

The year has proved difficult in many ways for all of us whether it be in our personal, professional or Toastmasters lives. We were obliged to have a change of Division Director mid year as Kevin Sherry was unable to continue the role due to ill health.

The third quarter of the year has been particularly testing for Western Division. We were shocked and saddened to learn of Whyllie's death followed by Warren's a few weeks later. Both men were highly regarded, dedicated Toastmasters who contributed much to their clubs and they will be remembered with respect and affection.

Ipswich clubs have assessed their viability. The wider Ipswich locality had nine clubs in two areas with none of the clubs at charter strength. Many of those clubs were supported by dual members who have multiple club officer roles. It was agreed by the members that the best way forward for those clubs to proceed would be to merge. Jacaranda 2000 and Limestone Clubs Have merged with Ipswich Club and will be known as Ipswich Club. The Ipswich Club will be led by Ben McCormick as President. Ben has been instrumental in bringing this about by ensuring the required procedures are adhered to.

None of the WD clubs are at charter strength in spite of Compass and Highfields Clubs showing strong growth. Dalby Club have recently held An Art of Public Speaking Seminar. Thirteen guests attended with a number indicating further interest. Congratulations to Compass Club on attaining Presidents Distinguished Status. The clubs in Area 31 continue to persevere and it's rewarding to know these clubs still function and have a small nucleus of dedicated members.

Thank you to the Area Directors and Club Leaders who continually give generously of their time and knowledge and for their dedication to our wonderful organisation, Toastmasters International.

Liz Hudson DTM