

DISTRICT 72 DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Division	E	Division Director	Brian Preddy	Report date	04.04.2019
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Division Goals for the year

- To have no loss of clubs this TM year.
- To have at least 1 club charter.
- To obtain Distinguished Division.
- Involve at least 40 Toastmasters in Division events.

Personal Goals:

- To ensure that I don't burn out by trying to manage my Area Directors.

Division Celebrations & Successes

- Division E Conference on the 30th March 2019 was a success. There was positive feedback from other Toastmasters regarding many facets of the Conference, in particular, having a BBQ lunch and a guest speaker. The fact that there were four contests on the one day did not seem to faze anyone because it was structured so that the audience were not sitting down for long periods of time.
- All Area Contests were completed in time and the calibre of contestants was outstanding.
- Both Divisions D and E combined their second workshop and feedback was positive, although some people questioned the need to have so much time spent on the Toastmasters Promise.

Club Membership at a Glance

12 or Fewer	13-15	16-19	20+
6 (3 last report)	3 (6 last report)	6 (4 last report)	9 (11 last report)

Division Challenges, Issues & Solutions

- **Area re-alignment:** the closing of the Hokitika club has resulted in a re-alignment of Division E Area which will result in one Nelson/Marlborough club joining with Westport and Greymouth. This decision may not suit the clubs concerned, but it should be noted that Area boundaries tend to fluctuate virtually every year.
- **Membership Retention:** this remains one of the biggest challenges and there is more than a possibility that we will see a drop in membership over the next 1 ½ years for various reasons – not just Pathways, although that appears to be a factor. A number of clubs are having 'Open' meetings within the next few weeks, and this may result in some clubs gaining additional members and some clubs bringing their club up to strength.

- **Pathways:** this will remain a stumbling block for Toastmasters for the next year or two. Toastmasters International appears to have not factored in the age demographics when initiating this system, and although there are moves by TI to make it more user-friendly, this will not be enough to retain some members who have left/will leave because despite being able to download hard copies, they cannot come to grips with it and no amount of training will fix this.

Having members **log on** to Pathways has been a challenge and despite clubs being encouraged to get their members to log on, this has been an uphill battle. An issue may be that new members joining a club do so not to join Pathways, but to learn how to do speeches, and the Pathways program is not in their consciousness when they join – their focus is on learning to speak in front of an audience. The Greymouth Club will be having a visit from a Pathways guru within the next two months.

- **Division Director Replacement:** there has been at least one person who has submitted a form to take over the role of Division E Director.

- **Area Director Replacement:** three people in Division E have submitted their forms to become Division E Area Directors from July next year. A Nelson member has indicated that she may be interested in this role.

- **Conferences:** There was much discussion and apprehension about the pros and cons of each Division having all four contests squeezed into one day. The feedback since the conference, proved any negative reservations unfounded. The BBQ lunch instead of finger food and/or pot luck was appreciated and added a relaxed and casual atmosphere to the day. Having a 5-minute 'stretch' break between contests was also appreciated. The only extra work when having all four contests on the one day is the need to have more people willing to do functionary roles such as judges, Tally Counters, Timers, Contest Chairs etc. I would recommend this format again.

New Clubs Progress.

- The newly-forming Richmond club in Nelson is progressing well. The unintended consequence is that this has been at the detriment of the Motueka Club which has seen a reduction of members.

Brian Preddy
Division E Director
District 72