



District 69 District Director Report for 18 April 2019

This year brings with it a change to another policy and procedure by Toastmasters International that will impact the district. This year as I fill the role of District Director, there have been changes to the International Speech Contest. This year is the first year to include region quarterfinals. The new sequence is: district contests, region quarterfinals, semi-finals and then finals.

Although the district was aware that this change was coming it has still had an impact on the members. As a leader within Toastmasters International I am no stranger to major changes. During the year I was the Club Growth Director, membership fees were increased. In the year I was the Program Quality Director, Pathways was introduced. At times this constant flux of uncertainty has made me re-evaluate my role in Toastmasters. Each time I did that I focused on the many members that rely on the workload of a few volunteers in the leadership team.

This year I have been blessed with the people around me. Simon Cornwill DTM as the Public Relations Manager has changed the electronic footprint of the district. Sue Pinker DTM as the District Administration Manager has kept pace with me and at times reminded me of work I needed to do to keep the members better informed. Hugh McVean DTM has grasped the role of finance manager and made fiscal responsibility of the district seem easy. Ian McLaren DTM, the District Logistics Manager has assisted Hugh as well as taking numerous projects. Pam Holley DTM has provided sound advice to me on a number of policies and procedures.

The members of the district may not see the amount of tireless work this team does but I commend them for their effort and I am humbled by them and their work ethics. In this environment of constant change I am also reminded of the resilience of all the members of the district. Members continue to expand their horizons and clubs continue to provide a supportive environment despite the constant change going on around them.

I want to thank all the Past District Governors/Directors that have assisted me on my journey. I particularly want to thank; Colin McFarlane DTM, Clare Murphy DTM, Sandra Simpson DTM, Barrie Fuller DTM, Coral McVean DTM, Bruce George DTM, John Kay DTM, Charlie Starrett DTM, Ian Pinker DTM, David Fisher DTM, Kelly Guo DTM, Joe Abbott DTM, Ben McCormick DTM, David Templeman DTM and Paul Jensen DTM, for their sound advice, good humour, and reality checks.

I know District 69 is moving in the right direction and with the help of all the members will become distinguished in the near future and continue to do so. To those nominating to step up into leadership roles next year, from club level to district level, I commend each one of you and I hope you enjoy the journey.

Shane M Cooper
District Director 2018-2019