rates as prices will go up to \$140 from 1 April.

### A bit about our keynote speakers



**Bill Potter** is THE "Business Maverick". He takes a look at your business/industry from the outside. And gets you to think "differently". He is considered by many, to be one of the best business, strategic and challenging speakers globally. His presentations are always original, current and inspiring. He has been described as 'different, irreverent, thought-provoking, interactive and very funny' and has helped hundreds of companies create their 'different'. Bill doesn't look 'outside the square'. He 'ventures beyond the cube'!



**John Twaddle** joined Toastmaster 39 years ago. He was once petrified about forgetting his words during speeches. Since then he has won several national speaking titles and with his awe-inspiring poetry, he brings a unique feel to speech language. His presentation is about reliving his Toastmaster's journey, with some of the unique experiences I have had, so that those more recent members can see that their journey is just beginning.



**Gráinne Moss** was born in Belfast and became the first Irish woman to swim the English Channel and Cook Strait. She had a long career representing Ireland and was ranked in the World Top 10. She is Managing Director of Bupa Care Services with over 4000 staff and 70 sites in NZ, providing aged care, retirement villages, rehabilitation and community support services to over 25,000 New Zealanders. Gráinne has a BSc (Hons) from Liverpool University and an MBA (Hons) from IMD in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Saturday night** is our world famous dinner and dance. With our theme of celebrating diversity, we invite everyone to wear a hat of their choice reflecting a culture or country, past or present, pretty or not. Share this information with your friends and at your clubs. For more information, see our website, facebook page and NZ TM website. Here is the conference video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2RmrZlufsGNTFQxcjVsanZiaVE/view>

Hats off  
The Convention Committee

Website: [www.tmcrotorua.co.nz](http://www.tmcrotorua.co.nz)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/TMCNZ](https://www.facebook.com/TMCNZ)

NZ TM Website: [http://www.toastmasters.org.nz/events/district\\_conventions](http://www.toastmasters.org.nz/events/district_conventions)

## Schedule of upcoming TM Events 2016

Please mark these important dates in both your Club Calendar and your personal Calendar.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Division G Contests	Papanui Baptist Church, Christchurch
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	May District Convention	Distinction Rotorua Hotel and Conference Centre, Rotorua
<b>May</b>	Club AGMs and Voting for incoming Club Committee	at your own clubs

Cut Off Dates	Publishing Dates
Sunday 15th May	Sunday 22nd May
Sunday 17th July	Sunday 24th July
Sunday 18th September	Sunday 25th September
Sunday 20th November	Sunday 27th November

