



District 69 District Director Report

September 2025

"Communicate Confidently"

Celebrating Our Global Connections

The 2025 Toastmasters International Convention brought exciting news for our members. At the Board Briefing, 2 major announcements stood out:

Pathways Enhancements – For those who fondly remember the Legacy program, great news! A brand-new "Best of" Path is on the horizon, blending highlights from the Competent Communicator manual and select Advanced Manual projects.

Also the original **Smedley Path from the 1940s** will be introduced, honouring our roots while giving members fresh learning opportunities.

In October 2025, Pathways will expand further with:

- A new section in each level requiring members to complete meeting roles, showing how each role contributes to learning.
- Levels 3, 4 and 5 incorporate the **Successful Club Series**, **Better Speaker Series**, and **Leadership Excellence Series**, so members can strengthen their communication and leadership skills by delivering these presentations in their clubs.

District Realignment – Toastmasters International also announced a significant realignment of North American Districts. Over the coming years, the global realignment plan will gradually expand. While **District 69 is currently in a strong position and not expected to be heavily impacted**, other parts of Australia are likely to undergo major changes. This stability is a testament to the strength of our leaders and members.

On a personal note a special thank you to our PQD Alex and CGD Shubi who shared an apartment with me for a week in Philadelphia at Convention. They are hard workers proudly waving the flag of service to District 69, and great travel mates too. To help fight jetlag on our arrival day I hired a car and we did a little road trip to the Amish town of Intercourse, Pennsylvania. So now we can say as a Trio we have ***"enjoyed Intercourse together."***

Stepping Boldly Into Leadership

This year began with strong momentum as our Area & Division Directors gathered for **District Leader Training**, building skills, sharing ideas, and preparing to guide our members with



confidence. The commitment shown by our leaders reflects the spirit of service and growth that defines District 69.

Looking ahead, the District Trio are already planning for the future. We are working on **overhauling how Club Officer Training is delivered across the District in Round 1**, with the aim of providing a smoother, more consistent and better-communicated training experience. This proactive approach ensures that when the new Toastmasters year begins, our leaders will be supported with a clear and effective plan to set their clubs up for success.

Most importantly, I want to **thank every member who has stepped into leadership** this year, whether at Club, Area, Division or District level. By saying “yes” to these roles, you not only grow your own skills, but you also make it possible for others to thrive. We are creating a culture of courage, service and excellence.

Growing Through Training and Learning

Training is the heartbeat of Toastmasters. It is where knowledge is shared, confidence is built and leaders are developed. This year, we celebrate and thank the **trainers and facilitators** who have given their time and expertise to support District 69. Your dedication ensures that our leaders and members continue to grow with the tools and skills they need to succeed.

Every workshop, every presentation and every mentoring conversation contributes to stronger clubs and stronger members. By investing in learning, we are investing in the future of our District. Keep an eye out for Mel Surplice’s **Club Marketing Edge** webinars.

Keeping Our Clubs Strong

The strength of our District lies in the health of our clubs. As we approach the renewal period, I encourage every member to ensure their dues are submitted on time. Clubs with fewer than **8 paid members** will not be considered “in good standing.” This means their members will lose important rights including the ability to compete in speech contests, to vote at the District Council meeting, and to continue accessing Pathways.

This year also brings a small change from Toastmasters International: the **new member fee is increasing to US\$25**. All other fees remain the same. Please communicate this update clearly with prospective members so they feel confident and informed when joining your club. Your club may need to revise its joining fee to accommodate the price rise and the exchange rate with the US dollar.

By paying dues promptly and maintaining good standing, we not only keep our clubs strong, but also protect opportunities for every member to learn, lead and shine.



Shining on Stage

Speech contests are one of the most inspiring parts of the Toastmasters journey. They give members the chance to stretch themselves, showcase their skills and celebrate the power of communication.

This year, District 69 will once again be running the **4 contests we all know and love**:

- **International Speech Contest**
- **Evaluation Speech Contest**
- **Table Topics Contest**
- **Humorous Speech Contest**

All contests from **Area level and above will be conducted in person only**, giving members the chance to experience the energy, excitement and connection that comes with being in the same room.

I encourage all members to **step forward and participate in your club contests**, whether as a contestant, contest official or enthusiastic supporter. Every role brings new learning and fresh confidence. As contests progress through the Area, Division and District levels, we see the best of District 69 on display — courage, creativity and connection.

By cheering on our fellow members, we not only strengthen our own confidence but also build a spirit of unity and encouragement that lifts the entire District.

Looking Ahead with Confidence

As a new Trio we still very much have our training wheels on and recognise we have many things we want to improve, but we do so with energy, clarity and purpose.

The Convention announcements to Pathways are very welcomed, and remind us that the organisation continues to evolve, blending the best of our past with new opportunities for growth.

The road ahead will bring challenges, but District 69 has shown time and again that we are resilient, adaptable and committed to excellence.

Together, we are building a District where members don't just participate, they **thrive**. And always remember: **the magic happens at club**.

Nicky Jurd DTM

District Director
District 69



Program Quality Directors Report

For District Executive Committee Meeting 14/9/2025 and District Council Meeting 28/9/2025

Club Officer Training

The first round of Club Officer Training has been completed, with face-to-face, hybrid and online events run by Divisions. We were privileged for our District to be invited to participate in the Club Officer Training Beta test, where more than 120 members were trained. The Beta test was a great success and we were able to provide valuable feedback to help improve the training.

While Divisions still have until October 31 to enter their training data, the stats are outstanding.

Club Officers Attended	Number of Clubs	Percentage
0	18	11%
1	5	3%
2	6	4%
3	15	9%
4	32	19.5%
5	34	21%
6	31	19%
7	23	14%

Special mention to the following clubs who had all 7 officers trained:

A P I Brisbane Club Connect Toastmasters Club FICQ Toastmasters Club Mercury's Motivators Club Leaders By Design Mad Chatters Toastmasters Club Algester Toastmasters Club HOT Toastmasters Redcliffe Toastmasters Club Bracken Ridge Toastmasters Alice Springs Toastmasters Club Business Leaders Toastmasters Club	Townsville City Council Toastmasters Tropic City Toastmasters Club Cairns Speakers Elanora Early Morning Club Ipswich Toastmasters Club Roma And District Toastmasters Club TRC Toastmasters Northern Nomads Advanced Toastmasters Tara Country Chatters Lockyer Valley Toastmasters Club Dalby Toastmasters Club
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District Officer Training

District 69 has 8 Divisions and 32 Areas with strong training numbers at 82%. We require 85% and believe that we will make up the shortfall at DLT on the afternoon of our DEC Meeting.

DLT1 was well received and led by our Training Managers, Deb Barnett and Thomas Krafft. At the beginning of June we also ran a Team Building Workshop for this year's Division Directors. This was very well received and helped prepare the new Division Directors for the coming year.

DLT3 will be conducted in Brisbane on the weekend of the 31st of January 2026.

Changes to the Distinguished Club Program (DCP)

As all Clubs should be aware, Toastmasters International made changes to the Distinguished Club Program. In particular they added a mandatory requirement that Clubs must submit their Club Success Plan by **September 30** to be considered for the DCP.

Division and Area Directors are working hard to encourage and assist clubs in meeting this important deadline. If Clubs are encountering difficulties with submission, let your Division or Area Director know.

At this stage **ONLY** 67 Clubs, of 164, have submitted their Club Success Plans.

Reminder that the new Smedley Distinguished level has come into effect this year, with clubs needing 25 members and all 10 DCP goals for achievement.

District Speech Contests

The District Executive Committee has already confirmed our 4 contests for this year:

- International Speech Contest
- Humorous Speech Contest
- Table Topics Contest
- Evaluation Speech Contest

Further, it was voted that in Areas of 4 Clubs or fewer, Clubs may send 2 contestants per contest to the Area Contests. For Divisions of 4 Areas or fewer, Areas may send 2 contestants per contest to the Division Contests.

A reminder that Toastmasters International requires ALL Contests at Area level or above, to be face-to-face. There are **NO hybrid contests** allowed above Club level.

Alex Smith

Program Quality Director



Club Growth Directors Report

For District Executive Committee Meeting 14/9/2025 and District Council Meeting 28/9/2025

Membership Growth

Over the 2024–2025 Toastmasters year, District 69 saw a total of 5,891 membership payments. While that is a strong number, it fell just short of our base goal of 5,900 — a difference of only nine member payments. To achieve the Distinguished status for the District, we needed 5,959 payments and unfortunately did not reach that threshold. As a result, our overall membership growth rate came in at –0.15%, indicating a slight decline in paid membership compared to the previous year. This narrowly missed goal underscores that while we nearly met our base target, the margin for error is small. It also shows the critical importance of each single renewal and new member joining.

Moving forward into 2025–2026, our primary focus will be on strengthening club membership levels, ensuring that clubs are robust and in good standing. To support this, we have several initiatives planned over the next six months aimed at helping clubs build membership — including outreach campaigns, and targeted assistance for clubs falling below membership thresholds.

Clubs Chartered

The District is set to charter its first club on 1st October– Cook Toastmasters Club in Eastern Division.

Congratulations to Cook Toastmasters club and welcome to District 69.

New Club Leads

We have several new club leads in PNG, Fiji, and Brisbane. In addition, a number of prospective clubs are in the pipeline and progressing through different stages of formation, including those in Mount Isa, Brisbane, and the Eastern region, spanning both corporate and community clubs.

We are also building partnerships with multicultural communities and actively exploring opportunities to establish new multicultural clubs. Alongside this, we are investigating the potential to launch bilingual clubs — for example, French–English and Japanese–English — to further expand our reach and inclusivity.



Club Coaches

Currently there are 35 clubs that are eligible for a club coach having 12 or fewer members. I encourage all eligible clubs without a coach to take advantage of this valuable support. Likewise, if you are interested in becoming a club coach, I invite you to reach out either to me or to our Club Coach Coordinator, Suzanne Gogolin, to learn more about the role and its benefits.

Last year, we had several dedicated coaches who made a significant impact, helping their clubs progress and, in many cases, achieve Distinguished status. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their commitment and outstanding contribution.

Clubs Dissolved

Sadly, we have 1 club that has elected to dissolve and return their charters to toastmasters International. I thank the members of Southern Cross Club for their commitment throughout the years and wish them all the best.

Shubhangi (Shubi) Chatterjee

Club Growth Director



Public Relations Manager Report

7 September 2025

I'm delighted to have stepped into this role for 2025-26, and to be able to build on the strong foundations put into place by our two most recent PRMs, Thomas Krafft and Joshua Morotti.

Key initiatives this year will include:

→ **The Club Marketing Edge Webinar Series**

I have designed this free monthly webinar series to help Toastmasters clubs across District 69 improve their communication, promotion and member outreach. Created for VPPRs and anyone interested in club growth, each session offers practical tips, expert insights and live Q&A to help clubs of all kinds (metro, regional, online and corporate) grow and thrive.

Dates and registration details for the webinars are available at <https://www.toastmastersd69.org/club-marketing/>. We have run two webinars to date (the recordings are resources are available on this page as well). The next webinar is on **Sunday, 28 September from 7.30-8.30pm AEST** - all welcome!

→ **Showcase Sprint Round 1**

Following the success of the Showcase Sprint program over the last couple of years, I will be delivering the program again through November and December, with the timing aligned to allow clubs to advertise in the new year and hold a showcase meeting in January or early February. Dates are as follows;

- Call 1: Sunday, 9 November 2025 (all calls will run from 7.30-9.00pm)
- Call 2: Sunday, 23 November 2025
- Call 3: Sunday, 7 December 2025
- Call 4: Sunday 18 January 2026
- Demo meetings – run in Jan/early Feb
- Debrief Call 5: Sunday 22 February 2026

Please register your interest [via this form](#). We may also look at running Showcase Sprint again in early March 2026 to align the showcase meetings just after March renewals.

→ **Club Marketing Grants**

In conjunction with the Showcase Sprint, District 69 will be continuing with the Marketing Grants program which has been in place in recent years. Clubs will be able to apply to have up to \$300 in marketing costs reimbursed by the district.



There will be a competitive application process which will open around November, with more precise details to be confirmed, once the budget is approved at this council meeting. Participation in the Sprint program will not be a requirement for applying, but it is encouraged and will form part of the application process.


→ **Sharing District 69's stories**

We're inviting members, clubs and leaders from across the District to help us build a richer, more engaging blog and news section on the District 69 website – one that reflects the diverse voices, experiences and achievements of our community. If you've got a story to share, let us know [via this page](#).

→ **Call for Volunteers**

District 69 is always on the look out for eager volunteers to assist the district achieve its mission. If you know anybody who is interested in gaining some practice with marketing skills, particularly in social media or content creation, please reach out to me!

I welcome the opportunity to support club, area and division leaders throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way.



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Brisbane Division Director's Report

8 September 2025

Club Officer Training

Club Officer training went well for Brisbane Division, was well attended over 3 sessions and also complemented with the district run session and a last minute training session.

Club Visits

Club visits are going well throughout the Division and look forward to celebrating Energy Queensland Club's 300th meeting on 24 September.

Area Conferences

Planning for area conferences is progressing well, with the club competitions in full swing.

Area 17 Director Vacancy

Although the area 17 director role is vacant at the moment, all of the area 17 clubs will have been visited during the past time, concluding this month and the club competition date is locked in.

Wayne Taylor

Brisbane Division Director 2025-26



Central Division Director's Report

8 September 2025

As we step into the new Toastmasters year, I sense a quiet enthusiasm among our clubs — perhaps more in thought than in action. Members I've spoken to are optimistic and hopeful, and I trust this energy will continue to build.

While the spirit is strong, our Club Officer Training (COT) attendance reflected some challenges. Only 71% of Club Executives participated, with two clubs falling short of the minimum of four attendees. I hope this does not foreshadow the year's achievements but rather serves as a reminder of the importance of early engagement.

The main Nambour COT was arranged under tight timelines due to unforeseen circumstances, which may have impacted attendance. Despite this, our trainers rose to the occasion with remarkable professionalism. Special thanks to those who supported the sessions in Maryborough and Yeppoon — your dedication made the day a success.

Area Directors appear well-prepared for their upcoming conferences. "Save the Date" flyers and consistent online communication are keeping members informed. While each Director has their own style of engagement, I'm working to streamline communication by launching a group Messenger site to foster collaboration and consistency.

I plan to attend all Area Conferences in some capacity, and several are already confirmed. I'm grateful for the outstanding support from Div CQD Deb Barnett, Div CGD Coral Burnett, Div Admin Manager Cynon Lowe, and the ever-resourceful Dawn Smith. Their contributions extend far beyond their official roles — thank you, ladies.

Our Central Division Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 28th September. Area Directors are expected to submit their reports by the 14th — ideally earlier. The budget is complete and undergoing final review, with all notifications sent well ahead of schedule.

Looking ahead, I feel confident and energised. A visit to the distant Area 10 clubs is in the early planning stages for early October. My goal this year is to connect with members across the Division, remind them they are valued, and to better understand both the strengths and challenges within Toastmasters.

Meeting and connecting with the members is my aim during the year to let them know they are not forgotten, and to learn the positives and issues within the Central Division.

Ian Pinker

Central Division Director



Eastern Division Director's Report

8 September 2025

Eastern Division is settling for another strong year. Since the last report Pam Holley has joined the Eastern Division Leadership Team as Area 37 Director. Eastern Division Leadership coverage for all 5 Areas is now in place - a huge relief for the Division Director! Working on succession planning and Area Director handovers is something we can look at improving.

Club Celebrations

Congratulations to Algester and Crest Toastmasters Clubs on reaching impressive milestones. Algester celebrated their 800 meeting and Crest their 700 meeting. Both celebrations were a huge success. Well done to both clubs. The camaraderie between these two clubs supporting each other's events was inspiring!

Club Officer Training

Eastern Division Club Officer Training was another huge success. A record attendance. Thanks again to the excellent facilitators and thanks to everyone who attended. Remember to check out the [Clubup Project](#). This is *the* one-stop shop with everything you need to lead your club to success (thank you Kate and Thomas) and don't forget the excellent new guide to [Mentoring](#) (thank you Melanie).

Challenges

Challenges in the Division include adoption of Pathways in all clubs and member progress recognition. There are some clubs with low educational awards. Strategies have been put in place with Area Directors working with Club Presidents to lift the uptake on Pathways. Recognition of member progress commensurate with the previous Competent Communicator levels is an ongoing topic of discussion and a recognised area for potential improvement.



Contests

Club competitions are in full swing. Contests are an excellent way to improve your confidence and public speaker skills. If you've not competed before, be courageous and give a competition a go! Good luck to all competitors.

Contests need judges! Here's a little advertised fact - judging hones your own public speaking skills too. It's a win-win. Talk to your Area Director and Club contest organisers about being a judge. Volunteers for other roles to run Area competitions are also required.

Eastern Division Area conference dates have been set. Please contact your Area Director to confirm the date.

I'm looking forward to seeing Eastern Division Speakers in full swing at the Area conferences. Good luck everyone!

Geoff Roberts
Eastern Division Director



Moreton Division Director's Report

8 September 2025

The division of Moreton has started strongly showing great commitment to club quality through Club Officer Training - Round 1 attendance. Approximately 50 members attended in August this year with a mix of new and experienced Toastmasters. Initial feedback was positive with members enjoying time to understand their group work styles and the essentials of the Toastmasters club experience. Time was also devoted to the discussion and completion of club success plans. In summary, based on current data, all but one club has had 3 or more club officers trained and the training was a success.

Area Director visits are tracking at 18% with 4 visits complete and 6 scheduled. Area Directors are working hard to meet the goal of 75% by the end of November. They have also been proactively promoting the Club Up Project resources to assist clubs in improving their experience.

Forward planning for Area Conferences is underway with all 4 venues secured and judges being sought for the conferences. The Area Directors are currently organising their council meetings to formalise the preparations for their conferences.

In terms of DCP performance to date, 17 Club DCP goals have been achieved across Moreton Division to date and we are on track for a high-performing year.

Overall, the Area Directors are showing great initiative and confidence in leading Moreton Division's areas. The executives and members in turn are responding to the positive leadership by providing the best club experience they can by leading their clubs in the same manner.

David Boyle
Moreton Division Director



Northern Division Director's Report

6 September 2025

Two months into this Toastmasters year and time is speeding by, too fast!

When I approached our leadership trio to offer my services, I did so because, even though I now live on the Sunshine Coast, I maintain a strong passion for the division that framed my journey in Toastmasters.

What are the goals?

With the current 17 clubs and 316 members, it is important that the northern members can revitalize and be reinvigorated by connecting across the distance. I am heartened by the dedicated support from the "experienced" stalwarts, who are stepping forward to train and share their knowledge.

We have an opportunity to not only to grow our current clubs, and retain the membership, but also to investigate clubs in other areas. The new clubs, however, must serve the new members' needs and most importantly be sustainable.

The addition of Area 4 meant that we are a 'legal' division, however that must not be a crutch, and we must, within the next two years, allow Area 4 to return to Central Division and stand as a strong division in our own right. (That said, we would welcome Area 4's continuance!!)

Areas at work!

The strength of areas is in the area directors, collaborating with their club executives to achieve the needs of their own members. Bevin Irvine (Area 2), Shane Cooper (Area 4), Kaj Haffenden (Area 9) and Steve Oberg (Area 14) are "retreads or recycled" area governors however they are focused on the job ahead. Congratulations to Shane on completing all his club visits, and Steve for commencing those. All ADs have contacted their clubs, and I have no doubt that all club visits will be completed in the required timeline. ADs are well aware of the requirement for the submission of the Club Success Plans. To date, over 70% of clubs have completed at least their mandatory club officer training (COT) attendance, with potentially others to be submitted.



How will we reconnect?

The Northern Division newsletter has been reintroduced, and it is hoped that this will provide a further bond.

Area conference planning is well underway with the ADs using the essential skill of delegation to guide a team of members.

The Northern Division Conference (in Mackay on February 7th) planning is well underway with some exciting thoughts for entertainment, recognition, and competition. NO weather event will dare impact on this date!!!

Lesley Storkey DTM, PID
Northern Division Director



Pasifika Division Director's Report 8 September 2025

What We've Achieved

Achievement	Why it matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Playbook & Calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time clubs have a clear roadmap for the year. Helps everyone stay aligned.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division Conference confirmed (Sunday 16 Nov, Dynasty Seafood Restaurant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable venue with a full package. Makes the event possible without overspending.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising started, K290 raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small start, but shows commitment and effort toward covering costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COT delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong attendance; records now being finalised for submission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phoenix Toastmasters moved to Area 41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens Area 41 and balances club numbers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Success Synergy Club reinstated 3 members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps the club strong and active.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eloquence Exchange launched; BSP progressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs of growth in corporate clubs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LinkedIn activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posts on contests, evaluations, and leadership presence reached PNG, Fiji, and Australia. Shows Pasifika is connected globally.

Challenges We Face

Challenge	What it means
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High contest travel costs (K4,000 per contestant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need stronger fundraising and sponsorships.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising still slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current efforts not enough to cover upcoming needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some clubs around 40% missed CoT1 renewals & officets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all club officers trained, missing DCP credit and slowing club progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Speechcraft demand (NDB, Datec) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great interest, but must be carefully managed under TI rules.

Next Steps

Priority	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COT records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit to Toastmasters International by 25 October.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver in November at Dynasty Seafood Restaurant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run Pathways & Evaluation workshops after contests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all clubs pay dues and submit officer lists by September.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate prospects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with Westpac, EY, and NDB.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand efforts beyond K290; seek sponsors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep monthly Division and Area check-ins going.



Connecting Globally

Pasifika is aligning with the global Toastmasters themes:

- **July:** The Power of Belief and Teamwork via Our Playbook and Calendar help us work together.
- **August:** Just Say Yes via Choosing Dynasty Seafood Restaurant as our conference venue was a bold yes despite challenges.
- **September:** The Stories We Tell via Our contests, workshops, and LinkedIn posts show the power of storytelling in leadership.

This proves Pasifika is not working alone. We are part of the Toastmasters International.

Reflections on Leadership

Being Division Director has shown me that:

- Tools and systems are useful, but people will remember how they felt more than the paperwork.
- It's easy to take too much on personally. I need to share the load and trust others.
- Recognition shouldn't just go to high achievers, every member and club matters.
- Communication works best when it is simple, clear, and warm.
- True success is measured in members growing in confidence and becoming leaders, not only in contests.

These lessons are shaping me as much as they are shaping Pasifika Division.


Divisoin Director

08/09/2025
Date



Southern Division Director's Report



Western Division Director's Report

8 September 2025

Western Division is settling in for another good year. Since the start of this Toastmasters year, we have been lucky to have all the Area Director positions filled with a strong team and all attended District Officer training.

Your Team is **Area 1 Director:** Logan Steele; **Area 11 Director:** Linda McLeod DTM; **Area 12 Director:** Matthew McDiarmid; and **Area 31 Director:** Benjamin Handley.

The Division team also includes DCGD is Bruce George DTM, DCQD is Margret Marshal, I am still working on a division conference officer and a DPR officer plus a couple of officers to help Western Division Clubs out. We will be starting to look for our replacements early this year.

Western Division Club Officer Training was another great success at Toowoomba. We had a good number of officers who attended. Thanks again to the excellent facilitators, support and thanks to everyone who attended.

Sadly, we lost one of our favorite members since DEC who will be sadly missed by all.

It was with mixed emotions that I attended the Valedictory Dinner and final meeting for Southern Cross Toastmasters Club on 30 Aug 25 a Club that chartered in 1982, that part of history will be missed by us all. I heard a rumour during the night that another club in Western Division might also be closing, yet to be confirmed.

Challenges in the Division include adoption of Pathways in all clubs and member progress recognition. There is at least one club in each Area with low educational awards. Strategies have been put in place with Area Directors working with Club Presidents to lift the uptake on Pathways.

Clubs have commenced their competitions. Contests are an excellent way to improve your confidence and public speaker skills, and I encourage all members to step up the next level and have a go in your clubs' contest. I would also like to encourage all clubs to help support one another with these contests.

I hope every member has a great year and lets all keep working on membership.

Darrell (MAC) McLeod
Western Division Director