

# G WHIZZ

## News from around G Division

### Editor's Corner

Welcome to the latest G Whizz newsletter. Inside you will find:

- Our Latest DTM
- Photographs from the Division Convention
- A review of the International Convention in Las Vegas
- Avon Toastmasters 40th Anniversary
- Creative Club Meetings - Northside
- An interview with Andrew Elphick
- A spotlight on Area Directors Gillian Perano (G6) and Nicola Greene (G2)
- Division G Calendar Dates

### Greetings from the Division Director Dave

#### Division Conference

Division G enjoyed a very successful Conference on Saturday 17th. The morning was filled with mini workshops, covering topics such as;

- Making club meetings fun,
- Where to after the CC Manual,
- What you need to know to become a club coach,
- How to conduct an orientation session for new members to your club.

The morning saw around 50 to 60 people attending. The feedback received from the workshops, was that they were extremely well received and covered vital and interesting topics.

In the afternoon we held the contests and they were professionally run by Adrian Humphries and Sam Bain. They both did an excellent job of Contest Chairs. We had around 130 people attending.

The winners of the contests, were Helen Fitt G1 (Table Topics Contest) and Andy Cooper G8 (Humorous Contest). Both will be representing us at the District Convention in Blenheim November 7th - 8th. As a Division we wish them both every success.





Congratulations to Beth Bradley who achieved her Distinguished Toastmaster Award in July this year. Beth is a member of the Pegasus and Christchurch Athenians Clubs and is well respected for all her hard work, judging, expert coaching, encouraging all the leaders, members and guests to each club that she attends.

For those who are attending the District Conference, I look forward to seeing you there.

### CLT - Second Round

As we look forward to Christmas, we are planning to run the second round of Club Officer Training in December. It is a number of years since we did this and it was extremely successful that time around. Doing the training this way allows clubs to get into next year's programs without the interruption of a training day. We will be in contact with you regarding the content of the day. The second round of training is usually designed at general leadership skills. The organising team will be meeting shortly to put together the possibilities. If there is anything specific that you would like to see included in this training day, please let us know.

Cheers, Dave Young DTM



Thank you for all your articles. If you would like me to publish your Toastmaster articles and photographs please email them to me [shawsy@me.com](mailto:shawsy@me.com).

Hope to see many of you in Blenheim on the 6th of November.





**Table Topics Contest - From left to right Dave Young (Division Director), David Templeman (Program Quality Director), Helen Fitt G1 (First Place), Rob Woolley G (Second Place), Emily Cross G2 (Third Place), Adrian Humphries G5 (Contest Chair)**



**Humorous Speech Contest - From left to right Sam Reid G (Contest Chair), Andy Cooper G8 (First Place), Fiona Hodge G5 (Second Place), Melissa Baker G7 (Third Place), David Templeman (Program Quality Director)**

## Division G Convention Awards



Marc van Irsel,  
Division G  
Governor 2014-15

Mark Baker is  
presented with  
the G Division  
Toastmaster of  
the Year Award  
2014-15



**Toastmasters International Convention - Las Vegas August 2015.**

Chris McCabe had high expectations for Las Vegas' International Convention, having previously been to X and he wasn't disappointed.

There was a fantastic line up top quality speakers and they resonated with many in the audience.

First up was Dana Lamon, a blind retired administrative law judge and 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking (WCPS), who gave a spirited



presentation - 'Making the club experience meaningful'. Dana spoke about how clubs need growth, self-definition, connection and purpose. To achieve this, you need to occasionally buck the routine to promote growth and he believed you needed to dare to be different and define who you are - what is your "I am" statement, and what is your club's "I am": statement?

He joked about his blindness. People often say to him "you don't sound blind" and how is it that he has four children? He suggested that his sighted friends may as well close their eyes anyway.

There were many highlights. Among them the opening ceremony early Wednesday evening, presided over by International President Mohammed Murad. Flags flew in alphabetical order of participating countries with each having been previewed during the earlier parade including our own, proudly carried by Julie Aspinall of Invercargill.

Darren LaCroix, 2001 WCPS, suggested that we should be sponges. He was inspired by the film Rudy (1993) in which Daniel 'Rudy' Ruettiger played football for the University of Notre Dame overcoming significant obstacles. From here he got the idea that those inspiring heroes become heroes themselves and the those we spend most time with have the greatest influence - we are the average of 5 people that we spend most of the time with.

Nobel Peace prize laureate Mohammad Yunus was the worthy recipient of the 2015 Golden Gavel award. From Bangladesh, he became a guarantor to those around him who could not get or qualify for traditional modes of borrowing. Micro lending. He was always repaid and despised the 'loan sharks'.

As expected, all of the speakers were of an exceptionally high standard. Succinct, with each presenting a clear message.

My takeaways from the speeches were:

- We get to choose our purpose, an apple seed can only be an apple, even if it wanted to be an orange.
- Say it better in fewer words. Strive for clarity
- Consistency beats ability, perception is reality, be creative or die, the medium is not the message, work hard to keep it simple, give love to get love, emotions rule the world, go big or go home, know the rules and know when to break them.
- Make big mistakes - risks, act and respond. Die by your own sword - is your dream worth fighting for? Speak up for what you believe.
- Use humour to connect. It is a skill, combining ideas that are not necessarily compatible. Stress is based on your perception of an event - not the event or situation - a series of choices - choose how you react .

At High noon on a 38\* humid Vegas day, over 2000 people witnessed the World Championship of Public Speaking. Around 10 previous winners were acknowledged. All 10 contestants were male, over half Asian and or English as their second language. I had the top three in a different order with Mohammed Qahtani from Dhahran (Saudi Arabia) winning with "The Power of Words". We learned that the 30 year old was a mute until age six.

District 72, New Zealand achieved Distinguished District under Captain Kingsley Moody, so in good military fashion we lined up and marched on to the stage to accept it. A big stage, blinding lights and now get what David Templeman meant when performing on such a beast, it is very hard to see who is out there and gauge any impact. The whole process took several hours.



Next year, Washington D.C. , Vancouver after that and an exciting rumour Sydney August 2018.

## Avon Toastmasters 40th Anniversary and Gwynn Harrison's 21st Celebration Premiere!

This Anniversary featured the Movie Premiere of "This is your Toastmaster's Life" directed by Craig Banbury who was Master of Ceremonies on the evening at Hollywood Cinema, Sumner.

On Sunday October 25th, Avon Toastmasters



celebrated 40 years in conjunction with the belated screening of a filmed presentation of long-serving member, Gwynn Harrison's 21 years at the club. Famous people from all around came including Area Director Gail Dalley and her husband and Avon's favourite son, Tobias Theirer from Australia, who would still be a member if not head-hunted by Google.

The movie was filmed by in 2009, and had included several past members who had helped celebrate the event; Edward Fairbrass, John Leadbetter, Karen Fordyce, Maria Brovnik, Dave Henderson, Chris Richards, Sheila Hailstone, Ken Morrison, and Kathy Harrison, Gwynn's wife. It was filmed, edited and produced by Craig's daughter, Stefanie from CTV. This, of course, was prior to the quake.

Watching the movie was surreal, seeing a glimpse back in time, just long enough to have forgotten what happened and seeing how people have changed. You could hear a pin drop for the entire hour and a half. Pertinent for Toastmasters was reminiscing how things used to be - the formal attire, adherence to protocol, and making every club meeting an event. Of note, from the guests, was how Gwynn's humour was the most memorable and how many people had shared much of themselves in their speeches - I'm sure we can take something from that.

Afterward, drinks and nibbles and were had in the Beach Bar and many stories shared. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate both a club that has changed many lives, created memories, and had so much fun and learning. Forty years and still kicking, congratulations Avon Toastmasters.



Neil Willoughby, President Avon Toastmasters



**CREATIVE CLUB MEETINGS** - The last couple of rounds of Club Leadership Training (CLT) have included sessions on Creative Club Meetings. Attendees discussed ways of adding variety and spice to club meetings by being creative and imaginative; a popular suggestion was to hold a programme with a theme.

2015 has been a grand year for Anniversaries and Commemorations; the 800th of the signing of Magna Carta; the 100th of the Gallipoli Landings in The Great War; the 70th of the

ending of The Second World War.

Another significant event occurred on Wednesday, 9th September 2015 when H.M. Queen Elizabeth II became THE LONGEST REIGNING FEMALE MONARCH IN WORLD HISTORY.

To celebrate this significant event, the members of NORTHSIDE TOASTMASTERS CLUB held a special themed meeting.

Former club members, local TM clubs, and other guests increased the usual audience by over 100% on the night!

Olaf, Royal Sergeant at Arms opened the meeting with an introduction to 2 video clips of Her Majesty's Proclamation as Queen in 1952 and Crowning at her Coronation in 1953.

All club members were assigned a speaking role for the occasion which included lots of audience participation in the form of "Regal Table Topics", "Royal Trivia" and "Her Majesty's Harkmaster." The latter, which was a new role at the club, was to test the audience's listening skills in the form of a quiz on the evening's programme. And very successful it was too!

The evening finished with a Loyal Toast to Her Majesty from Peter accompanied by glasses of bubbly, a rousing rendition of "God Save the Queen" and refreshments.

What benefits did NORTHSIDE members get from such a meeting?

- For a small club, it was a great for club members to show off their Toastmaster skills before the challenge of a bigger audience.
- The opportunity to use our imagination and creativity and do something different.

**Why not consider holding a themed club meeting at your own club? Invite lots of people. Club members and the audience would appreciate the novelty.**

## Learn more about Andrew Elphick

**What were your reason(s) for joining Toastmasters and how long have you been a Toastmaster?**

I originally wanted to join Toastmasters in Gryemouth but it didn't exist. My job in the 1990's involved a lot of public speaking and I felt intimidated in some situations, quite small. Then when I got into my business I had to speak in front of select committees and stand up for people, it was hard. When Greymouth Toastmasters was in formation I was the first to sign up, that was around 2009. After a while I



was told I didn't do enough by my mentor. That took me aback but spurred me into action so along with Kerri Miedema, Katie Shannon and Robyn Ashowrth we started the Hokitika club. I then became Area Governor and, with Mike Johnson, started the Westport club. I was Presidents Distinguished Area and now am co-chair with Kerri Bainbridge for the upcoming Blenheim Convention. That seed was planted three years ago and the bid was confirmed 18 months ago. I was once told "organising toastmasters was like herding cats" and I'll be glad when the herding is over in two weeks time ☺

**What is your most memorable moment in Toastmasters?**

Obtaining the convention bid and being on stage with Kerri is something that sticks in my mind and receiving my DTM in Paihia a year ago felt good and took some weight off your shoulders. Always looking forward to the next challenge though might need a little rest after the Convention.

**Tell us a bit about your family.**

I've got a blended family. I have a step-son and a step-daughter, and a Toastmasters daughter, Charlotte. I have a grand son who was diagnosed with cancer which has made me question where to devote my time and puts things in perspective. I am married to Connie, we've been 'going out' since 1991, coming up to our 20th Anniversary.

**Interview with Andrew Elphick continued...****Describe a memorable moment from your personal life?**

Telling my daughter five minutes after she was born that I would always look after her. I was in the army for fourteen years and went to Malaysia, have the medals to prove it, awarded by mayor Vicki Buck in 2000.

**What is your favourite tippie and meal?**

Pinot Gris and a good steak, chips, salad, and olives.

**What do you most like to do in your spare time?**

What's that? I take the horse out down the beach walking. It walks beside me like a dog and we go for a walk.

**What is your favourite book and/or sport?**

Read lots of books. Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov and the Mars Trilogy by Kim Stanley-Robinson. Sport? Hmm, played softball and rugby but probably now just walking.

**What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken?**

Malaysia is up there from a Geo-Political viewpoint, was there eight weeks. Been to Australia like everyone else and been through Changi, Singapore.

**You have just won \$100,000 on an Instant Kiwi Ticket - what would you do with it?**

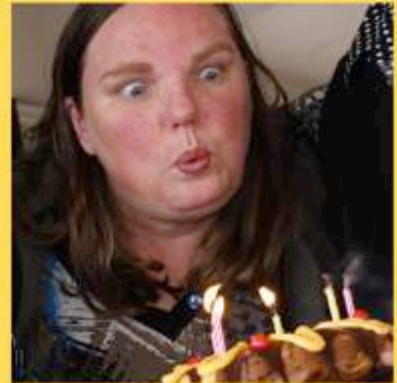
Not enough! Pay debts off and go for some more holidays. Maybe buy a portacom so I don't have to work inside the house - something we should all aspire to ☺

**Past or Present - Who would you most like to meet and what would you ask them?**

My father's father. I would ask him anything - I'd listen. He died in 1958, I was born in 1961. Its about family.

### ***Spotlight on Areas G6 and G2***

My name is Gillian Merano Area Director of G6. Just before I started my role I had the privilege of attending and celebrating with fellow toastmasters and guests the U- Can Speak Toastmasters Club recognition of their 20th Anniversary on the 4th June. Christchurch Athenians previously known as the Woolston Club celebrated their 10th Anniversary on the 30th May. On the 12th August Airwaves Toastmasters had a reunion for its' past and present members. George Mulligan won our Area Contest for Table Topics and Basil Moskovis won the Humorous contest. Daniel Clarke was the Toastmaster of the Year for our Area. At the Division Conference our previous Area Governor Timm Treskatis won the Division Area Governor of the Year for 2013 -2014 for all his dedication, loyalty and chartering a new club U-Can-Speak Avonhead.



I feel very privileged in my role as Area Director G6 and look forward to all the next challenges and opportunities that I will come in the future.

Thank you to all the clubs in our area. Airwaves, Belfast, Christchurch Athenians, Pegasus, U-Can-Speak and U-Can-Speak Avonhead for all their inspiration and continual support and encouragement.

**Gillian Perano.**



As Area G2 Director I look after the Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Northside, Southern Cities and Christchurch Speechcraft clubs. It has been interesting visiting the clubs and hearing about the various challenges they face.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Royal themed meeting at the Northside Toastmasters Club in September, which was held to honour Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning Queen in history. The meeting was complete with sharply-dressed members, videos of the Queen's coronation, royal trivia and a concluded with a toast to Her Majesty.

It has been great to meet so many enthusiastic Toastmasters in my area and I appreciate the support I have received from more experienced Toastmasters and fellow Area Directors. While it was challenging organising the Area G2 Humorous and Table Topics Contest, I learnt valuable lessons which will assist me with organising the next area contest. I would like to say well done to all who competed, and a big congratulations to Jools Lawson and Emily Cross who did an excellent job representing Area G6 at the Division G Humorous and Table Topics Contest.

**Nicola Greene**

# TRAIN THE TRAINER DAY

YMCA

Cnr Rolleston Ave and Hereford Street,  
Christchurch

November 22 10am - 3pm

DIVISION G are conducting a Train The Trainer Day.

The objectives are simple - create even better Toastmasters!

This event is designed to Fast Forward your development as a presenter.

We also want to identify and develop the next crop of Division leaders and trainers.

Powerpoint Presentations

Delegation

Facilitation

Negotiation

Listening

Adult Learning

Presenting

Event Management

Speaking

Interpersonal Communication

Delivering

and.....

## Do you have scope for improvement in:

Can you tolerate 5 hours of awesome company? Yes?

Then this is for YOU!

No matter where you are on your Toastmasters journey  
we are confident you will develop further throughout this event.

Seats are strictly limited - FIRST IN FIRST SERVED

There is a \$10 fee for the room hire and food and refreshments

Contact: Rob Woolley [rbwoolley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rbwoolley@xtra.co.nz)

(027) 299 7232

or Mark Baker [bakerfam@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:bakerfam@slingshot.co.nz)

(03) 352 7394

Please mark these important dates in both your Club and Personal Calendars

### Schedule of upcoming TM Events 2015/2016

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8th November	District Conventon	Marlborough Convention Centre, Blenheim
Sunday 22nd November	Train The Trainer	YMCA - Corner Rolleston Ave and Hereford Street
Tuesday 1st December (TBC)	CLT Round 2	Papanui Baptist Church, Christchurch
December 2015 - February 2016	Cub International Speech and Evaluation Contests	At your own clubs
March	2016 Area Contests G1 - G9	Various venues
Saturday 16th April	Division Convention	Papanui Baptist Church, Christchurch
Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd May	District Convention	Distinction Hotel, Rotorua
May	Club AGMs and Voting in incoming committees	At your own clubs

### G Whizz Publishing Dates

Publishing Dates	
Sunday 6th December	Sunday 20th December
Sunday 7th February	Sunday 21st February
Sunday 10th April	Sunday 24th April
Sunday 5th June	Sunday 19th June