



Report of the District Director – District 69 to District Council

as at 20 August 2021

Dear members,

There is an old saying that life is a journey, not a destination and sometimes our journey leads us to unexpected places. I hope that you are finding your journey with Toastmasters to be a positive and rewarding experience. There are so many members I would like to acknowledge for their outstanding contribution to Toastmasters as an organisation and to our members.

Kevin Croft has delivered an amazing experience for our members through the delivery of the Club Officer training program delivered in June and July. Each of these 8 sessions involved organising over 25 different roles so that is over 250 roles that needed to be filled – a huge logistical task and Kevin’s attention to detail and genuine commitment to the members helped make this such a success. I would also like to thank those members who gave so generously of their time and experience to help support our club leaders. In some cases, these members attended all 8 of the sessions and undertook multiple roles in each session to make it a success.

We as a District are committed to rebuilding the districts network of clubs to recover the losses, we experienced during the last 15 months. This work is being led by Denise Buckby who is bringing her enthusiasm, energy, and effective team to this task. We have had a demonstration meeting in August and are looking at several more demonstration meetings in September, which will hopefully see more new clubs join our District. Thank you to all the sponsors and mentors involved in supporting our renewal.

A special thank you to our members who are actively supporting our clubs in formations. Special thanks to Ann Nelson, Denis Murphy and Jim Fazl who are providing regular updates on how their clubs are progressing and my thanks for their commitment to making the toastmasters journey available for even more people.

Our focus is not however just on new clubs, but also on supporting our existing clubs. My thanks to Denise and Jim who have organised a training session and program for ongoing support for Club Coaches who will be supporting our clubs as they work to rebuild their membership and to all our coaches who work so hard to support our smaller clubs and I would encourage all members to consider if they would like to take on a coaching opportunity to contact Denise.

Our existing network of clubs are also being supported in achieving excellence through the work of the Program Quality director, Kevin in terms of supporting Pathways enrolment, conducting quality educational sessions and providing high quality meetings for their members. Kevin is supported in this y both the division PQDs and our wonderful network of Area directors who are doing an amazing job.

During the first 6 weeks of the district team, we have had both a District executive committee (DEC) and special District council (DC) meeting and have another DEC and DC meeting scheduled in the next 4 weeks.

This creates a huge amount of administrative work for the district, and I would like to thank all those involved, particularly our District Administration manager, Liz who has co-ordinated all the relevant notices, motions, and reports in such a positive and supportive manner. Liz has made the tasks involved in running the districts governing bodies both professional and effective and her ongoing support of the members through this often behind the scenes role is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank our district Parliamentarian, Leonard Scuderi, and past parliamentarian Pam Holley for their leadership of the rewrite of the District Administrative procedures. This project has been ongoing for several years and is finally near completion and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to making this a success. A special acknowledgement of the past District directors who have contributed so much to this process, particularly Barbara Nielsen DTM, Shane Cooper DTM, Colin McFarlane DTM and Coral McVean DTM PRA. Also, a big thank you to Nicky Jurd and her team for the tech support provided to these meetings.

This year is the 50th anniversary of our district and I am looking forward to seeing the plans that your division directors are putting together to celebrate our anniversary in November. I would also like to thank Cam Krook DTM for his work in developing a wonderful virtual background to mark this significant anniversary. Click here for detailed instructions on downloading and installing the virtual background image): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/i6ziedi5a4apt88/District%2069%2050th%20Anniversary%20Zoom%20Virtual%20Background.pdf?dl=0>

I know many of our members are missing the opportunity to catch up with existing friends and meet new Toastmasters at face-to-face events and I am so hoping that Covid requirements will allow us to have our first face to face District conference in several years in 2022. The Cairns committee in doing wonderful work in putting together a great program for this event and I would like to thank Nicky Jurd DTM and her team of Sandra Simpson DTM and Clare Murphy DTM for all their work in getting the conference proposal to the council.

I would also like to thank Andrew Grayson for his work in developing the district budget that will be presented to the council for their approval. With the reduced membership our ability to fund the services of the district is reduced, however Andrew has made sure that the most return is being delivered on every membership dollar.

Recognition remains an important part of the district operations and I would like to thank Lisa Dodis DTM for her support and efforts as the District Educational Awards manager and Jenny Owens DTM for her work as Years of Service awards manager. Both tasks are critical in making sure that our members reaching significant milestones are recognised and appreciated. Both Jenny and Lisa have contributed so much to our Toastmasters experience and their ongoing commitment to toastmasters is incredibly valued and appreciated.

A major event over the Toastmasters year is our International Convention which this year will be held online for the second time. I hope all members have had the opportunity to participate and engage with this amazing event. Part of the International convention is the International business meeting and I would like to thank Barrie Fuller DTM PRA for his assistance in coordinating the collection of club proxies and all those involved in the interviewing of International director and officer candidates.

Another significant recognition event is the Hall of Fame, and I would like to acknowledge Barbara Nielsen DTM IPDD leadership of this event. Barbara has been supported by Jenny Owens DTM, Lisa Dodis DTM and Andrew Pearson with wonderful support of this event and our members – a huge thank you to the team supporting Barbara. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate and recognise our members who achieved amazing things over the last year. If you haven't already, please register for this event through this link: <https://www.toastmastersd69.org/event/2021-hall-of-fame/>

We are still seeking a District Logistics manager to take control of the material assets of the district. If this role continues to remain unfilled, the district will need to review the assets we hold and possibly dispose of these assets. If you can store the assets of the district and maintain an asset register, please contact me at dd@toastmastersd69.org

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those members who have been so supportive as I learn my new role, particularly the support of our Regional Advisor Kaylene Ledger DTM, the chair of our past District Governors and directors advisory committee Coral McVean DTM and the whole committee behind her and our P Division mentor Christine Lennon who has been so generous with her support and guidance.

Welcome to the District to Suva Capital Toastmasters who has been moved into our district from the 1st of July. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to visit this club twice and have been impressed with the commitment and dedication of the wonderful members of this club which I am sure will make a positive contribution to our district. I would also like to welcome the 3 new Toastmasters who have chartered in June, Brisbane Leaders in Eastern division, bToasties in Brisbane division and Mackay Regional Council in Northern. I thank those members who put so much work into building and supporting these new clubs and hope that these clubs will see members achieving great things through their Toastmasters journey.

My last thanks to each of you as members and leaders. Each of you is making a difference and an impact on the lives of your fellow members for the better. I hope that you are enjoying your toastmasters' journey and that we will continue to walk this path together as we build new clubs and support all clubs, and each other, in achieving excellence.

With my thanks

Robert Green DTM

Robert Green DTM

2021-2022 District Director - District 69

dd@toastmastersd69.org

