

# District 72 Newsletter

## February 2022



Connecting **108 Clubs** across the **South Island** and **Lower North Island** of New Zealand

### Red Restrictions

During Covid-19 Red Restrictions, clubs are still able to meet in-person. However, if **vaccine passes are not used**, no more than 25 people can meet in a single defined space. **With vaccine passes**, gatherings of up to 100 people are allowed. In both cases, people must use face coverings except when speaking. More information on these restrictions can be [found here](#).

As a District, we are not able to mandate the use of vaccine passes within clubs. However, please follow the rules set out by your meeting venue.

Where possible, we encourage clubs to run hybrid meetings for the benefit of those who cannot physically attend.

### Online Contests

District Officers met on 28 January to discuss the current situation with Omicron. From this, a decision was made that, from 7 February, all **Area, Division and District** contests will be held online. Although we wish there was a way to continue holding these in-person, we recognise the difficulties of managing this highly transmissible variant of COVID.

### District Conference

Discussions are currently being held between the Senior Leadership Team, Conference Committee and Rydges Latimer to determine whether or not the District Conference will go ahead in May.

We appreciate your patience with this and we will make an announcement as soon as possible.

### Club Officer Training Round 2

Club Officer Training is now underway! Three sessions were held in January, leaving only two sessions remaining. Below are the dates and registration links:

- ▶ [Monday 6 - 9pm, 14 February 2022](#)
- ▶ [Tuesday 6 - 9pm, 15 February 2022](#)

These sessions will both be held via Zoom and cover the same content, so as a club officer, you only need to attend one.

Attending Club Officer Training is a great way to meet people from other clubs and share ideas. Having four Club Officers attend each round of training is also one of the goals in the Distinguished Club Programme.

### Pathways Drop in Session

Do you have any questions about Pathways? The District Trainers will be running a drop-in session on Thursday 24 February at 6pm. Attend using [this Zoom link](#).

### Talk Up Toastmasters Award

Are you up to the challenge of adding five new members between 1 February and 31 March? Any club that achieves this goal will receive the Talk Up Toastmasters Award and will be given a ribbon for their banner.

# We are now at Red

[Read The Full Government Guidelines Here](#)

# District Trio Reports



## David O'Brien District Director

Happy new year fellow Toastmasters!

As we head into the second part of the Toastmasters year, Omicron is starting to affect our District. How much of an impact it is going to have is unclear at this stage, but the District Leadership Team is looking to keep that impact as little as possible. However, we have to follow the Government mandates and venue mandates and this will determine what we can achieve.

The District Leadership Team will keep you informed as soon as we can of any decisions that are going to impact members.

Overall, the first 6 months of the year have been relatively normal and we have been able to meet in-person for the most part. This has seen new members coming on board and, while we are still behind on our membership goals, the signs are encouraging.

I encourage all clubs to step up their club marketing programs for the next 6 months. Tap into the “New Year New Me” advertising that Toastmasters International and the District are starting to advertise.

The District is in consultation with District 112 to explore possibilities of a New Zealand wide marketing campaign, which benefits both of us.

Over the next 6 months, the District will be upping the marketing programme and club building programme as we head towards the end of the Toastmasters year.

The second round of club officer training is about to begin and the District Training team has produced an awesome programme, which includes 4 optional workshops. Please register early for one of the two remaining sessions.

While District officer nominations are closed, stepping up into District Leadership is an awesome way to grow as a person. If you are interested in finding out more about District leadership roles, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Kathryn, Glen or any one of the current District Officers.

In these uncertain times, I encourage clubs to look at hybrid or online options for your clubs. While the thought of holding one of these is daunting, I have been to a number of hybrid and online meetings and they are really enjoyable. It also opens your club up to having overseas members, which from a personal point of view, I think this is the future of toastmasters.

I wish everyone good luck for the upcoming contest and election season. While this is now all online, I am sure we will see and hear the best of the best step up to the challenge.



## Kathryn Duncan

### Program Quality Director

It's fantastic to see what everyone is achieving in Pathways. Congratulations to all of you who have completed a level or levels. Specific Congratulations goes to Graeme Hunt, Craig McGregor, Coby Snowden and Elizabeth Wells on completing level 5 in Pathways.

So far, two clubs have had all members of their executive committee complete Club Officer Training - Congratulations to Aranui Club and ToastHealth.

During the first round of training, we had an amazing twelve clubs with all seven executive members attend - can we do better than that this round?

Area Directors are starting their second round of club reports, please welcome them to your club - please let them know if your club has gone from in-person to online.

Please continue to be amazing in all this uncertainty and look after each other.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." - John Quincy Adams



## Glen Pearce

### Club Growth Director

A popular slogan at the moment is a 'New Year, New You'. The start of the new year is a time when people are looking for new opportunities and searches for Toastmasters tends to increase. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote your club and look to bring in visitors to meetings. If every club adds 2-3 new members plus high member retention before 30 June, this will bring new energy/enthusiasm to the club and help many towards being distinguished.

The following resources are available to help with this: magnets, A6 flyers, visitor books. New for 2022 are bumper stickers and billboards. These will be available soon to help promote the brand and I will send out any resources on request.

There are PDF resources on the [Toastmaster NZ website](#) for anyone to download.

Hybrid meetings are an opportunity to include members who cannot be in a meeting for some reason but add to the experience. Kathryn and I are working together to get more information out to clubs. I encourage clubs to explore this option and ask any questions.

### **Do you know the contest rules?**

Every month, we will include one question about the [contest rules](#) to see how familiar you are with them. Here is this month's question:

### **How many judges do you need for an Area Contest?**

View the answer on the next page.

# Spotlight of the Month

## Club Officer Training - Sowing Seeds

This mid term Club Officer Training on Zoom was a special treat.

I attended two superbly organised sessions, once as a tech support and once as a participant.

Being tech support opened my eyes to exactly how much attention to detail the organisers had put into presenting top quality sessions to a truly discerning audience. The most discerning there is... mid term club officers!

After the last set of training modules, the organisers sent us out an evaluation form in which they asked us to tell them what we needed for the next sessions. What a great thing to do! They read our feedback and delivered!

We no longer had to spend time renaming ourselves, and the Newbies to Zoom spent those precious first minutes being encouraged to practice "annotation" and "chatting" and generally feeling comfortable with the environment of a Zoom session. We were polled several times during the meeting which saved us from having to sit still for a portrait at the end of the session to register our attendance.

The quality of the break out sessions was great and the choice really wide. Of course we had the Club Officer Roles breakout rooms where we all had a chance to speak about our goals and woes and joys. It was a treat to get that support from each other.

For the next breakout session, we had four options to choose from:

- ▶ Pathways
- ▶ District Roles
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Hybrid Club Meetings

We had two chances to attend the sessions of our choice; we could go to the same session twice or two completely different sessions. All topical and worth discussing and well run.

I was inspired by the next session on Annual Business Meetings and the wonderful ideas that flowed from all participants on how to make them a great time for all.

Succession planning is obviously another important aspect in the lives of Club officers. We really do want to pass the baton well and there were lots of ideas on how to do this effectively.

I loved all the training sessions. They were upbeat and engaging, lively and interactive. I was not the only one left feeling that it had been a great way to spend time together and here's hoping that the seeds sown here will come to fruition.

**Written by Jacqui Blackwell**

*Area Director for J1  
Member of Spinnaker Toastmasters*

## Answer

The rulebook says:

At Area contests, there must be an **equal number of voting judges** from each club in the Area, **or a minimum of five (5) voting judges**. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, two (2) counters, and two (2) timers must be appointed.

# Educational of the Month

## Elements of Humour

Last June, when I joined the new Online Uncensored Comedians and Humorists club, (O.U.C.H.), I knew I had to get serious; seriously funny.

I had started a new Pathway, “Engaging Humour,” and I was presenting my Icebreaker speech to my fellow online toastmasters. Funny story short, it was about the time I stepped down a hole up to my arm pits, and climbed out unscathed...

As it turned out, they laughed and I completed the objectives. But I also received a very good recommendation. My evaluator fed back that I did not need to say, at the beginning of my speech, that my story was about an accident I’d had. “Keep that to the end,” he said. “Give your audience a surprise, the unexpected. No clues. The longer you keep them on that track, the funnier it will be when you give your final punchline at the end.” And indeed it will be funnier.

It ain’t always easy being funny - especially if you are telling a funny story to a group of strangers at a party. Know the feeling? It happens, so get over it and get along to a meeting.

Here are my three recommendations for writing and presenting a humorous speech:

- ▶ Believe in you. Have self-confidence In your funny story.
- ▶ Know your audience. If you don’t know too much about them, and are unable to go find out, then don’t get too technical or specific.
- ▶ And most importantly, give them that element of surprise; the unexpected.

It’ll be much funnier. You’ll see.

And finally, a parting quote: “Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.”

**Written by Mary Prendergast**

*Greymouth Toastmasters  
Online Uncensored Comedians and Humorists*

