



Division E Director Report

31 March 2022

The last 4 months have been a challenge for Division E due to the Omicron outbreak in New Zealand. However, there is some progress to report.

Pathways

One of the stated goals for Division E is promoting Pathways as a means of maintaining and growing membership in clubs. There is still some resistance to Pathways but that is mainly due to lack of knowledgeable mentors.

In a good move, TI has issued a new Level 1 for Pathways which uses the best of the previous Competent Communicator manuals, combined with new projects.

When asked by Helen Cartnell whether I would be a presenter at the COT sessions, I immediately said 'yes,' as I saw this as a good opportunity to let club officers know about this interesting development in Pathways. Consequently, I did a presentation of the new Level 1 on the following dates:

January 20th, 26th, 27th, 29th and on the 14th and 15th of February.

Most of the workshop participants were eager to learn more, so I created a video about the new Level 1 at the beginning of March and published it on Youtube. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1PgMRiYF6g&t=1s>

Since then, this video has been used multiple times as an educational for clubs.

Contests

As usual, in February and March, there has been a flurry of contests. I was involved as a judge, Chief Judge or as a Convener for the following contests:

Area E1 March 5

Division C Contest 12 March

Division D Contest 26 March

Division C Contest (Table Topics)

Membership

Membership numbers are a real problem at this time. Even formerly strong clubs have lost members and are struggling to put 8 members together to survive. This problem has mostly been due to the Omicron outbreak in New Zealand. The clubs that went online have been hit hardest, whereas the clubs that continued meeting have survived and even grown.

Mary Jaksch

Division E Director 2021-2022