



# Division J Director Report

31 March 2024

<b>Division:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>Date:</b>	31 March 2024
<b>Educational Awards</b>	Tracking similar to the last report.		
<b>Membership</b>	The regional alignment plan is affects only three clubs in J Division and is seen by those clubs as minimally affecting their day-to-day business of club growth and membership.		
<b>Distinguished Club Program Goals</b>	Congratulations to the clubs that are progressing to DCP and beyond including Spinnaker, Cup Cake Communicators, Upper Hutt, Phoenix and Wainuiomata.		
<b>Club Officer Training</b>	None held this quarter. Looking at setting up a judge's forum soon.		
<b>Contact with Area Directors</b>	The four area directors of J division have individually shown dedication to their tasks, 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 membership drive time.		
<b>Contests</b>	The J division contest was held on March 23rd 2024 and it truly showed the audience what "benefiting from their Toastmasters training" was truly about. The contestant skill level was high and the results were close. I would like to thank the people who stepped up into leadership positions, sometimes at the last moment, to help make the day a pleasant one for all. I repeat what I wrote in my last report that it is truly important to involve the newcomers to our clubs in all aspects of the contest journey, helping them through their learnings, and not to rely on the "old guard". We learn by doing.		
<b>Clubs</b>	<p>J Division now has 20 clubs in good standing. but 14 of them have fewer than 13 members. Most of Porirua club members have joined other clubs. Karori and Gracefield are clubs of concern having been unable to attract new members and needing help with entering their current members onto the Pathways programme.</p> <p>We are working with each area that has one or two clubs who still have not engaged with DCP and are not entering their meeting speeches into Pathways base camp to be recognised as achievements. This usually means that formal Toastmasters protocols are also not being followed at meetings. This may simply mean including an explanation of the roles, not leaving the speaking area empty between speakers, awarding achievements and acknowledging the Toastmasters Promise once in a while.</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>	No progress has been made in chartering new clubs.		

	<p>I feel that there is a need for a Judging workshop, or two to be held the same way as COT. My preference would be for sessions to be held in person somewhere like the Johnsonville Collective and to involve both Divisions J and G. In line with my previous comment of bringing up a new set of people to take over the running of contests and improve the standard of judging. This needs to happen before the contests programme commences, perhaps a last task for the area directors of both divisions.</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> <p>Also, the exclusion of current district level contestants from running for office seems counterproductive to next year's intake. The current contestants are highly motivated people who know how to lead and speak, and this is the type of person that we need in leadership.</p>
<b>Other Information/Comments</b>	<p>See you all at District Conference in May in Dunedin. 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
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Jacqui Blackwell  
**Division J Director 2023-2024**