



Division J Director Report

18 August 2023

J division has four areas in the geographical area known as north of Wellington. We are mainly social clubs in the suburbs of Wellington, Hutt Valley, the Kapiti coast and the Wairarapa. We welcome Karori and Wadestown clubs who has joined us with this year's realignment as our southernmost clubs.

Seven of our clubs achieved distinguished club recognition last year and I must acknowledge the incredible amount of dedication shown by club members to stepping up and achieving their goals. Twelve people in our division also completed their Pathway this year. One of the topics in Club training this year is to further better understanding within the clubs of how the Pathways Programme can help members achieve even more success in their goals.

J1 is ably served by Roger Hynd from Ohariu, J2 is served by Marty Pilott from Newtown, J3 is served by Karen Hoyland, from Wairarapa, and J4 by Alan Coventry and I have every confidence in this experienced team of dedicated toastmasters.

Each area has four or five functioning clubs with approximately 40 to 50 members each. Most clubs are beginning to attract guests through a focus on improved internet presence, and a focus on accessibility and goal setting.

This is the result of an inspiring District Conference held in Lower Hutt in May with many of our members attending. Our heartfelt thanks to the hard-working conference team for the boost to both our skills and morale.

Congratulations to Braden Crocker (Wairarapa) for winning the District Humorous Contest . Also to Georgia Carson (Wadestown) International, Nohokainga Pulekautaha-Lai (Wainuiomata) Table Topics and Keith Morris (Silverstream) Evaluation. who made us very proud.

All clubs except 7 have achieved one or more of their DCP goals already and that helps the Area team to focus on the clubs who have not started. Removing barriers to success in Pathways and subsequently the DCP programme is our first focus this year.

There has been a change in membership fee due to Toastmasters International and the choice of paying directly on line or through the club. This has confused some new treasurers.

Currently there are 170 paid up members distributed among the clubs as follows

8-10 paid	10-12	13-15	16 -20 +
5 (44)	5 (69)	7 (57)	0

15 clubs have been "verified as complete" and 7 clubs have NOT yet been 'verified as complete" on 31 August 2023". This is a total of 68.2 % paid. I feel that our next goal is to assign club coaches to those clubs who are struggling to complete the administration of their clubs.

To be a distinguished division we have met our goals as paid clubs on 13 August 2023. we just need 9 more distinguished clubs!

Unfortunately, we are proceeding with the process of closing the Paekakariki Early Birds Club in J1 as the members no longer wish to be part of the Toastmasters education pathway.

Area reports are underway with five already completed. There was a disappointing attendance at the Club Officer training from J division considering that the Area directors sent out a complete list of online training dates to each officer. The Area team also responded quickly to a plea for an in-person session by co-ordinating with G division. It was run after the online sessions had been completed on August 12 at Johnsonville Community Hub.

The J Division contest is programmed for 23 March 2024 at the Johnsonville Community Hub. The dates of the Area contests are:

J1 3 October 2023: International & Evaluation Contests.

J5 February 2024: Humorous & Table Topics

J2 tba

J3 Saturday 2nd December, all contests

J4 November 25 or 26 November depending on venue availability. All contests.

Looking for some judges and officials is going to prove challenging, but I am expecting some wonderful contests and positive outcomes.

Jacqui Blackwell

Division J Director 2023-2024