



Northern Division Report District Conference May 2019

Northern Division members continue to shine, grow and develop as we enter the last stages of 2019 Toastmaster year. The year has all been a part of members achieving awards and goals, along with club milestones and length of service. Congratulations to the following clubs who have achieved longevity of service. Cairns Toastmasters 55 years and Townsville Toastmasters 55 years, Burdekin Club 40 years and Darwin 40 years, Pioneers, Calen Canefields, Eyeopeners and Willows all celebrate 30 years and City Midday and Talk of the North 25 years. All these years of service are wrapped up in a wealth of Toastmasters knowledge for Northern Division.

One club we will miss is Top Table Toastmasters. It is with sadness we say good bye to Top Table as they close the door March 2019. Despite extensive membership and marketing of the club it was not possible in the small rural area to attract new members as old members left the area for various reasons. For 8 years this club has been a part of Northern Division Area 32. Thank you for your service to District 69, Northern Division and the members of your club.

Membership has been on everyone's lips with many clubs changing numbers. Previously strong clubs have changed; membership numbers have changed; dual members have reduced and yet new members are coming along eager to know more and requiring experienced members to make it all happen. Transfers, new jobs, change in family or relocations, and moving south have all been reasons for the club membership numbers to change. A big shout out to our Toastmasters friends right across the district. If you are travelling North let us know. We welcome travelling Toastmasters. There will always be a spot on the agenda, as guest speaker, or educational opportunity or simply making a difference to the meetings across the Northern Division.

Alice Springs Area 39 is our first club to achieve President's Distinguished. Kick Start Cairns and Tropic City are currently Select Distinguished status. Most importantly in our clubs, member's needs and educational achievements count the most. Congratulations goes to 11 more clubs for excellence in achieving member's goals: Business Leaders Toastmasters, Cairns Toastmasters, City Midday Club, Mackay Club, Magnetic North, Mt Sheridan Club, Northern Communicators, Reef City Cairns Toastmasters, Townsville City Council Toastmasters and Townsville Toastmasters. Watch this space for a strong finish from these club as they continue to focus on member's needs, achievements and goals.

Northern Division Conference 2019 was held in Alice Spring and was a fabulous success. Alice Springs Toastmasters as host club stood strong and proud as they put on a show. To all participants, winners and our wonderful audience members, thank you for your contributions for making the event special. It was special, it was warm and friendly, social and inviting, and mostly it was enjoyable. The standard of the contests was indeed high level. Alice Spring club as one our remotest clubs were so grateful to be host club. They found the experience most valuable - Congratulations Alice Springs Toastmasters.

Club Officers attended two successful training sessions under the guidance of TLI ND Coordinator John McLean. His team consisted of Area 2 & 13 Eva Erhardt & Leigh-Anne Metcalfe, Area 9 & 32 Ellen Sorbello, Area 14 Lynne O'Neil, Area 39 via Zoom Mark Snow & John McLean. Thank you all for your contributions to making our clubs shine. Congratulations to all presenters and members who made these sessions successful. Well done to other members in Northern Division who have continued to train and support members to shine, grow and develop. Pathways, Business & Parliamentary Procedures at P&C, Judges training, Evaluations, Educational, Speaker to Trainer and Speechcraft have all added value to the growth of our members.

A huge shout out to the Toastmasters members who have accepted Club Coach positions. Nathan Marks Townville Universities Toastmasters, Suzanne De Hass Mackay and Toni Edmunds Talk of the North, Sharon Kelly Willows. Coaching is an opportunity to grow as a member but mostly it is an opportunity to support and grow others. That is one of the most important opportunities Toastmasters can offer – supporting others, sharing your experiences and being a role model.

A final thanks to the Area Directors in Northern Division. As a friend of the clubs you have all made a difference. Area 2 Denis Murphy, Area 9 Caroline Lane & Greg Okulov, Area 13 Ruth Guice, Area 14 Fiona Koutlis, Area 32 Greg Okulov, Area 39 Heather Bruce & Caroline Lane – thank you all for supporting the clubs, the club Presidents and the club members. I have been most grateful for your support, amazed with your work and each day I have learnt more simply by having you on my team.

As the months roll on let us unite as one to remember who is important in our Division? Our members are important, let's take the time to let them know. Without them we have nothing, with them we have a world of opportunities. Come along Northern Division and let us show our members the way – let's show them how to shine, grow and develop.

Heather Bruce

Northern Division Director 2018-2019