

Division J Director Report 23 June 2024

I am proud of the things that all members of Division J have accomplished this year. Thank you to all those who stepped outside their comfort zones and contributed through keeping their club lively and active, running a workshop or helping with a contest, these small incremental efforts have added up to big results.

The Division was working towards these goals in 2023/24:

- That all members achieve their goals and enjoy their Toastmasters experience.
- That all members, both seasoned and new, engage in the Pathways programme.
- That Division J organise and lead both in-person Club leadership training session and online COT sessions.
- To have well organised contests at Club, Area and Division levels.
- That clubs are supported to revitalise their marketing and club officer leadership skills.
- That there is an increase in clubs achieving Club Distinguished status by June 2024.

Key successes: The first round of COT met the demand for both face to face and online and those who attended reported a high level of satisfaction with the contents. The second round focused on resolving club conflict and Marketing and saw these skills reflected in a second part of the year push from clubs to market their club better

It was disappointing that some clubs did not send the requisite number of Club officers to COT in the first round and so could not catch up that part of Distinguished Club requisite in the second round. Nine Division J clubs met the training goal of the Distinguished Club programme.

The Area Directors, Roger Hynd– Area J1, Marty Pilott– Area J2, Karen Hoyland – Area J3 and Alan Coventry – Area J4, were diligent with their club visits and the club reports with insight and professionalism. My grateful thanks to the Area Directors for achieving this.

Pathways

All new members have joined Pathways. Established members have activated Pathways however, we are still seeing in the smaller clubs some slow movement in engaging. Toastmasters is an educational programme and engaging in Pathways must always be a focal point of our meetings.

Distinguished status There are nine clubs that have achieved 5 or more goals and potentially could achieve distinguished status this year if they increase their membership numbers.

Club Status: Currently only Toastmasters of Wairarapa meets the threshold of 20 members

There was a significant decrease from 265 to 212 membership following the April renewals. Of note: we have welcomed 95 new members overall with each of the four

areas gaining 23 to 25 new members. Waikanae, Ohariu, Upper Hutt and Sunday afternoon leading the way with 9, 9, 7 and 7 new members respectively. Well Done to those clubs.

There is a distinct correlation between success in the DCP programme and the success of a club. All these clubs plus Sunday afternoon, Cup Cake Communicators and Spinnaker gained more than 5 goals in the DCP. Congratulations to the committees on your hard work all year.

Porirua Club has closed but all the remaining members have moved to other clubs in the area, Newlands will also close in the near future as all remaining members belong to other clubs.

Gracefield, Hutt City and Silverstream Toastmasters clubs are eligible for a club coach following their low renewal rate. Members from other clubs nearby should look into taking up a club coaching role as rewarding and a good step in leadership training.

Contests: All Club and Area contests and the Division J contests are now completed. We were proud to support Division J contestants at the District 72 contests in Dunedin in May. Division J celebrates that our members placed well in all speech contests.

Once again this year has been a challenge for Toastmasters at all levels and I acknowledge the extra effort made by all members of Division J and the District Team to ensure the continuation of Toastmasters clubs. Thank you to all for a great learning curve!

Jacqui Blackwell
Division J Director