



# District Director Report

25/08/2023

Kia ora koutou. This new Toastmasters Year, I encourage everyone to take a moment to think about what your 'next steps' for the year are.

1. What would you like to achieve as a Toastmaster this 2023-24 Toastmasters' year?
2. What next steps do you want to work on?
3. Stretch Challenge: what will you be challenging yourself to accomplish in the next 12 months?

I have found sharing these goals a valuable way of keeping on track and getting encouragement and support along the way! This is an opportunity to achieve a personal goal at Toastmasters. Your goals could include:

1. Completing a Pathway
2. Working towards achieving a Distinguished Toastmaster Award (DTM)
3. Being a Club Officer or take up a leadership role this year
4. Building on the success of your club from last year
5. How many new members and pathways education awards can your Club achieve this year?

Congratulations to Diane Stempa for achieving a Pathways DTM award this year!

District next steps this year are to build on the foundation we have made this year:

1. Retention incentive for Clubs with a minimum of 10 members continuing in October and April. There will be 2 x draws for incentive.
2. To Increase paid clubs in good standing in the district to back towards 100 clubs.
3. District to achieve distinguished clubs' goal, of at least 37 clubs distinguished.
4. Build new clubs.
5. District Communication through multiple channels.

As a District through 'empowering members to be better speakers and better leaders through creating opportunities and striving for excellence', the more "next steps" we all make together, the more successful we will all be!

Encourage the sharing of ideas and the challenges that clubs have. Support is available. It is ok to stumble sometimes, Toastmasters is a safe environment to learn!

## **Highlights from attending TI training/convention in the Bahamas.**

- It was an honour to carry the NZ flag in the opening ceremony! Being part of the flag ceremony was special. The comradery amongst everyone was unique to be part of.

- Thank you to the clubs that assigned the proxies, it was appreciated. It is important that clubs have their say when electing International Directors to the board and motions that need to be passed in the ABM. They do make strategic decisions that affect toastmasters in the future. As a trio we took the time to interview all candidates standing before deciding who to vote for and the votes already preassigned.

- What I took away from the convention was it felt like a toastmaster whanau / family. Whatever part of the world a member/ leader is from there was a strong enthusiasm for Toastmasters! The 4 days of the convention went quickly! There was plenty to attend throughout the 4 days including World Championship of Public Speaking.

- The opportunity to catch up as Trio over this time, go to know each other better and develop plans for this coming year. We will keep you informed as they progress.

- From the training sessions, listening to the new ideas that came from the discussion was beneficial. There were 300 leaders in attendance. Understanding the unique or common wins/ challenges all districts have. Gaining new ideas about thinking strategically, club retention and club building. The networking opportunities were amazing and I will be keeping in touch with many other district leaders.

**ngā mihi**

Glen Pearce

**D72 District Director 2023-2024**