



# The Maungakiekie Mouthpiece



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### Maungakiekie Toastmasters Meeting Report

#### Welcome

We started on time with the call to Order by Helen Korte, our Sergeant of Arms, followed by Judit Nikolic, the President's welcome. We were unusually low in numbers having quite a few members away on holiday.

Jim Harknett, the chairman of the evening (first time in this role), welcomed us all warmly and read out the invocation for the night: "I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it" said by Pablo Picasso.

Hospitality Officer Finda Hope introduced and welcomed the guests:

\*Brian Poffley (member of Maungakiekie some time ago)

\*Ande Schurr (ex member of TM in Palmerston North, thinking of rejoining TM)

Then she read us the mission statement of Toastmaster's.

Apologies were accepted from Cynthia and Pippa Mitchell, Andrew Pass, Andrew Reynolds, Mike Diggins, Cheryl Pivac, Anne Malcolm and Roger Mingers. Motion carried by Grant.

Jim thanked Finda, Helen, Stephen and Judit for accommodating late program changes.

To start with, Grammarian Stephen Thorpe explained in detail his role for the evening. Then he introduced the Word of the Night: OCTOPUS. Stephen told us the interesting fact about this word he learned during the week: octopus, octopuses and octopi are all plural forms for the singular octopod. Fascinating! Almost as much as the James Bond Octopussy movie...

#### Officer's report

Our President, Judit Nikolic reminded the club members about the upcoming District Convention on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> November in Dunedin and encouraged members to register for this exciting event where the best Table Topics and Humorous speakers of our district will compete.

In absence of VP membership, Judit Nikolic welcomed Tim Orr who joined Maungakiekie Toastmasters a fortnight ago and presented him his TM pack wishing him all the best for completing his CC manual.

#### General business

Helen Korte, our Sergeant of Arms informed us that she was organizing a social event: a night-out in a restaurant. She suggested two places (a Mongolian and an Indian restaurant) and dates and passed around a sheet for voting.



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Jim Harknett the Chairman of the night informed us that he decided to skip the "warm-up" round the table speeches tonight in order to keep to time. He introduced the Toastmaster of the evening Judy Gillett as a keen tennis player and walker, a part-time artist and also a WBC ring official! 😊 "How do you know all this?" - asked Judy all surprised. "From your husband" - Jim answered with a smile and added "He told me that you will kill him for telling me all this and I said I'll come to the funeral."

## Prepared speeches

1<sup>st</sup> speaker: Stephen Thorpe  
Manual: Special Occasions manual  
Assignment: 5 - Accepting and award  
Time: 5-7 min

Judy set the scene for Stephen's speech by telling us to pretend that we are the audience at a dinner at the facilitator's convention. We just had dinner, listened to a few key note speakers and are about to witness the new editor of a journal accepting an award.

In his speech Stephen was accepting an award as the in-coming Editor of the IAF Journal on behalf of Sandor Schuman. Stephen was also passing onto us few words written by Sandy about the history of IAF and Sandy's involvement in it. He also thanked in behalf of Sandy to everyone with whom Sandy has worked over the years.

Stephen finished his award accepting speech with the following words: "Ladies and Gentlemen please join me in rejoicing in Sandy's contribution to our association".

2<sup>nd</sup> speaker: Sarah Scott  
Manual: Technical Presentations  
Assignment: 1 - The Technical Briefing  
Time: 8-10 min

Speech title: An insight into ESR

Sarah gave us and insight into the interesting and diverse world of her work at ESR (Institute of Environmental and Science Research). The mission of ESR is protecting people and their environment through science. There are two branches within ESR: the environmental health and the forensic branch. ESR has science centres in Auckland (biology, physical evidence, illicit drugs), Christchurch (forensic) and in Wellington (breath testing...).



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Sarah is involved in the forensic side of ESR. Forensic science is an application of science to matters of law. Every physical contact leaves a trace: blood, hair/cloth fiber, shoe print, tool mark, damaged paint, firearms discharge residue...etc and all of this can serve as physical evidence (pe).

Sarah is a forensic biologist. She examines DNA found on the crime scene from things like: drink bottles and cans, bite marks on food, ear wax, sunglasses, stamps and envelopes, dandruff, finger scrapings, cigarette butts, beanies left behind. Her aim is to create a DNA profile from the evidence and try to match it with DNA profiles currently available on database.

She showed us examples of female and a male DNA profiles and explained how to distinguish between them. We also learned that as the end result of analysis of biological evidence the DNA profile comes out as a string of numbers. We had the privilege to have an insight into Sarah's own DNA profile: for us it was just a string of meaningless numbers.

3<sup>rd</sup> speaker: Helen Korte

Manual: Speaking to inform

Assignment: 3 - The demonstration talk

Time: 5-7 min

Speech title: About cheese

"Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey,..."

Helen started off her speech with this well known nursery rhyme and continued with telling us what cheese is about. Cheese is basically solidified milk. When milk is acidified it coagulates into curds and whey. It contains vitamins and minerals and it's very tasty. Also lately it's very pricy too, so Helen decided to make her own cheese. She took some books from the library to figure out how to do it. According to a Mexican cheese book, cheese making is easy. First you have to sterilize the milk by heating it to 175 to 180°C for 10 min slowly. You have to check the temperature with thermometer though because you are not allowed to overheat the milk. Then add rennet (you can also use vinegar as a substitute) to coagulate the milk. Stir the mixture if you aim to make soft cheese, but don't stir if you after a hard cheese. Strain the hot mixture through a cloth, tie the clot, hang it up and let the whey drain completely.

"And here is my cheese that I made" - exclaimed Helen contentedly showing us the result of her efforts.

4<sup>th</sup> speaker: Joan Hook

Manual: CC

Assignment: 9 - Persuade with power

Time: 5-7 min

Speech title: 80 million years and struggling to survive

Joan's speech was about endangered frogs in New Zealand. She started her speech with telling us how Deborah Geisler (ex Maungakiekie toastmaster) invited her to a quiz night at the Auckland Zoo. It was a fundraising night for frog research and conservation. She talked



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about four critically endangered frog species in New Zealand: the Hamilton's frog, Maud island frog, Archey's frog and Hochstetter's frog. The main reasons for their disappearance are deforestation, gold mining, agriculture, pesticides, predators and environmental changes. She also told us why we should attempt to save them:

- they are unique to New Zealand
- they warn us about environmental changes
- they are insectivorous
- they are on the verge of extinction.

According to Joan things we can do to save these frogs are:

- spread the word
- encourage children to learn about these useful and wonderful creatures
- do our own research
- uphold the law
- donate to frog research groups
- participate in events supporting these frogs.

At the end of her speech Joan pointed out that these little creatures (only about 50mm) deserve all the help that we can give them. She also invited us to have a look at the photos she got of these four endangered frog species.

\_\_\_\_\_refreshment break: delicious biscuits provided by Paul Aked\_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluations

1<sup>st</sup> evaluator: Finda Hope

Finda evaluated Stephen's speech.

Summary of Finda's CRC:

- C: asked Judy to assist setting the scene
- R: looked too much into the notes
- C: really liked the part when Stephen was speaking about the history of IAF

2<sup>nd</sup> evaluator: Grant Hamill

Summary of Grant's CRC:

- C: very clear, logical structure, easy to follow with the right level of detail
- R: 1. look at the audience when speaking, not at the projector's screen  
2. the speech was about ESR itself, even though Sarah said at the beginning of her speech that she'll tell us about what she does
- C: simple effective gestures

3<sup>rd</sup> evaluator: Robert Wong

Robert evaluated Helen's speech.

Summary of Robert's CRC:

- C: informative speech with great opening and good use of props
- R: more visual demonstration about the cheese making process
- C: no use of notes and a challenge for us the audience to try to make our own cheese



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4<sup>th</sup> evaluator: Judit Nikolic

Summary of Judit's CRC:

- C: detailed presentation due to an extensive research
- R:
  1. use a bit more passion in the speech, especially at the beginning and the end of it
  2. show us the photos of the frogs, don't give us the choice of not seeing them
- C: great structure with objectives, facts and possible actions clearly stated

## Table Topics

Helen Korte was the Table topics master of the night. She chose food as the topic to talk about.

1. What cheese do you like most?

Tim doesn't like cheese. As a child he wasn't allowed dairy at all because of allergic reaction. So instead of ice cream he would get jelly, instead of butter marmite...

2. Tell us about the most expensive meal you ever had.

Brian (our guest) told us about his experience at the restaurant at the top of the town where after a long decision making and waiting a huge plate arrived. But when he lifted the lid, to his disappointment, there was only a tiny scrape of food underneath...

3. What spices do you use to marinate your barbeque insects?

Paul was a bit taken aback by this topic, but eventually came up with some ideas for the marinade like: kiwifruit juice, soy sauce and of course the barbeque sauce ...

4. Your favourite fruit is...

Ande (our guest) doesn't like fruit; he can't understand people submitting themselves to fruit diets. He likes to experiment with food though...

Table Topic evaluators were Finda Hope and Tony Simpson.

## Reports

In his report grammarian Stephen Thorpe was pleased to hear that the word of the night was surprisingly well taken up. Also mentioned one of Sarah's sentences that he particularly liked:

"When I was at school PE was something I hated, now when it's physical evidence I like it."

Stephen awarded Judith with the Ahm boot for her 27 ahms she accrued during her various duties throughout the night.

First time Timekeeper Tony Simpson gave a detailed feedback on timing.

## Master evaluation



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The final evaluation of the evening was delivered by Paul Aked.

Paul also presented the awards for the night:

Best TT:	Brian Poffley
Best TM:	Jim Harknett
Best Evaluator:	Grant Hamill
Best Speaker:	Sarah Scott

At the end of the meeting Chairman Jim Harknett invited the guests to comment about their experiences. We heard from them that it was an enjoyable meeting with interesting speeches being presented.

Reporter: Judit Nikolic