



District Leader Reports

September 2026

District 69 Director's Report

Fellow Toastmasters,

It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through September. As we approach the quarter way mark of the Toastmasters year there are some reflections I would like to share.

The Team

I am incredibly grateful to Alex Smith for the team he assembled for this year. We would not have been able to progress so many activities so quickly without their skills and dedication.

I have been incredibly proud of Shubi and Suzanne for their effort on the District Success Plan. Thanks to their efforts the plan was submitted before August Trio Training. This enabled us to use the training time to sense check our plan rather than rushing to develop one.

In a similar vein Mel ensured we had a comprehensive marketing plan prior to convention. As not the most marketing savvy person having Mel's real-world experience has greatly reduced the risks we have faced in planning and executing our PR strategy.

Our Finance Manager Nik has been able to bring his years of experience to the budgeting process. Through getting in and not letting perfection get in the way of the good we have been able to iterate on the Budget and receive TI's approval prior to DEC and Council meetings. A fantastic achievement.

Deb has been brilliant at co-ordinating the teams to do list and working out our communications. Even with short notice (dues increase) she has been fast as lightening returning drafts and processing campaign manager to keep the right audience informed at the right time.

Mentoring

In Toastmasters we tell clubs to make sure they have an effective mentoring program. In that spirit this year we have formalized the mentoring program for the Top Table and Senior Leadership Team (if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander). Every Division Director has been assigned a mentor from the Trio or IPDD to assist them in their role. The Top Table are, depending on the needs of the role, having mentoring sessions on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. So far the results are positive.

I would encourage you within your clubs to look at formally establishing a mentoring program. If that language feels daunting, change it. I recently spoke with a Club President who was not confident with mentoring and said, "if we called it a one-on-one with the club executives would you feel more comfortable?". Immediately they relaxed and felt more confident that they could do a monthly catch up with each member of the executive. Please don't let the label discourage you from taking the action –

mentoring, one-to-one, or catch up – find what label works for you and then do the action of discussing activities and development.

Looking ahead

As we look to the remaining nine months, I would ask you to:

- Ask does this activity improve the club experience, if yes proceed, if not ask if the activity is really a priority.
- Don't let the need to be perfect prevent you from starting. Learning is a **DOING** process. As you do the activity more and receive feedback you will improve. Consistently good is better than occasionally great.

I look forward to seeing you all grow and develop this year.

Ben McCormick, DTM, PID
District Director (Interim), D69

District 69 Program Quality Director's Report

It has been a busy and inspiring start to the Toastmasters 2026-2027 year, and I would like to begin by thanking every District leader, trainer, facilitator, club officer and member who has stepped forward to serve. As Program Quality Director, my focus this year is simple: help our leaders succeed, help our clubs achieve excellence, and create an environment where every member has the opportunity to learn, lead and grow. Our goal is our Road to 100 - working together towards 100 Distinguished Clubs. It is deliberately a stretch goal, but it gives us something powerful to rally around. Most importantly, Road to 100 is not about chasing a number. Every Distinguished Club represents members achieving educational goals, officers working together, guests being welcomed, members being retained, and people becoming more confident communicators and leaders. The statistics help us see where support is needed; the member experience is what gives those statistics meaning. Our job is to create the conditions that allow excellence to happen.

Club Officer Training

The first round of Club Officer Training has been completed, with face-to-face, hybrid and online events delivered across our Divisions. We currently have 649 club officer roles recorded as trained across 168 clubs. While the figures are still being finalised, the results show strong engagement across District 69.

Club Officers Trained	Number of Clubs	Percentage
0	20	11.9%
1	9	5.4%
2	11	6.5%
3	18	10.7%
4	32	19.0%
5	47	28.0%
6	16	9.5%
7	15	8.9%

This means 110 clubs - approximately 65.5% - currently have at least four officers recorded as trained, with 15 clubs having all seven officer roles trained. Special congratulations to our current 7-out-of-7 clubs: Carina Toastmasters Club, Redlands Club, ACS (Accomplishing Communication Skills), Stafford Heights Club, DC Toastmasters Club, Persuasive Toastmasters, Forex, Peninsula Toastmasters Club, Western Suburbs Club, FICQ Toastmasters Club, Pride Leaders Toastmasters, Brisbane Sunrise Speakers, A P I Brisbane Club, Magnetic North, and Northern Nomads Advanced Toastmasters.

Thank you to our District Training Managers Robert Green DTM and Kate Norris DTM, our Division and Area Directors, trainers, facilitators and everyone who helped deliver and support the training program. Every hour invested in training our officers strengthens the experience we can provide to our members.

These numbers are not yet final. We are currently awaiting confirmation of District 69 club officers who completed training in other Districts, including Districts 70, 73 and others. I am liaising with the respective Program Quality Directors and will update District 69 club officer training records as soon as those confirmations are received. Most importantly, training does not finish when an officer is marked as trained. Our aim is to help officers apply the learning: run better meetings, support members, use the Club Success Plan, understand the Distinguished Club Program and build clubs that members want to return to. As Lesley Storkey DTM, Northern Division Director, reminds us: "A trained club is a successful club."

District Officer Training

District 69 has 7 Divisions and 34 Areas. DLT1 was held on 27 June 2026 and led by our District Training Managers Robert Green DTM and Kate Norris DTM. The current Toastmasters Division and Area Director Training report shows 29 of 40 District leaders trained - 72% overall. Toastmasters requires at least 85% of Division and Area Directors to be trained by 30 September to satisfy the District qualifying requirement. For District 69, that means at least 34 of our 40 leaders, so we are currently five trained leaders away from the qualifying threshold. DLT2 will be held online via Zoom on Saturday, 12 September, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is an important opportunity for leaders who have not yet completed training, and for all of us to strengthen the practical skills we need to support our clubs.

My encouragement to every District leader is not to see DLT as a compliance exercise. Use it to build confidence, ask questions, connect with other leaders and leave with one clear action you can take back to your clubs. When our Area and Division Directors feel equipped and supported, they can listen more deeply, coach more confidently and connect clubs with the right help. That is how leadership training ultimately reaches the member.

Club Success Plan

The Club Success Plan is one of our most important priorities this month. As per the current District 69 Club Success Plan Submission Report, 64 of 168 clubs, or 38.1% of the clubs have submitted their Club Success Plan. This leaves 104 clubs still to submit. Clubs must submit their Club Success Plan in Club Central by 30 September 2026 to be eligible to achieve Distinguished status or more. These figures are not simply a deadline count; they show us where a conversation and a little support can make a real difference over the next few weeks.

I ask every Area and Division Director to continue working alongside club Presidents and VPEs. Rather than simply asking, "Have you submitted your CSP?", let us help clubs use it as the tool it is intended to be. Ask: What do your members want to achieve? What does success look like for your club this year? Which DCP goals will naturally follow from those member goals? Where does the club need help from its Area, Division or District?

The CSP should not be paperwork completed for Toastmasters International. It should be the club's roadmap for turning member aspirations into club success. When the plan begins with the member, the DCP goals become a natural result of a healthy, purposeful club.

District Speech Contests

District 69 will conduct the International Speech, Evaluation, Table Topics and Humorous Speech contests in 2026-2027. The DEC approved two contestants per club to proceed to Area level where an Area has four or fewer clubs. The motion for two contestants per Area to progress through Divisions with four or fewer Areas was not carried. The 2026-2027 Rulebook requires the contest pathway Club -> Area -> Division -> District. Contestants and contest officials must be physically present beyond club level, except for the Online Speech Contest and International Speech Contest Quarterfinals. Consistent application of the Rulebook protects fairness for every contestant. Our District training reinforced the importance of setting contest calendars and officials early, standardising training, developing judges and officials, conducting venue and technology rehearsals, improving promotion and ensuring a positive contestant experience. Speech contests should not simply produce winners. They should develop speakers, develop officials, bring clubs together and inspire members to stretch beyond what they thought they could do. I encourage every club to involve newer members - as contestants, timers, counters, Sergeants at Arms, judges-in-training and enthusiastic supporters. Sometimes one invitation is all a member needs to discover a new strength.

Judges Training

District 69 Judges Training was held online on 30 August 2026, led by Lesley Storkey DTM. The response from our members was outstanding, with more than 200 registrations and approximately 120 participants joining the session. This strong interest reflects the commitment of our members to keep learning, serving and strengthening the quality and integrity of our speech contests. The session was recorded and will be shared with members, together with supporting contest resources, so those who were unable to attend can still benefit from the learning.

The training reinforced several important principles for fair and effective judging: follow the current Speech Contest Rulebook precisely; judge against the published criteria rather than personal preference; remain alert to the "halo effect" and unconscious bias; understand eligibility, originality, protest and tiebreak procedures; and ensure judges, timers and counters are properly briefed before each contest. An important timing clarification for the 2026-2027 contest year is that a contestant is not disqualified for overtime until the clock reaches 7 minutes 31 seconds for International and Humorous speeches, 3 minutes 31 seconds for Evaluation, and 2 minutes 31 seconds for Table Topics. This will be reflected in our District contest resources and communications so our members can compete and serve with confidence.

We also discussed the value of a judges debrief following a contest. A debrief is not about questioning results or criticising individual judges. It is an educational conversation that allows judges to reflect on the criteria, clarify areas of uncertainty and learn from one another while maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of the judging process. I strongly encourage judges debriefs from club level onwards. Club contests provide a safe and supportive environment for members to develop judging skills before progressing to Area, Division and District contests. By learning alongside experienced judges and reflecting on our own decision-making, we build a stronger pool of confident and capable contest officials across District 69. The biggest takeaway is that judging is a skill we develop. Every well-trained judge strengthens a contest. Every well-run contest strengthens a member. And every confident member helps build a stronger club.

Pathways - More Ways for Members to Learn

There are also exciting education developments for our members. Toastmasters launched its first Pathways Exploration, Online Meeting Mastery, on 4 August 2026. It provides targeted learning around attending online meetings, delivering online presentations, leading online meetings and applying those skills in a culminating assignment. This has particular relevance to District 69 given our geography and our online and hybrid participation. It gives members another practical education option they can immediately apply at work, in Toastmasters and in the wider community. Vintage Path access has also become more flexible. Once members have selected their first free path, they can purchase a Vintage Path without needing to complete Level 1 of another path first. I encourage VPEs and club officers to share these opportunities and, more importantly, ask members what they want to achieve. When learning connects with a member's personal goal, engagement follows naturally.

2026 District Leader Training - Key Takeaways

I had the privilege of attending the 2026 District Leader Training in Vancouver on 17–18 August, immediately before Convention. The program placed a strong focus on club quality, supporting every club, building effective teams, achieving District success, and the responsibilities of the Program Quality Director. One message came through clearly throughout the training: we do not create lasting success by doing everything ourselves; we create it by developing people who can lead, support and inspire others. My own DLT pre-work reinforced that people development is one of the leadership capabilities I want to strengthen this year. For me, that means helping our Division and Area Directors grow as confident communicators and leaders, while also creating more opportunities for leadership development across District 69. My commitment is to ask questions before offering solutions, recognise progress, give people meaningful ownership, and provide the systems, support and clear guardrails they need to succeed without being micromanaged. When we trust and develop our leaders, they become better equipped to listen to clubs, identify opportunities, coach members and create environments where people can thrive. Club excellence begins with capable, confident and empowered leaders. By investing in our people, we strengthen our clubs - and ultimately create a better Toastmasters experience for every member.

- International President Stefano McGhee DTM - It Starts at the Club

One of my strongest takeaways came from International President Stefano McGhee DTM. My workbook notes captured his message very simply: Toastmasters begins at the club. Our product is confidence - confidence at work, confidence in our communities and confidence in our connections. His challenge to us as District leaders was to remember that clubs must create an environment people want to be part of, because that is where growth happens. World Headquarters provides operational support, the Board strategic leadership, Regions support Districts, Districts provide collaborative leadership, Divisions manage projects, Areas support clubs - and clubs are the foundation. For me, that gives us a simple test for every Program Quality initiative: Will this help make the club meeting better? Will this help make a member successful? If the answer is yes, we are heading in the right direction.

- CEO Daniel Rex - Knowledge + People + Resilience

Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex spoke on Knowledge, People and Resilience. The notes I captured were simple: Success = Knowledge + People + Resilience. That is particularly relevant to District 69. We need the knowledge to understand our data and resources. We need our people - empowered leaders, trainers, mentors, coaches and members. And we need the resilience to keep supporting clubs when

progress is slower than expected. One club struggling today can become one of our greatest success stories tomorrow when the right people surround it with the right support. Our role is to keep believing in the potential behind the numbers.

- Immediate Past International President Aletta Rochat DTM - Don't Try This Alone

Immediate Past International President Aletta Rochat DTM led a session appropriately titled "Don't Try This Alone". That may be one of the most important messages for us as a District.

Program Quality cannot belong to the PQD alone. Club quality cannot belong to an Area Director alone. Membership cannot belong to a VPM alone. We succeed when we connect the system around the member - club officers, Area Directors, Division Directors, trainers, coaches, mentors, District leaders and World Headquarters resources. At the centre of that system is the member we are here to serve.

So this year, please ask for help early. There is strength in saying, "Our club could use some support." The District is here to work with you, not simply report on you. No club should feel that it has to solve every challenge alone.

- District Progress Reviews

Past International President Radhi Spear DTM led the discussion around District Progress Reviews. The session challenged District leaders to ensure progress reviews happen with you, not to you, and to use them to ask for the support we need while also supporting others. That is exactly how I want us to approach our own District reviews. Our dashboards are not report cards designed to catch someone doing something wrong. They are tools that help us see where an opportunity exists to support a club and its members.

At DLT, the PQD breakout focused specifically on using club-performance data, Moments of Truth and the skills of Area and Division Directors to develop data-driven action plans for club excellence. Data should lead to a conversation. The conversation should lead to support. Support should lead to action. And action should ultimately improve the member experience. That is the purpose behind every number we track.

- The 1-1-3-1 Challenge

One small but memorable challenge from Vancouver was: Invite 1 person. Ask for help 1 time. Recognise 3 people. Celebrate 1 success. I would love District 69 leaders to take this challenge back into our Divisions, Areas and clubs. Imagine the culture we create if every leader routinely invites someone into an opportunity, asks for support rather than struggling alone, recognises the contribution of three people and intentionally celebrates a success. That is how we grow confidence, belonging and leadership - one member at a time.

International Convention

The 2026 International Convention in Vancouver carried the theme "Wide-Open Communication", with education focused on communication, emotional intelligence, leadership, workplace culture, membership, club revitalisation, Pathways and the member experience. A particularly exciting innovation was the live club meeting experience on the Convention stage. For me, this reinforced Stefano's message: regardless of how large Toastmasters becomes globally, the magic still happens in a club meeting - where one member stands up, tries something new and discovers what they are capable of.

The challenge now is not simply to say, "Convention was wonderful." It is to bring that learning home to District 69. What did we learn that can improve a meeting in Cairns, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, regional Queensland or Papua New Guinea? What can we share with a first-time club officer? What can we give to a member preparing their next speech? Convention creates its greatest value when the learning reaches members who were not in the room.

Celebrating the World Championship of Public Speaking

The International Convention also reminded us just how far the Toastmasters journey can take a member. Dirceu Da Silva of District 59 became the 2026 World Champion of Public Speaking with "Best Decision Ever!" Gurmeet Singh Gurcharan Singh of District 51 placed second, and Aaron Samson of District 4 placed third. Every World Championship journey begins with someone standing up at a club contest. Perhaps a future World Champion is sitting quietly in a District 69 club right now, waiting for somebody to say, "Why don't you give it a go?" Let's be the people who ask.

Road to 100

One of the strongest messages from my PQD training was that club-quality data only becomes valuable when we turn it into insight and action. Our "Road to 100" strategy therefore brings together Club Success Plan, officer training, member education, club quality, targeted data-driven support, people development and recognition. The number 100 gives us a destination; our members give us the reason for the journey.

- Club Success Plan - help every club build a meaningful plan and submit it by 30 September.
- Officer Training - capture attendance accurately, then continue development beyond COT.
- Member Education - help VPEs understand member goals and connect them to Pathways and DCP opportunities.
- Club Quality - use Moments of Truth, club visits, member feedback and meeting experience to identify where help is needed.
- Data-driven Support - use monthly Division and Area reviews to identify priority clubs and provide support early.
- People Development - equip Area and Division Directors to coach rather than simply report.
- Recognition - celebrate progress, effort and early wins, not just the final destination.

Our District Success Plan reinforces this model: monthly Division scorecards, CSP support, panel discussions and webinars, club officer-training sessions, peer mentoring and milestone recognition, with every priority club having a clear next action and review date. The intention is not to create more reporting - it is to make sure support reaches the right club at the right time.

Remember the Member

There will be numbers to monitor this year. There will be dashboards, deadlines, DCP goals and training percentages. But behind every number is a person: a member attempting their first Ice Breaker, a VPE wondering how to build a program, a President trying to motivate their committee, an Area Director visiting a club that needs help, a contestant finding the courage to walk onto a stage, or a long-serving

member wondering what challenge comes next. The statistics matter because the people behind them matter.

Program Quality is ultimately about that person. If we give our leaders the knowledge, support and confidence to serve that member well, the numbers will follow. Excellence is not something the District does to a club; it is something we create together by helping members succeed.

So my invitation to every District 69 leader is: connect with your clubs. Listen before solving. Use the data to find opportunities, not faults. Celebrate progress. Ask for help. Share what works. Invite someone to take the next step. And keep bringing everything back to the member experience.

Our Road to 100 is not a journey that the PQD can make alone. It belongs to all of us. Together, we can create clubs where members feel welcomed, empowered, challenged and celebrated - clubs where people do not simply attend meetings, they grow, they belong and they discover what is possible.

Let us empower our members, support our leaders and help every club achieve excellence.

All aboard the Road to 100!

Shubhangi Chatterjee DTM

Program Quality Director | District 69

September 2026

Club Growth Directors Report

For District Executive Committee Meeting 13/9/2026 and District Council Meeting 27/9/2026

Membership Growth

Over the 2025–2026 Toastmasters year, District 69 saw a total of 6,155 membership payments. A strong number, which exceeded our Select Distinguished goal of 6,093 by 62 member payments. We needed another 52 payments to achieve the President's Distinguished status for the district. As a result, our overall membership growth rate is at 4.06%, indicating an increase in paid membership compared to the previous year. A net addition of 240 payments above our base highlights the exceptional vitality of our clubs. By achieving DCP Goals 7 and 8 through steady renewals and new member growth, we have built a sustainable foundation for ongoing member achievement.

Moving forward into 2026–2027, our primary focus will be to continue strengthening of club membership levels, ensuring that clubs are robust and in good standing. To support this, we have several initiatives planned throughout the year aimed at helping clubs build membership, including outreach campaigns, and targeted assistance for clubs falling below membership thresholds.

Clubs Chartered

District leadership is targeting the chartering of two new clubs in the Metro division prior to 30 September 2026, to leverage the fixed \$60 USD semi-annual membership dues rate. This initiative accelerates our Distinguished District expansion strategy and ensures new member cohorts benefit from the locked-in old rates.

New Club Leads

District leadership encourages Division leadership teams to prioritise prospective club extension as a core pillar of their Division Success Plans. Sponsoring a new club provides a high-impact platform for members seeking Level 5 Pathways completions and DTM credit, while ensuring our community benefits from the Toastmasters experience.

The district has a few new club leads in PNG, and Brisbane. Each Division Director is encouraged to identify two “Club Sponsor Candidates” and pair them immediately with an Area Director to conduct market research on corporate or community leads.

Club Coaches

Division	Clubs Coach Eligible (<13 members)	Percentage of clubs
Central	2	11.1%
Eastern	4	16.0%
Metro	8	21.1%
Northern	9	50.0%
Pasifika	2	9.5%
Southern	4	16.0%
Western	12	57.1%

As of this report, there are 41 clubs in the district that are eligible for a club coach having 12 or fewer members. We encourage eligible clubs to proactively leverage the District's Club Coach program as a strategic tool for sustainable growth. Assigning qualified coaches to support capable executive committees reinforces the “Moments of Truth” standards, ensuring clubs expand their membership base while maintaining a high-quality environment. Members of strong clubs who have, completed level 2 in a path, served in officer roles, seeking DTM credit and have completed the Club Coach Program Training module on Base Camp, please consider becoming a club coach. We invite you to reach out either to me or to our Club Coach Coordinator, Marina Bruno, to learn more about the role and its rewarding benefits.

Clubs Dissolved

As of this report, no clubs have indicated an intent to suspend operations or surrender their charter.

District leadership continues to monitor club health through Area Director visits and proactive outreach to ensure operational stability across all Divisions.

Suzanne Gogolin, Club Growth Director

District 69 Marketing & Public Relations Report

During the first two months of the 2026–27 Toastmasters year, the focus of the PRM has been on establishing a clear direction and putting in place the key programs and communication channels for the year.

A District 69 Marketing & Public Relations Plan for 2026–27 has been developed, with activity centred around three priorities: building new clubs, strengthening existing clubs and retaining our valued members. The plan brings together District-level awareness activity, member communications and practical marketing support for clubs, including media outreach, LinkedIn, Facebook, email, the District website, Club Marketing Edge webinars, Showcase Sprint, Marketing Grants and the District Marketing Awards.

The Club Marketing Edge webinar series commenced in late July. This free monthly program is designed to give VPPRs and other members interested in club growth practical marketing skills, ideas and resources they can apply within their own clubs. The series will continue throughout the year, with a break over the Christmas period.

Planning is also well underway for Showcase Sprint Round 1, which will commence in November. Building on the success of the program over the past few years, Sprint will take participating clubs through a structured process of developing and promoting a Showcase Meeting, with the main program activity running from November through January, and Open House/Demo meetings in February.

Work is also progressing on strengthening the District's communications approach, including a more intentional LinkedIn content program from September/October, ongoing use of the District Facebook community and targeted member email communications.

The full [District 69 Marketing & Public Relations Plan 2026–27](#), including the activity timeline and further detail on each initiative, is available on the District 69 website.

Melanie Surplice, District 69 Public Relations Manager (PRM)

Central Division Director's Report

Executive Summary

Central Division has commenced the term with a strong focus on club quality, member support, and leadership development.

The snapshot in the table below shows how Central Division has been performing.

Central Division Performance Tracking Table 23 August 2026

AREA	AREA DIRECTOR	Club Visits due 30.11.26	COT 1 (%) Trained 22.08.26	Semi Annual renewal Oct-Mar	CSP Submitted Due: 30/9/26	Area Contest Dates
10	Leonard Strub	0/5	65.71%	3/5	3/5	7/11/26
16	Huw Humphreys	1/5	71.43%	2/5	2/5	14/11/26
22	Karla Ogg	0/5	68.57%	4/5	0/5	17/10/26
28	Robinlyn Sinclair	0/5	71.43%	3/5	3/5	24/10/26

- **Training:** All clubs in the Division have 4 or more officers trained as at 22 August 2026. 97 out of 140 (69.9%) officers have been trained.
- **Club Success Plans** – Area Directors are following up with clubs while they schedule their Area visits, ahead of the due date of 30 September 2026.
- **Membership Growth:** 60% of clubs have renewed the semi-annual renewals for 8 plus members. 40% are actively following up on renewals.
- **Club Conflicts** – 2 club conflicts have been resolved but are being monitored closely.
- **Club Coach** – One club has a club coach appointed.
- **Division council meeting** – scheduled for 20 September 2026. Notification sent out.
- **Division Conference** – Confirmed for 14 March 2027, booked at Madcota Hall, Maryborough.

Conclusion: Central Division has no critical issues on hand. Most effort is being placed on membership growth and retention as this is the main challenge the Division is facing for majority of the clubs.

Tara Singh

Central Division Director 2026-27

23 August 2026

Division E — Club Officer Training & Area Visit Report

COT Success — Division E (78/175 seats, 45% overall)

Redlands Club and Carina Toastmasters Club had full 7/7 (100%) attendance. Area 20 led overall (66% of seats filled); Area 21 lagged well behind (20%).

- **Not represented (Area 21):** Young Achievers @ QUT, Brisbane CBD Toastmasters, bToasty Brisbane Toastmasters Club.

Attendees from Outside the Division (18 total)

- Algester (Division S) — 5
- Daisy Hill (Division S) — 4
- Jimboomba — 3
- Powerlink (Division M) — 2
- Crest — 4

Issues & Notable Successes

No issues escalated by Area Directors this period. Area 21's low COT turnout noted by Area Director; Area 20 continues to perform strongly.

Area Visit Progress

- HOT Toastmasters — Exceeds Expectation
- Sunnybank Club — Far Exceeds Expectations
- Young Achievers @ QUT — Exceeds Expectation
- bToasty Brisbane ,Carina ,Leading Edge and Waterloo Bay Club — Incomplete

Fawzia Batty, Division E Director

23 August 2026

Metro Division Director Report – August 2026

Metro Division has now delivered two Club Officer Training sessions for the current training period, with a further COT being organised specifically for officers from the new clubs.

A key development has been the creation of Area 51, comprising KIQ Toastmasters, Daraja Toastmasters, Milton Toastmasters and UU Online Toastmasters, with Dr Wonder Chimonyo appointed as Area Director.

All Area Directors have been connected with their clubs and the first round of Area Director visits has been completed. Renata Daniveska has stepped down as Area 25 Director and a replacement is currently being sought.

Growth activity is also continuing. Brisbane North Multicultural Toastmasters and Burpengary Toastmasters have officially commenced the chartering process and are now clubs in formation. Other club and leadership leads are also being progressed as part of the Division's commitment to developing the next generation of Toastmasters leaders.

All Area Conferences now have confirmed dates and locations, providing certainty for clubs and Area teams to commence planning. The Metro Division Conference has also been confirmed for Saturday, 6 March 2027.

The Division's immediate priorities are supporting the new and forming clubs, completing the Area 25 Director appointment, progressing conference planning, delivering training for new club officers, and continuing to build a sustainable pipeline of future club and District leaders.

Zach Davis-Hancock

Metro Division Director

Report Of The Northern Division Director

September 2026

Every year I am in leadership I say ... time is speeding by, too fast!

However, our team of Area Directors and their club teams are embracing the motivations this year – keep the North connected and grow our members in existing clubs and through potential new, sustainable clubs.

What is working?

The Northern Division newsletter is continuing to be distributed monthly, and I am heartened by the comments.

Our monthly ADs “catch-up” by phone are inclusive, although that hasn’t stopped the additional conversations we have had!

Our newest area, Area 4, is hosting the Northern Division Conference on Saturday 28th – that’s exciting, Rockhampton, here we come!!!

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. Mark Hegarty (Area 2), Charlene McKenzie (Area 4), Rob Whyte (Area 9), and Bert Pulman (Area 14) are focused on the job ahead. Congratulations to Area 2 on achieving 100% of proxies assigned, epitomizing the belief that we are a members-based organization with a say in electing our international leaders; and a further “well-done” to Area 2 on 30 club officers attending COT. ADs have scheduled their club visits, and I have no doubt that all club visits will be completed in the required timeline.

How do we improve?

Club Officer Training is disappointing to date with 10 out of 18 clubs achieving at least the mandatory attendance. Let’s have better communication and a greater opportunity in Round 2. We are proud that the North has embraced the new club officer materials availability.

Area conference planning is well underway with the ADs, however the area council meetings will include a motion towards set scheduling, since this year we have had 2 conferences set on one day, and another causing disappointing rhetoric.

Our newest club (to be re-named FNQ Multi-Cultural) is working hard, although needing a lot of support from their mentors and Area Director, with gaps in their knowledge of procedures. We need to have that improved for the new potential clubs to come!

Lesley Storkey DTM, PID

Pasifika Division Update Report as at 23/08/26

COT1: Separate sessions face to face and online. Total of 76 officers trained.

Face to face held at Shady Rest hotel Sun 19/07/26 9am-12:30pm. Attended by 50.

Session 2 – online, sun 26/07/26 1pm-4:30pm. Attended by 50+, 4 Western, 1 Southern Clubs with 4 officers, submitted 12/08/26.

A38 – Brian Bell, Komuniti, Eloquence Exchange

A40 - BPNG

A41- Eda Wanwoks,

A44- NCD, Phoenix, Success Synergy

A45- Lae Community, PNG Unitech staff, WPU staff, WPU students

- *Some attended Metro and D70 COT. Yet to confirm and update accordingly.*

Overall COT1 was well attended, feedback was positive. separating them was more effective for discussions and networking. Successful clubs featured to encourage clubs to strive for excellence ie Smedley.

Trainers were AD's Frank Manue, Ancilla Ulai, Rachel Kobal, Rose Paul, PD Okera Amini, PQD Ellenor Iutiko, CGD Julia Auka, Mentor Greg Soweni, Sharon Woruba, Monique Toisenegila DTM. Presenters ticked off projects ie level4/5 where applicable.

Area visits:

A38 – Bona. was on leave, scheduled visits, installations for two: Komuniti, Eloquence. Visits/reports pending. A40 – Ancilla. two visits, reports submitted Deloitte/Nambawan Super. All installations done.

A41 – Rose. installations/schedule/visits/reports pending.

A44 – Frank. installations, visits to three: NCD, Success Synergy, Phoenix. Reports/Santos installation pending. A45 - Rachel, installation and visited two: Lae community, PNG Unitech staff (Life/WPU tbc). Reports pending. Two sessions (2 hours each) for AD's with Mentor Greg, PD Okera and PQD Ellenor to assist those that missed DLT, mainly how to schedule visits, fill and submit reports and attend to any queries.

Proxy assignment – most clubs submitted.

Realignment – finalised by 12th Aug, AD's swapped A44 – Frank, A45-Rachel.

Speech contest dates remained, only areas swapped. A44 oct 4, A45 oct 25.

A45 trophies ordered by frank. email addresses were confirmed by Deb.

Pending matters:

Area visits and report submissions

Area success plans – drafts in progress

Division success plan – draft in progress

Final update of COT attendance once verified

Judges and chief judge training

Revisit Life Foundation club members and how best to assist

Assignment of mentors/coach to struggling or new clubs ie. NGCB, Life Foundation

Leads for new club – CPL, forms given to complete and payment to confirm.

Sponsor and mentor identified (BPNG Andiopa Sabadi, KTC Okera.

YLP discussion with Army wives assoc. for dependants 23/08/26.

Conclusion:

It has been very busy two months into the year. Once realignment was finalized, we could progress area schedules, visits and reports especially the affected areas. sessions with ad's helped to understand roles better.

The COT was very effective as club officers were inspired to be more successful this year, understanding roles better, aiming for Distinguished and above. Few clubs have already submitted CSP and renewals.

We aim to have two Distinguished clubs per Area and encourage more to achieve DTM's.

The new club lead City Pharmacy Ltd is on pause due to their auditors visit.

We are excited to better our performance collectively this year and appreciate the District support.

Yours in Toastmasters,

Okera Amini

Pasifika Division Director 2026-27

Southern Division Report

Southern Division has made a strong start to the year, supported by a committed and enthusiastic team of Area Directors. **Leanne, Lou, Marty, Priscilla and Trish** are to be congratulated for their dedication and contribution, which has made the coordination of Division activities very positive and productive.

Club Officer Training was successfully completed on 4 July, providing club leaders with the knowledge and resources to undertake their roles effectively. The team has continued to encourage Executive team members to attend Club Officer Training with 60% of club achieving their DCP goal

A meeting with all Area Directors focused on key priorities, including **Area Conference preparation, club visits, membership growth and completion of Club Success Plans**. Planning is well underway for five Area Conferences:

- Area 6 – 27 September, Broadbeach
- Area 23 – 11 October, Murwillumbah
- Area 35 – 24 October, Burleigh
- Area 24 – 8 November, Nerang
- Area 27 – 15 November, Griffith University

Judges Training is scheduled for 6 and 13 September, supporting the development of skilled and confident contest judges across the Division. **Pathways Training** is also being planned later in the year in response to member requests.

A major focus for the remainder of the year will be **visiting as many clubs as possible**. These visits will provide opportunities to connect with members, support club leaders, identify challenges and celebrate achievements.

Overall, Southern Division is well positioned for a successful year, with strong teamwork, effective planning and a clear focus on **supporting clubs, developing members and strengthening our Toastmasters community**.

Donna Kildea

Southern Division Director

District Awards Manager Message

Dear members of District 69,

I am incredibly honoured to serve as your District Awards Manager for yet another year. Recognising your hard work and milestones is a privilege, and I love celebrating your achievements with you.

To ensure our awards process is both efficient and sustainable, the District Trio has decided to run things a little differently for the 2026/2027 year.

What is staying the same:

- I will continue to process your awards monthly.

What is changing:

- I will still send a personal congratulatory email directly to each recipient, with a cc to the Area Director and Division Director, at the end of each month. (please note July-September will be processed and sent out at the end of September).
- All physical items—including **Level 5 Education pins, Pathways Mentor pins, DTM pins, Years of Service bookmarks, and 25+ Years of Service pins**—will now be sent directly to your **Area Directors**. Where there is no Area Director, it will be sent to the Division Director.
- Your Area or Division Director will present these awards to you in person at a club, Area or Division event, making your recognition even more meaningful.

Why we are making this change:

This new approach serves two important purposes. First, it helps save vital District funds on postage. Second, it minimizes the high volume of "Return to Sender" mail and lost packages we have experienced in the past.

We need your help:

Because there have been several "return to sender" awards, and mail transit issues happen (plus the fact that I am only human) some awards may have slipped through the cracks. If you believe you are missing an award, please reach out so I can fix it:

- For missing **Pathways paths, Pathways Mentor, or DTM awards**, please email me at: edawards@toastmastersd69.org
- For missing **Years of Service awards**, please email me at: longservice@toastmastersd69.org

If you have emailed my main Toastmasters account about a missing award, please forward it to the appropriate email address above for better tracking and transparency.

Thank you for your dedication to communication, leadership, and supporting one another. I look forward to celebrating all your amazing achievements over the coming year.

Warm regards,

Lisa Dodis DTM

Awards Manager 2026–27