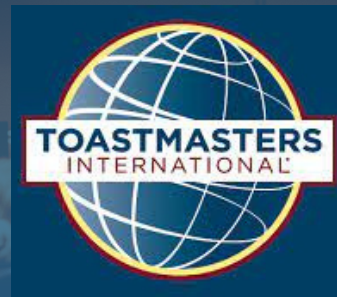


# District 72 Newsletter

## January 2024

Connecting 91 clubs across the South Island and lower North Island of New Zealand



HAPPY

new year

### Inside this month's newsletter:

- Club Officer Training
- District Trio Reports
- District 72 Conference
- District Leader Nominations
- Kura Kōrero Toastmasters Club
- Contest Date Reminders
- D72 Project Teams
- A Club's Success Story

## Club Officer Training

The District saw its first two successful Club Officer Training sessions in December 2023: the first online session run by Division C, the second in-person session run by Division G.

Some quotes from members who attended Division C online training:

*'Best training, I have been to in 28 years! (Greymouth member who helped facilitate.)'*

*'I feel the success was due to just the two themes which allowed more time to concentrate on theme and members weren't getting bombarded with too much information. There are certainly some innovative and well organised TMs out there'*

*'Thank you Lisa for all the preparation work you did that led to the successful COT session last night. It was enjoyable training'.*

*'You did an amazing job to pull it all together. You chose your people well. I haven't seen people go away so enthused from a COT training session'.*

Topics for this training are Peaceful Communication (to help overcome club conflicts) and Marketing (for club growth).

There will be breakout rooms for each officer role. You'll be able to choose the breakout room you would like to attend and will be able to switch to other rooms if you want to.

If you hold multiple roles in a club, all your roles will be counted for the Distinguished Club Program - just make sure you list your roles on the registration form.

You must register in advance to attend and get credit for your training.

Here are the dates and times for the remaining sessions:

Thursday, 18 Jan, 2024, 6-9pm  
(hosted by Division J) [Registration Link](#)

Saturday, 20 Jan, 2024, 9am-12pm  
(hosted by Division D) [Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, 24 Jan, 2024, 6-9pm  
(hosted by Division G) [Registration Link](#)



## Where am I visiting?

Please submit your answer to:

[newsletter.d72@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:newsletter.d72@toastmasters.org.nz)

# District Trio Reports



## Glen Pearce, DTM District Director

Kia ora koutou

This time of year is perfect to rest up for the New Year ahead and think about:

- What is my Toastmasters New Year resolution?
- What is my next step?

2024 will be busy. In the next six months, there will be plenty of opportunities at your Club, Area, Division, and District Levels. Step up in 2024 by 'embracing the uncomfortable'. This is how we grow as Toastmasters, and I have personally found this the case frequently.

I encourage everyone to get involved in some way (complete a path) and put your hand up for a small or even the next Leadership role. Let's see, by 'embracing the uncomfortable', what is possible.



## Mary Jaksch, Program Quality Director

One of Toastmasters fundamental core values is the spirit of service. Our commitment to service extends beyond the confines of our clubs and District, reaching out to make a positive impact in the broader community. You may wonder, 'What does service truly entail?' In essence, service involves actions that bring joy and foster connections among individuals.

Consider the 'Say Hi' movement that originated in Sweden—an inspiring example of the profound impact a small gesture can have. This movement encourages people to exchange a simple "hi" with strangers, fostering a sense of visibility and connection.

As we embark on the journey into 2024, perhaps we can all embrace this idea and make an effort to bring it into our lives.

May the upcoming year be filled with joy, fulfilment, and meaningful acts of service as we continue to uphold the values that make Toastmasters a community dedicated to personal and collective growth.



## Kayleen Gilder, Club Growth Director

This last year has signified to me the importance of family, the quality time we spend together, and the support we give each other.

Each Toastmasters club is its own unique family. Sometimes, things can feel quite challenging within families, but let's see if we can make 2024 a year where we strengthen the bonds of friendship and invite new members into our clubs or clubs in to our District.

Opportunities for growth and advancement are always there within the District, through leadership at both club and District levels, whether it is a District/Club leadership role, mentoring, or sponsoring another club. I encourage you to consider what opportunity you might like to step into that supports not only your growth but the growth of your Club and our District.



# DISTRICT 72 CONFERENCE

## ŌTEPOTI DUNEDIN, 3-5 MAY 2024

See the best speakers, learn new skills and have fun networking in the amazing

Tūhura Otago Museum, Dunedin. Don't miss out!

Earlybird registrations \$140 (close 31 January 2024)

Standard registrations \$155 (1 February to 14 April 2024)

Last chance registrations \$185 (15-21 April 2024)

### Educationals - featuring Marea Colombo - master the impromptu situation

We are thrilled to be offering you an educational session with the truly talented and unique Marea Colombo who will speak about overcoming the mental barriers we face when speaking on the spot. You will not want to miss this opportunity to learn from such a brilliant performer and academic!

Marea Colombo has been making things up for as long as she can remember. This skill has led her to be the Artistic Director of Improsaurus, an Ōtepoti-based improvisation troupe. Her PhD in social psychology investigated how we can "see through other people's eyes," and she loves intertwining both her academic and creative sides.

Colombo is the co-creator of multi-award winning company Late Bloomers, a production company which creates unique pieces of art.

Check her out at <https://m.facebook.com/latebloomersnz/>



### Social events - bring a friend/partner

#### Friday Night Social \$50

Your social event registration gives you entry to the Tūhura science centre\* where you can play to your heart's content on the many science interactives and, if you dare, take a trip down the double helix, three storey slide. You will also have a 20-minute planetarium experience where one of the Museum's fantastic Science Communicators will take you on an incredible astronomical adventure. Food by Precinct included in the price. Cash bar available.

Add the Friday Night Social to your conference registration!

\*note the Tropical Forest is not included in this experience.



#### Saturday Night Dine and Dance \$105

At the Dine and Dance you will experience three Dunedin favourites: the venue will be the Museum's iconic Atrium, a favourite venue for weddings and business functions; catering will be by Precinct café (one of Dunedin's favourite cafés and catering companies) and, you can dance the night away to Charma, a band that is a special occasion favourite and one of the most energetic, entertaining and successful private function bands in the South Island. Don't miss out on the fun! Add the Dine and Dance to your conference registration!

For more information and to register go to the Conference website [toastmasters.org.nz/conference](https://toastmasters.org.nz/conference)  
For Conference updates follow  
[Facebook@ToastmastersD72Conference](https://www.facebook.com/ToastmastersD72Conference)

## A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

D72 Conference | 3-5 May 2024 | Tūhura Otago Museum, Ōtepoti Dunedin



# District Leadership Roles 23-24 and Establishing Clubs

## Kura Kōrero Toastmasters club

Kia Ora e te whānau o District 72 Toastmasters

Hope you all had a fabulous Christmas with your friends and family and ready to take on the opportunities and challenges of 2024!

Is one of your new year's goals to learn Te Reo Māori me ōna Tikanga (Māori language and its custom) in a fun and safe environment? Then look no further. Join the whānau and amazing online community of Kura Kōrero Toastmasters club. We meet every Thursday 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

### WHAT WE DO?

Through the club we offer a unique Toastmaster experience for those wishing to learn and practise Te Reo Māori me ōna tikanga - the Māori language and its customs. We are primarily English speaking but incorporate Te Reo Māori in our speeches and table topics. We begin our meetings with a karakia (ritual chants prayer or incantation) that the chairperson has chosen. A toastmaster will then share a whakatauki (proverb), sometimes inspiring, sometimes informing, sometimes descriptive. We have a facilitated Ako (reciprocal learning) session. In our grammarian role we have kupu o te pō (the word of the evening). There has been much reflection in the prepared speeches on our individual learning about te ao Māori (the world of Māori). People have shared all or parts of their pepeha, allowing us all to connect in new ways. People feel encouraged in their table topics and evaluations to practice the greetings and words they know.

If you are interested in joining this online community of like-minded people, we want to hear from you. Please email [kurakorero@gmail.com](mailto:kurakorero@gmail.com).

Thursdays 5.25pm

Zoom meeting link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82074176283?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82074176283?pwd=Ty9HUUxncm1uSnNCdmJNdGNYNoljdzo9)  
pwd=Ty9HUUxncm1uSnNCdmJNdGNYNoljdzo9  
Meeting ID: 820 7417 6283 Passcode: 033345

## District Leader Nominations

Nominations are invited for the following roles:

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- Public Relations Manager
- Division C, D, G and J Director
- Area Directors

**District nominations are open  
and will close on**

**4th February 2024**

All forms are on the New Zealand Toastmasters website, under resources, in a tab called Elections.

Please send questions and nominations to:

Kathryn Duncan  
[ipdd.d72@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:ipdd.d72@toastmasters.org.nz)

### Why become a District Leader?

As a District Leader, you can gain various skills that will help you personally and professionally.

Some of the skills that you can gain include:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Networking

Still not sure? How about contacting a District member serving in the role you are interested in? You'll find contact details in the 'District Contacts' tab on our District 72 website.



# Contest Dates Reminders

## Evaluating An Experienced Member?

You have been asked to evaluate an experienced member. The anxiety hits you – they are so great at speaking; how on earth can I evaluate them?

The good news is that every speaker will always have something to improve on. And they want the feedback! Your feedback will help them become an accomplished speaker.

Before the anxiety increases any further – pause – take three deep breaths and relax. You can do this!

Every speaker should have 2-3 goals they would like to focus on. Before the meeting, ask them to send you their goals and evaluation form. This will help you focus on what areas to provide feedback.

- Write these goals down before the meeting.
- Try to find at least one commendation and one recommendation for each goal.
- Take a look at the evaluation criteria for further ideas.

For experienced speakers, look for subtle changes. Do their gestures match what they are saying, is there another way to say something to enhance their speech, could a word be replaced with a higher quality word, is their voice going up at the end of a sentence?

Remember, for every verbal evaluation, give a **positive suggestion(s) for improvement and perhaps a positive challenge!**

For more tips, watch the Pathways tutorial Staying Positive in the Level 1 - Evaluation and Feedback module.

Karen Squires  
Tabletalk Toastmasters

## Contest Dates Reminders Division Contests

Division C Saturday 2 March 2024  
Division D Saturday 9 March 2024  
Division G Saturday 16 March 2024  
Division J Saturday 23 March 2024

## Area Contests

C2 and C3 Saturday 17 February 2024  
C4 Saturday 10 February 2024  
C6 Saturday 3 February 2024

D2 Saturday 24 February 2024  
D4 Saturday 24 February 2024  
D5 International and Evaluation Tuesday 13 February 2024  
D6 Saturday 10 February 2024

G6 Evaluation TBC  
G6 International CANCELLED  
G7 Saturday 24 February 2024

J1 Humorous and TTs Thursday 15 February 2024  
J2 25th February 2024  
J3 Saturday 2 December 2023





# District 72 Projects Teams

## Unveiling the District 72 Diversity and Inclusion Project

In the spirit of embracing diversity and inclusivity, we are excited to announce the District 72 Diversity and Inclusion Project.

### Project Inception:

The project is a spinoff from the successful Diversity and Inclusion panel discussion at the 2023 District 72 Conference. Feedback on the event identified a collective aspiration for strengthening our understanding and approach to diversity and inclusion at our clubs and events, maintaining trust and confidence in our brand, and attracting and retaining members.

### Project team:

At the helm of the project is Genevieve McLachlan, supported by the project team of Alana Bogart, Brendon Fitzgibbon, Leo He, Erin Rose, and Andrew Hardwick.

### Our goal:

The core objective is to create an environment where diversity and inclusion are not just ideals but are woven into the fabric of our clubs and events. We aim to broaden participation, foster a sense of belonging, and ensure that every member has equal opportunities for growth and leadership roles.

Diversity asks, "Who's in the room?"

Inclusion asks, "Is the environment safe for everyone to feel they belong and have their ideas heard?"

### Strategy:

Our team has outlined the project's scope and identified key areas for improvement, including providing practical valuable resources. Our focus extends beyond the immediate horizon – we are dedicated to establishing a lasting legacy of diversity and inclusivity.

### How you can contribute:

Please reach out to us at

[inclusivity.d72@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:inclusivity.d72@toastmasters.org.nz)

to share your insights, ideas, and enthusiasm, or if you wish to become closer to the project, or actively involved.

Genevieve on behalf of the  
District 72 Inclusivity Team

## Adapting to Change Project

### Project Team:

Kayleen Gilder, Lisa Coppins, Karen Squires, Glen Pearce

### Teams Purpose:

This project team arose out of discussions at District Officer Training. It was identified that some more experienced members were never able to grieve the change from the Legacy Program following the move to Pathways. It was acknowledged our members' voices needed to be heard, and we need to support them to adapt to the coming changes.

### Strategies:

Develop short video series looking at the ongoing changes and creating spaces for members to be heard.

### Current Project:

A party invite was sent out to all past Legacy members to gather and reminisce over a cuppa, discuss the changes from Legacy to Pathways and identify what strategies could be put in place to support members through change processes.

The team recently held an interview panel to look at Pathways changes .  
The video will be released late February, early March 2024

### Future Projects:

If you would like to be a part of a future project please contact the team at: [adaptingtochange@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:adaptingtochange@toastmasters.org.nz)

# From Rags to Riches - A Club's Success Storey



## Madhatters Revival

The Nelson Madhatters Club ended 2023 on a high note with a celebration breakfast, a round of Secret Santa, and a Table Topics session attended by almost all of its 15 members.

It's hard to believe that just 18 months ago, with the club due to celebrate 20 years, it struggled to get the eight members required to remain a club of good standing. As with many Toastmasters clubs, COVID had decimated the ranks as past members moved on to new things or left town for new adventures.

The club executive team set about strategising how to bring in new members, retain the ones they had and build a fun, successful club. We engaged a club coach and focused on doing a few things well:

- Being attractive to potential visitors.
- Engaging new members.
- Using social media and members to promote the club.

We relocated to a modern meeting setting and promoted images showing members having fun in a fresh, modern meeting place. We ran hybrid meetings but still retained the spotlight on simply overcoming the fear and getting up to speak.

Three factors were key to engaging new members – buddies, fun, and coffee.

- We allocated buddies immediately who helped new members through their first meeting roles.
- We introduced the humourist/poet role which brought fun and energy early in the meetings.
- We moved coffee to after the meeting (we are a morning club). This after-meeting slot became a great place for new members to share, ask questions and build a real feeling of belonging.

### Promotion

Nothing beats having a vibrant club to make it easier for members to invite others, so once the above was starting to happen, we reached out via members and tapped into local Facebook groups to promote events at the club. We also combined with another Nelson club at the local market to promote Toastmasters. Successful club promotion for us has been about getting a little attention often. Definitely a long game.

What did we not do then? Well, so as not to overwhelm people, we temporarily dialed back the emphasis on Area contests, International Toastmasters goings-on, and executive roles until people were settled in. All of these we are bringing back into the mix now.

With stable membership numbers now in place, the Club has been able to look wider to having a Club Success Plan and has run its first contest since COVID.

Strong relationships and a caring and fun culture now define the Nelson Madhatters club with members looking forward to the 7am Friday meetings with an enthusiasm that to others would almost look like “madness”!