



President's Report ABM 2 May 2023

Spinnaker Toastmasters Club has had another busy year: A great number of speeches were presented, levels and paths completed, and an impressive amount of learning took place. In fact, our club is listed in the District Director's report as achieving outstanding results, with many education awards to our name.

Like many other clubs worldwide, the club is working hard to return to its pre-pandemic strength. Whilst there is strength in membership numbers, in my report I would like to draw attention to some of the club's other strengths, as they deserve recognition.

The educational achievements of members are due to members' growing understanding and appreciation of the learning and skills Pathways has to offer. Members have made concerted efforts to become familiar with the online process and, over time, worked through sizeable projects. Moving beyond the initial hesitation and embracing the online format remains a work in progress but the benefits are evident in the often commented on level of expertise displayed by Spinnaker members. Education awards are pleasant to receive, but the real award lies in the confidence, agility and capability members can draw on outside the club. Members consistently refer to how skills attained are of advantage in the workplace and many other settings.

Another strength is that the club has added another bow to its strings by becoming a hybrid club. It gives members the option to add to their learning by incorporating technology in presentations, a skill set increasingly in demand in work settings. During the Covid-19 lockdowns Zoom was essential simply to be able to keep going as a club; these days being able to use Zoom has proven to be a useful backup when the venue is not available and it enables club members to attend if they can't participate in person. During difficult times it became clear that it is advantageous to be nimble and to have options.

Our club produces formidable contestants! Among the club's successes were the Area contests, where three of our members did Spinnaker very proud, with Gary placing first in International as well as Table Topics, Jacqui placing first in the Evaluation contest, and Darrell placing third in the Humorous speech contest. Congratulations to all of them, these are extremely impressive results.

The club ran a Speechcraft course during March and April, which attracted a lot of interest and was very successful. Nine candidates registered for a four-session course, with seven participants completing the course successfully. This was the first time a speechcraft course was supported by the Toastmaster bespoke online programme, which proved very effective, as it made accessing resources and tracking progress easy.



During this speechcraft course, another strength of the club was evident, in that the entire club was involved in running the sessions, making it a collective undertaking for the benefit of the club. Members helped organise, assisted speechcrafters, and offered a welcoming atmosphere. Overall, the Speechcraft course proved not only an effective way of raising the club's profile, but also as an opportunity for members to apply all the leadership skills learnt through the various roles and tasks toastmasters practise going through the Pathways programme.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the club's biggest strength: it's members. There is a good mix of long-standing and newer members – granted, there could be more of us, but the key characteristic of Spinnakers is that attendance and participation is regular. Members show a high level of commitment to the club in many different ways, e.g. helping with projects such as the Porirua Trade Expo, the speechcraft course, donating time, money, laptops, expertise, and in many more ways. This club has made it through the Covid-19 years, where many clubs have faltered and that is largely due to the unwavering commitment of members.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members who supported me in so many ways throughout the year. The marvellous club committee is comprised of hard-working and dedicated committee members, who ensure the smooth running of club business, like paying the bills and seeing to it that members get the most out of the learning programme that is Pathways. Answering emails, organising meeting roles, and ensuring that the club remains in good standing are tasks committee members take seriously.

I really appreciate all the work the committee has done and their support throughout the year.

It has been a pleasure working with my committee colleagues and serving as President of our club this past year. I look forward to supporting the incoming president and committee as IPP.

Katina Beauchamp, CC, CL, IP5, PM4
Spinnaker Toastmasters Club President 2022/23