

# So To SPEAK

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## Canadians speak down under

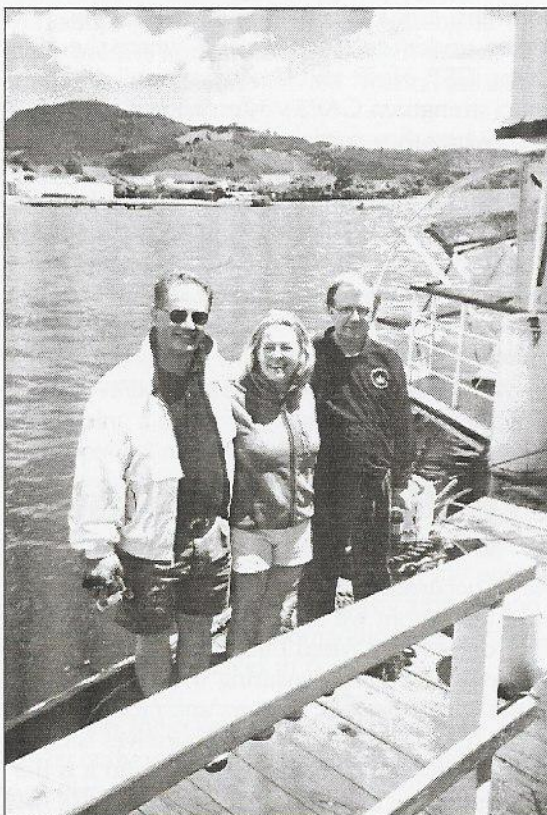
By Linda Edgecombe, Kelowna, British Columbia

**W**e were a small Canadian contingent with a huge impact. I am not sure our colleagues from New Zealand or Australia, let alone our American friends, will ever be the same. To say that the prospect of speaking to your colleagues is a bit unnerving would be putting it mildly. But we three kings, David Saxby, Linda Edgecombe and His Highness Kit Grant, CSP, Hoff, had the time of our lives. New Zealand's National Speakers Association Conference was well run, educational, fun and relaxing.

Kit kicked off the conference with an opening keynote. He gave us nine, no, more like 24 points on how to get what you want in your career and life. After many hit the platform without any, David was the first speaker that actually used any technology. He showed everyone how a bit of SPARK is all you need to add some pizzazz to your presentations. I gave two keynotes—the first, ironically, right after David. And I was only the second person to use multi-media. My second keynote was on a side trip to a town called Rotorora, where the local sales association joined us for dinner and I gave my “after dinner bit.”

Here's what I enjoyed the most. Getting over my self-doubt and getting up on stage in front of my peers. Absorbing the massive feedback one gets after “hitting it out of the park.” (That's a quote from my coach Manny Schmidt.) Most enjoyable was just being able to talk shop for five days with awesome people from around the world. I live in Kelowna and don't have a CAPS chapter close by, so I seldom get a chance to just talk about the ups and downs of the business.

So here's what I suggest to anyone who may be interested in speaking at an NSA event. Put your name out there! Be prepared to make a holiday of it. If you are going far, travel around and see the country. And you might even get to find out things about your colleagues you never would have otherwise. For example, Kit is an avid golfer who gets in over 50 games per year—



**The Three Kings**

and that's in Calgary's 2.5-month season! And David, well, he openly admitted to having worn a pink bridesmaid's dress once, and he seemed quite proud of the fact. That was also in Calgary, by the way. As for me, I sat back and kept quiet as usual and just observed the happenings around me. HA!

Have an awesome year, my CAPS colleagues, and we'll catch up at Convention 2002 in December in Vancouver.

Linda Edgecombe is a “Life Perspective Specialist” who works with organizations that want their people to re-energize and re-focus themselves, their work and their relationships. Linda lives in Kelowna, BC, where she can be reached at [info@lindaedgecombe.com](mailto:info@lindaedgecombe.com), [www.lindaedgecombe.com](http://www.lindaedgecombe.com), phone (250) 868-9601, or fax (250) 868-9740.

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