



District Contacts

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News from the District Director

On Behalf of the 2021/2022 District Leadership team, we welcome you to the 2021/22 Toastmasters year.

Last year was a very difficult year for the District and, as a result, we said goodbye to 16 clubs and Division H.

We would like to thank all the 2020/2021 District Officers for the huge effort they put in and the way they adapted to so many new challenges. They can be proud of the fact that they rose to those challenges.

To our incoming 2021/2022 Club Officers and District Officers, we thank you for accepting the challenge of leadership and wish you all the best. We look forward to getting to know you better as we work together throughout the year.

▶ District Officers

We nearly have a full roster of District officers, with only the Division D Director and Area G1 Director roles to fill - which we hope to fill soon. If interested in either of these roles, please contact the District Director, David O'Brien

District Officer training was held from 3 – 4 July and we are happy to report it was a huge success! The incoming Area Directors and other District Officers brought new life to those members of the District Team who are returning in new roles this year. Thank you to PQD Kathryn Duncan and her training team, Kath Cherrie and Helen Cartmell

While it was a very intensive and full weekend, including the first DEC Meeting of the new year, we also managed to have a lot of fun.

▶ July District Executive Meeting

The District Executive held its first meeting on the 4 July. As many of you are aware, they had to decide whether the District would be holding in-person or online contests this year. The District Executive voted for in-person contests.

This means all contests must be held in-person from Area level and above.

Please be AWARE!

If one Area or Division ends up going online because of a lockdown situation and cannot postpone till after the lockdown is over, then from that moment on, all other contests within the District must move onto the online platform regardless of whether the other Areas, Divisions are also in lockdown.

For example, if Wellington goes into lockdown and one of their contests is held online, then all other regions, including the District Finals, must go online. We hope that this would be a last resort and we will do our best to work with Areas and Divisions in the event that they are affected by COVID.

District Website

Access lots of helpful resources via the **Members Section** of our website: toastmasters.org.nz/news

► Motion 1: To Reduce to 3 Contests

During the District Executive Meeting, the District Director withdrew the motion to remove the Humorous contest from this year's roster.

This was done because of several technicalities with the motion. If it passed, it would then have to go to the District Council Meeting in September. This would mean that those Divisions who want to hold two Division Conferences would only have about a month to get all their club contests and Area contests completed. For the Trio, it became clear that this would put too much pressure on the Area and Division Directors.

This motion also highlighted differences between our District Procedures and the Toastmasters Governing Documents, which need to be reviewed.

► The Year Ahead

COVID is still casting its shadow over the world, but hopefully it will not have a huge presence in our year. However, if it does, we will adapt as best we can to each situation as it arises and communicate those decisions to the wider District.

This year, our focus is on member **Retention**. This is Important, as we need the current members to help with the rebuilding of those clubs that have struggled with low membership.

Leadership is also something we are going to focus on. During the course of last year, it became apparent that we have a wide gap of knowledge between the clubs and the District and we are trying to find ways to bridge that gap. We are planning to bring leadership Training not only at the club level, but also the District levels.

One thing we are currently investigating is a District Leadership Weekend, which will be open to all members - possibly in November. While primarily designed to teach leadership skills, it is also another opportunity to get the District together in person. We are in the very early stages of this and more information will be forth coming - if we decide it is viable.

The other key focus point is **Teamwork**. As District Director, I outlaid the culture we want to achieve this year at the District level during District Officer Training.

Members working well in a **Team** equals retention. Members signing up for **Leadership** equals retention, **Retention** equals more knowledge in the District.

From David O'Brien District Director



Senior Leadership Team 2021/2022

From left: Kayleen Gilder (Admin Manager), David O'Brien (District Director), Kathryn Duncan (Program Quality Director), Glen Pearce (Club Growth Director), Brad Grootelaar (Public Relations Manager), Carol Mitchell (Parliamentarian - behind the camera) and Tony Cross (Finance Manager - absent)

Division Contacts

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Division G Director

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Division J Director

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2022 Conference

Attend our 2022 District Conference and help us celebrate 60 years of Toastmasters in New Zealand. Meet new people from across our District, learn and have fun.

This conference will be held from 13 – 15 May 2022 at Rydges Latimer, Christchurch.

Learn more and register via our conference website:
d72conference2022.org

Facebook Group

Have you joined our District 72 Facebook Group? This is a great way to stay up to date with everything that is happening in the wider Toastmasters community. It is also a place where you can share ideas and learn from other clubs.

Join the group using this link
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/729184510847991>

This group is for members only. To be admitted, simply provide your Toastmasters membership number.

Drop In Sessions

This year, the District Trainers are running bi-monthly drop-in sessions to help you with Pathways and your Club Officer Role.

If you have any questions about Pathways or want to ask about some aspect of your Club Officer Role, just drop-in at the start of one of the Zoom meetings listed below. No need to stay for the whole hour, just the time it takes to get things moving again. No concern is too small - none too large!

Club Officer Roles:

29 July 2021

Pathways:

26 August 2021

Club Officer Roles:

30 September 2021

Pathways:

28 October 2021

Club Officer Roles:

25 November 2021

All sessions will be held on the last Thursday of the month from 6 to 7pm. Login using these details:

Meeting Number: 836 2123 0442

Passcode: Drop_in

Zoom Link: [Use this link](#)

Zoom Accounts

Many clubs have asked about using the District Zoom Account to run their committee meetings. Because we are no longer running online contests, the District currently only has one Zoom account and we are reserving this for training purpose.

For club meetings, we recommend using the free version of Zoom.

Club Officer Training

Attending Club Officer Training is the best way to start the new Toastmasters year! It is an opportunity to meet other club officers and share ideas for the year ahead. It is also one of the goals of the Distinguished Club Program.

The first round of Training will be held between July and August. See the dates below. To receive credit in the Distinguished Club Program, clubs need to have a least 4 officers attend one session for each round of training.

Online Sessions:

- Wednesday 28 July – 6:00 to 9:00 pm
- Thursday 5 August – 6:00 to 9:00 pm
- Tuesday 10 August – 6:00 to 9:00 pm
- Saturday 21 August – 9:00 to 12:00 pm
- Friday 27 August – 6:00 to 9:00 pm
- Monday 30 August – 6:00 to 9:00 pm

In-Person Sessions:

- Saturday 14 August – 1:15 to 4:15 pm at the Tawa Community Centre (Organised by Division J)
- Saturday 28 August – 9:00 am to 12pm at the Riccarton Community Centre (Organised by Division D)

You Must Register!

Make sure that you register if you are planning to attend one of these sessions. For the ones that are being held online, the Zoom link will be emailed 24 hours before the starting time. Please register using [this Google Form](#).

Workshops

The District will be running a number of workshops throughout the year to support our members and club officers. Here is what is coming up:

▶ Facebook Marketing Workshop

Want to promote your club on Facebook but not sure where to start? Join us on Sunday 18 July from 7 – 9pm for our Facebook Marketing Workshop. This will cover Setting Up a Facebook Page, using Facebook Ads and Creating Effective Content.

Attend using [this Zoom link](#)

▶ More Workshops

Over the next 12 months, the following workshops will also be available online. The dates and times will be confirmed soon.

- September – Running face-to-face contests
- October – Judging
- November – Mentoring
- January/February – Club Officer Training Round 2
- March – Pathways
- April – Evaluations
- May – Table Topics
- June – District Officer Handover

Please keep a close eye on the [D72 Training Page](#) for updates.