



District 72 Newsletter

May 2021

District 72

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Tēnā koutou District 72 Members

Evaluate the District

This is your chance to evaluate how you feel the District team performed this year. Leaders need feedback like everyone else. We are inviting you to consider the team of Area, Division, Club Growth, Program Quality and District Directors plus Finance, Administration and Public Relations Managers as well as the Training and Tech teams. What did we do well, not so well, and what would you like us to focus on going forward? Please remember CRC. This is your chance to be heard. [Evaluation form.](#)

District Council Meeting

The main decision-making meeting of the year is only a few days away. This is your club's chance, through your representatives (Club President and Vice President Education), to be heard and vote on our future leaders, realignment, procedural changes and more. Please encourage your club to be represented. Representatives, you need to [register your attendance](#) by midnight Sunday, 9 May if you wish to vote. All registrants will receive an email no later than Wednesday, 12 May confirming registration and explaining how to cast your votes. Please remember, as this is an online meeting, **there are no proxies** allowed so club representatives must attend the meeting via Zoom to vote.

Elections and District Leadership Committee

Most elections are not controversial but what has confused some are the new rules. I invite people to read [Protocol 9.0](#) of the Governing Documents to understand the process. Put simply, if you have applied for an elected position (Division Director or higher) and been nominated by the District Leadership Committee (DLC) and there were no other candidates who similarly were nominated then, unless Protocol 9.0 was not adhered to by the DLC, that person will be elected unopposed.

I can confirm that, as there were no protests about the DLC report by 14 days before the District Council Meeting, there are three positions that are open to floor candidates. These are Division D Director, Division E Director and Club Growth Director. If you wish to stand for any of these positions, you must nominate yourself to [Esther Haines](#) (DLC Chair) no later than 1pm, Saturday, 8 May. In the event of no nominations, these positions will be appointed by the District Director for 2021-22.

District Conference

We are only 10 days away from our District Conference. The theme is *Celebrating the Challenge*. The full agenda can be found at <https://www.toastmasters.org.nz/conference>. This is your chance to reacquaint yourself with friends, expand your network of connections, learn from the Keynote Speakers and watch the best speakers and evaluators in the District.

Registration

At time of writing, there are over 100 registrations for our Conference, most attending multiple sessions either online or in-person at Rydges Hotel, Wellington. Attendance to all sessions is free except the Awards Dinner, which is \$65. In-person sessions are filling up so please [book early](#) to avoid disappointment.

Keynote Speakers

We have two wonderful keynote speakers, both of exceptional quality:

- **Lance Miller (USA)** is the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking. <https://www.lancemillerspeaks.com/>
- **Greg van Borssum (AUS)** is a Toastmasters International Accredited Speaker. <https://www.d70toastmasters.org.au/greg-van-borssum-ac-presenter>

District Contests

The District finals are the premier events for Table Topics, Evaluation and Humorous Speech contests. The District International Speech contest winner will have their recorded speech go forward to represent our District at the Regional Finals. Thank you to all those who will officiate and compete. I wish you well in having an extraordinary performance. Thank you also to those who expressed an interest in judging. All positions have now been filled. If you want to fast-track your learning, then these contests are a way to see what the Toastmasters experience can produce.

Awards Dinner

The awards dinner is an opportunity to recognise achievements from members throughout the year. In particular, there will be presentations of those who have achieved the level of Distinguished Toastmaster – our highest accolade. There will also be presentations of the Long-Service Award (25 years membership) and Jack Duffy Rosebowl for contributions in the community. Each year we have a pinning ceremony where the top four elected leaders pass their pins to their successors and the District Director-elect will have a few moments to speak about the year ahead. Later there will be a keynote speech from Greg van Borssum from Australia plus a buffet dinner and plenty of time to mix and mingle. Many a valuable tip on speaking, leading or competing has been exchanged and debated at these events over the years.

Candidates Showcase

On the Friday evening, we will watch the interviews of all nominees for elected leader positions. This year those interviews will have been recorded from earlier in the week. It's always interesting to get an insight into the thinking of people as they attempt to get elected or unveil their plans if elected.

Christchurch Conference 2022

Next year, the District celebrates its 60th anniversary. The conference committee, headed by Brad Grootelaar, has decided on *Coming Together* as the theme. A great deal of planning has been done already and early-bird registrations will be available soon. Let's hope, a year from now, much has returned to normal and we are able to enjoy the benefits of a fully in-person conference. Start planning now to be in Christchurch next May.

Educational Achievements

So far this Toastmasters year, members have earned 770 awards. These include **Level 5 awards** for Wajirani Adhihetty (KapiMana@Tawa), Karen Lynley (Cup Cake Communicators) and Beth Bradley (Christchurch Athenians).

Beth Bradley (Christchurch Athenians TM), Paulette Elliott (Christchurch Club) and Judith Salamat (Coastmasters Toastmasters Club) have joined the ranks of members qualified under the Toastmasters Pathways Mentor Program.

Congratulations! Completing either of these award levels takes concerted effort and we look forward to celebrating more successes in future newsletters. Please note, if we do not acknowledge your name, you might have opted out of having your name listed.

Distinguished Clubs

With renewals confirmed for 1 April, we can confirm that 19 clubs have achieved Distinguished status already this year - a magnificent achievement. There is plenty of opportunity for your club to achieve Distinguished before 30 June but, for now, let's celebrate the following clubs:

Presidents Distinguished:

Boaters Club, Aranui Toastmasters Club, Cathedral City, Capital Chatterers Club (with all 10 goals, Newtown Toastmasters (also with all 10 goals), Hutt Valley Toastmasters Club.

Select Distinguished:

Dunedin Toastmasters Club, Christchurch Club, Nelson Madhatters Club, Oaklands Toastmasters, DIALOGUE Toastmasters Club, Turbine Talkers Club, Ohariu Toastmasters Club, Hutt City Toastmasters.

Distinguished:

Queenstown Club, Sunrise Club, Te Puni Kōrero Toastmasters, High Noon Bankers, NZ Transport Agency Toastmasters.

Congratulations also to **Area J4**, led by Area Director, **Genevieve McLachlan**, which has reached Distinguished status.

State of the District

This year has seen an unprecedented number of clubs close, but April saw 129 new members start their Toastmasters journey. The effect of COVID, particularly upon smaller or corporate clubs, has been considerable. Despite this, there are signs that the worst might be behind us.

Now is the time to invest in your club and its members. People want to boost their confidence and develop their skills. Give yourself permission to promote what makes your club special and worthy of a guest to visit and join. Consider investing in advertising, or if funds are low, request assistance from the Club Promotional Fund – this is what it's there for. More people make for even more vibrant meetings so, in the words of famous Australian Rugby League coach, Wayne Bennett, "don't die with the music in you."

Beat the Clock Promotion – 1 May-30 June

Clubs adding five new, dual or reinstated members who join between 1 May and 30 June will receive a Beat the Clock ribbon to display on your club's banner. Applications and payments for new members must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than 30 June. Transfer and charter members do not count toward Beat the Clock credit. To help you and your club, District will continue its social media advertising, plus the website is attracting almost 1000 hits a week. Let's create and maintain strong momentum well into the 2021-2022 year.

Thought

Club Officer elections are this month. It is a time for the previous officer to try and finish all they set out to do and hand the baton over to their successor. People new to the role need two things: clear instructions of what was done and why, plus permission to give new ideas a try.

Incumbent leaders, as you let go of one role, what will you take on as your new challenge? If you are undecided on what's in a Club Officer role for you, please consider this. I never joined Toastmasters to be a leader. I joined to push myself out my comfort zone and challenge my intense fear of speaking. After two years, I was going to leave, until I was encouraged to take on the role of Club President. It was 2010 and, midway through the year, our club was literally shaken in half. We went from 28 to 14 members. At the end of the year, I wasn't sure how well I had led the club but I know I did my best. I had learnt to manage committee meetings, encourage people to try new things – some worked, some didn't, but what had changed was my view of myself and it came through in my speaking. I was more assured, more confident.

Club Committee roles are as big or as small as we make them. Each role teaches and challenges us in different ways. New skills, personal growth, ability to collaborate and be part of a team are what is in it for you. You and your fellow members determine how well your club runs and performs. Clubs cannot function without leaders. From Club President to Sergeant at Arms, each role is an opportunity to positively influence. If not you, who? If not now, when?

Ngā mihi
Rob Woolley
District 72 Director