



District 72 Newsletter

March 2021

District 72

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Tēnā koutou District 72 Members

*Anything is possible, but not everything.
- David Allen*

Everything seems busy these past few months and it's important to know that anything is possible but not everything. This month, work out what is most important to achieve and do it well. And let others prove themselves too. Delegate some of your jobs to other people. It's always better together.

Open Days: \$50 District Incentive to ALL Clubs

There are just 29 days to go to claim \$50 towards promoting a club meeting prior to the end of March. This is a great opportunity to test out promotion methods and how your club manages multiple guests. More members bring so many benefits for members and clubs.

The simplest way to promote your club is to create a Facebook event and add Toastmasters New Zealand as a co-host. Our Public Relations Manager, Tian, will do the rest. Let him know at prm.d72@toastmasters.org.nz. Or, simply spend \$50 and put in an [expense claim](#) with invoices attached. Remember, this doesn't have to be a special event, just a normal meeting you decide to promote.

The incentive coincides with the Talk Up Toastmasters Award recognising clubs that register five new, reinstated or dual members from 1 February to 31 March, so there's some extra incentive.

Club Promotional Fund

Want more than \$50? If your club has less than \$1000 in the bank, District may grant your club up to \$350 to help get bums on seats. Simply apply via the [Club Promotional Fund](#) and get your club out there today. The link to the fund has some ideas of how to use the money but creativity is encouraged. Have some fun and show off what's special about your club.

In-Person Events

The Leadership Weekend at Lake Rotoiti was a huge success. For photos and commentary, see the [Toastmasters – Canterbury, West Coast, Nelson and Blenheim](#) Facebook page. Toastmasters was literally flying!

Well done to Divisions D and E Directors, Brad Grootelaar and Lisa Wheeler for putting this event together. It was great to see Toastmasters from around the District helping organise and attend. There are tentative plans for a similar weekend in Hanmer Springs mid-year – stay tuned.

Saturday, 17 April sees Division J conducting an Evaluation Workshop with social evening afterwards. The Workshop runs from 12:45-3:45pm at the Johnsonville Community Centre (afternoon tea provided). Numbers are limited to 35 people so get in quick by registering [here](#). Meet up afterwards at 1841 Bar and Restaurant for drinks and a meal.

Club Officer Training

Club Officer Training (COT) is over for another year! Hi 5 to all club officers who attended to find new ways of developing your club into the best place to be each meeting. Special mention to Capital Chatterers, Cup Cake Communicators, Hutt Valley, NZ Transport Agency, Ohariu and OUTSpoken, all of which trained all seven committee members at both rounds of COT. That's teamwork! What happens next will make all the difference. If District can help, please let us know!

Membership Renewals

Twice a year comes time to pay dues. Club Treasurers will be sending out reminders. Please do them a favour and pay early so they don't need to send reminders. Toastmasters and your club is what you make it and each one of you contributes a lot of value. How can you contribute and get the most value in the next six months? Will it be to complete your DTM, do your best in a contest, deliver even better speeches, or bring some humour to meetings. If you have a special reason for being a Toastmaster, or have achieved a personal goal this year, let us know so we can share on the Facebook page. Email info@toastmasters.org.nz and send a pic.

Educational Achievements

So far this year, District 72 members have collected 574 awards for Pathways levels. Special congratulations to Amanda Jackson (Police), Clare Law (Aranui) and Khorshed Irani (Sunday Afternoon), for completing **Level 5**. Congratulations! Completing level 5 is a huge achievement 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.

Pathways

The [questionnaire](#) mentioned in last month's newsletter is still live and we're still interested in understanding how we can help members work through Pathways. Please take a couple of minutes to let us know what's going on for you and how District might be able to help

Pathways drop-in sessions are still being run by our District Trainers. To check dates and times, head to the Toastmasters New Zealand [training page](#).

District Conference

The Wellington District Conference will be online but there will be an awards evening in person held in Wellington with a guest speaker, meal and entertainment. The conference will run from around 5pm Friday, 14 May and conclude Saturday, 15 May. There are many details to be finalised but these will be released as they come to hand.

Thoughts – Who are you?

What type of speaker are you - an all-rounder, a one-size-fits-all or somewhere in-between?

Speeches often need different approaches, different styles, a different energy to effectively convey their message and achieve their purpose. There is a tendency to play to your strengths but what if our strengths are limited and don't suit the situation? Do you have the ability to change gears?

Aristotle said, "*We are what we repeatedly do.*" What is it you repeatedly do? By trying new approaches and styles, you can become more than what you currently are.

When I started, I never conveyed humour in my speeches. I would find myself in serious mode, like a newsreader, and I couldn't get out of it. One day I said, "*Rob, lighten up, have some fun!*" From that time on, I realised I could dial in the me I wanted to be just before I spoke. It took practice but it meant I could present myself the way I wanted, not fall back to my 'serious mode' comfort zone.

A past member of my club was brilliant at conveying information but, when expressing her opinion, her body language and voice would falter. It was like she was saying “who am I to tell you what to do or think?” Another member I know is really funny and I love listening to his speeches but he never tells us what he thinks. I would never know what he stood for if I just heard his speeches but didn't know him personally.

Each time we speak, we have a choice whether to practise inside or outside our comfort zone. Challenge yourself to try new approaches, new styles. We are what you repeatedly do. Growth, therefore, comes from doing speeches in different ways. What would it feel like to have more strings to your bow? What would it feel like to be able to change styles at will to suit your message and your audience? There is a freedom that comes from being able to adapt.

Ngā mihi
Rob Woolley
District 72 Director