



District Director Report

23rd August 2024

Kia ora e te whanau

The first quarter of the TM year always seems to go by at lightning speed and it takes the reflection time of writing these reports to realise how much our members and district have accomplished. The enthusiasm and passion of members is always so inspiring and a great reminder of why I love this organization. There was certainly a great deal of passion from clubs and members around the contest programme for the year and whilst the outcome may not have been what some wanted, the critical factor for me was knowing clubs had their voice heard and spoke with passion through their area directors at the first DEC of the year and also prior to the DEC in emails to me. Having all members considered and represented in any decision is important to me and the holistic view is the one I have to take all year as a District leader and not my personal views.

Manaakitanga is such an important concept in Te Ao Maori and something I want to continue seeing within the District. To that end the trio girls have been working hard to ensure we have a joined up approach to all we do this year, with plenty of idea sharing, discussion and refinement until we are all happy with an approach/decision etc. We have recently returned from the International convention in Anaheim, where we were called the blanket trio as it was noted you could throw a blanket over one of us and you would be sure to cover all three as we were always together – and that is how a team needs to be, learning and sharing together. We interviewed 17 candidates for international office and discussed each one afterwards to that we could make the best voting choices we thought possible for the members of D72. Kayleen and Lisa checked all my voting as it happened at the annual business meeting to ensure I was following the votes we had a greed upon as a trio, but also to ensure that the clubs who had directed specific voting instructions to me were followed also. The meeting was a staggering 4.5 hours long and that occurred was the voting of officers! We also attended the board briefing in Anaheim, where there were many board decisions shared, these will be shared with all members via email and a town hall session, so as we can ensure all of D72 has the opportunity to be up to speed with all the TM changes coming our way. I encourage us all to use the principles of manaakitanga within our clubs, leadership teams and at training this year as it can lead to some excellent outcomes. The trio also discussed a couple of incentives for the district this year, with that information to be shared with all soon too.

Thank you to the ADs who have already made some club visits and sent their reports through, the earlier we see these, the better we are able to assist where needed and also to recognize clubs that are doing great things. The deadline for submission is a suggestion and I like to think that earlier than the last day is always better! It was tested by some ADs last year and they learned if you try to file after the deadline, the ability to do so has been taken away and the club and district are shortchanged. It is a critical and essential part of the role of an AD which I certainly expect to be fulfilled. Andrew and Leonie – a huge shout out to you for your early work submission of reports.

Thanks to all who have supported COT, it takes a village and we need our village to grow and support each other, along with educating our clubs on best practice and what is required when it comes to club excellence.

Last shout out to Celina, who had a big job with the minutes of the DEC and keeps us all reminded of meetings and tasks we have to do – I certainly appreciate the reminders that come my way!

Here's to an equally productive second quarter!

Carol Mitchell
District Director 2024/25