



# Division J Director Report

14 February 2024

<b>Division:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>Date:</b>	14 February 2024
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Educational Awards	Level	J1 completed	J2 completed	J3 completed	J4 completed	TOTAL
	1	10	4	5	6	25
	2	6	3	4	10	23
	3	3	3	3	5	14
	4	8	2	3	5	18
	5	2	3	1	4	10
	DTM				1	1

Membership	<b>J Division attracted 51 new members but this number was balanced out by leaving members with a total gain of 9 more members over last half from 265 to 274</b>			
	Number of Clubs with 12 or Fewer members	Number of Clubs with 13-15 members	Number of Clubs with 16-19 members	Number of Clubs with 20+ members
	10	6	3	1

<b>Distinguished Club Program Goals</b>	Congratulations to the clubs that are on their way to DCP including Spinnaker, Cup Cake Communicators, Upper Hutt, Phoenix and Wainuiomata.
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<b>Club Officer Training</b>	Area J4 director Karen Hoyland and myself organised a COT on January 18 <sup>th</sup> and we had 56 attendees from all over NZ. The two brilliant PowerPoint presentations provided by Mary Jaksch were presented by club officers who worked in the area of Marketing and Conflict Resolution in their daily work lives so they were familiar with the content. The breakout rooms were facilitated by the Presidents (Conflict Resolution) and the VP Public Relations (Marketing). I thought that they would be the officers leading their respective club committee meetings to enact any lessons learned through the discussions. Feedback from the sessions were really positive, I would like to thank the team behind this great effort for their timely help in focussing on these important messages.
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<b>Contact with Area Directors</b>	The four area directors have individually shown dedication to their tasks of keeping in contact with their clubs and in organising the Area contests in a professional and timely manner. I have felt we have kept in close contact with each other, learning from each other with our own best practice examples of communication with our clubs. Despite the fact that they are volunteers I feel that they have all devoted a great deal of time into getting to know what their clubs need and providing support especially at contest time
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<b>Contests</b>	J1 Area contests will be completed by 18 <sup>th</sup> February, J2 contests by 25 <sup>th</sup> February J3 and J4 contests were completed in December. I am pleased to record that very few clubs reverted to nominations to the Area Contest and actually held club
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	<p>contests. Before my tenure as DD I had thought that contests put too much competitiveness into the interaction between clubs. Now I see that although the contest circuit is arduous, great lessons in leadership and planning are learned during the process by all involved. It is truly important to involve the newcomers to our clubs in all aspects of the contest journey. As the contest script tells us “so we can see the best of the best.”</p>
<b>Clubs</b>	<p>J Division now has 20 clubs in good standing. but 14 of them have fewer than 13 members. Porirua Central has decided to close on 31 March and its members have been visiting nearby clubs such as Tawa or Churton Park who will welcome the extra numbers.</p> <p>It is disappointing that each area has one or two clubs who still have not engaged with DCP and are not fully developed in entering their meeting speeches into Pathways base camp to be recognised as achievements. We are exploring the reasons for this and look to change this while keeping the social fun aspect of the meetings. We look forward to the new Pathways structure addressing some of these problems.</p> <p>I applaud those clubs who are achieving well in both membership and educational achievements and note that they usually go hand in hand.</p>
<b>New Clubs</b>	<p>With Paekakariki Early Birds and Porirua clubs closing J1 will only have four clubs in the area. We have just begun working towards consolidating the clubs that we have remaining in this area.</p>
<b>Successors for Director Roles</b>	<p>The area directors and I are working on succession planning but are having difficulties in attracting new people. The introduction of the new Pathways seems to be met with the expectation of a heavy workload and this may not be too unrealistic. The fact that it will be an auspicious 100-year anniversary year seems to not be an incentive either.</p>
<b>Other Information/Comments</b>	<p>See you all at District Conference in May in Dunedin. So exciting. I am looking forward to this second half where we can challenge each other to perform at our best, as befits a true toastmaster.</p>
<b>Submitted by</b>	Jacqueline Blackwell Division J Director

Jacqui Blackwell  
**Division J Director 2023-2024**