

7th May 2010



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Through Education

## Leadership Award For Anti – P Man

On Saturday the 8th of May New Zealand Toastmasters are holding their annual convention at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington and will honour New Zealand's leading methamphetamine specialist and educator, Mike Sabin with their national Communication and Leadership award.

"This award is presented annually to a person outside of Toastmasters who makes an outstanding contribution to New Zealand in the field of Communication and Leadership and who is able to present a feature address at the May District 72 Convention" said Chrissy Meyer, the Immediate Past Distinguished District Governor of New Zealand Toastmasters.

According to Miss Meyer, District 72 (which is the whole of New Zealand) is affiliated to Toastmasters International in America. There are over 86 Districts throughout the world and all the Districts have recently been grouped into Regions and we are now Region 12 out of 14 Regions which incorporates three Districts in Australia and part of Papua New Guinea.

New Zealand currently have 240 clubs which vary in membership from 10 to 30 plus members and is open to anyone 18 years and over and there have been individuals who have held a membership for 20 years plus.

Mr. Sabin who was also a recipient in 2008 of a sir Peter Blake Emerging Leader award and was a Chamber of Commerce business of the year winner in 2007 said he felt very proud to be given this latest acknowledgement.

"You don't do this sort of work for the accolades, but it is very special when people take the time to acknowledge what you are trying to do and achieve" said Mr. Sabin

Methcon Group, the company Mr. Sabin founded in 2005 is a unique organisation which delivers methamphetamine and drug awareness education and policy advice all over New Zealand, while Mr. Sabin himself is heavily involved in a number of international drug policy think tanks and forums, including be a board member for the Oceania region on the World Federation Against Drugs.

Mr. Sabin has travelled extensively in recent years studying and researching the global methamphetamine pandemic and seeking solutions to the crisis here in New Zealand. He has been actively involved in efforts to shape policy and strategies and continues to strive for change in New Zealand in terms of the gambit of approaches required.

However Mr. Sabin believes that this award is recognition for the communication that is so essential in driving social change. "Communities need leadership in this area and effective communication is the essence of leadership in this regard. The ability to resonate an important message is crucial in guiding change and I feel honoured to receive this award from a group who aspire to communication of this nature" said Mr. Sabin.

Mr. Sabin will be delivering a presentation to the Toastmaster convention on his journey with MethCon and the importance of leadership in change management, when he receives the award at 1030 on Saturday morning.

Previous winners of this award include Graham Dingle, Ian and Mary Grant, Gordon Teitjens and Tim Shadbolt.

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**Comments:**

**Chrissy Meyer DTM**

**Immediate Past Distinguished District Governor  
District 72 Toastmasters**

Phone 07 575 0139 work 07 543 9493 evenings

07 543 9490 home

Cellphone 027 296 7939)

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**Mike Sabin**

**Managing Director**

**Methcon Group Ltd**

**[www.methcon.co.nz](http://www.methcon.co.nz)**

**(NZ's only specialist methamphetamine education providers)**

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