



District 112 Director's Report

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| District | 112 | District Director | Sharon Kerr-Phillips | Report date | June 2021 |
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DISTRICT VISION FOR THE 2020–2021 YEAR

In my July 2020 District Director Report, the District vision for the year was set as being:

"This year the District would like to focus on having transparency, accountability and providing growth and stretch opportunities for our members and leaders. This means that we will be including our teams in the decision-making process at every point, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback. The draft budget will be drawn up early and shared with the District teams to obtain their buy-in and understanding. Our emphasis is on accountability, with our leaders delegating responsibility where appropriate, but being aware of the importance of retaining accountability. We would like to develop leadership depth within the District for long term growth. We have therefore encouraged the appointment of first time Area and Division Directors wherever possible."

I am incredibly proud of our District team who fully embraced and lived our vision this year. It has been so rewarding watching the growth of our District officers, many of whom have stepped up again and are taking on more senior roles in our next Toastmasters Year.

DISTRICT SUCCESS PLANS AND GOALS

We set a number of goals for the District this year, some of which have been achieved, a few of which we may not achieve.

A few of the goals we set were not achieved, as Toastmasters International did not allow the projects to take place. Toastmasters International conducted surveys themselves, so we were not permitted to send out surveys. While our Region Adviser and International Director considered our research projects worthy to submit for consideration, these projects were unfortunately not authorised by Toastmasters International. This impacted on our planned strategy for the year.

We undertook a media project in May, which resulted in publications across the District in June. This has already increased the number of enquiries about clubs and will benefit the District well into the 2021-2022 year too.

Public Relations Goals

Our goals for raising our social media presence have been exceeded, through the efforts of our exceptional Public Relations Manager, Elizabeth Viljoen. Not only has Elizabeth increased our presence in social media and in the media in general, she has also worked closely with our clubs' VP Public Relations to increase Toastmasters social media presence across the District. Elizabeth also created our District YouTube account and has added many valuable videos through which we have been able to learn and grow.

Membership Payments

At the time of writing this report we are 890 membership payments short of achieving a membership payment goal of distinguished for the 2020-2021 Toastmasters year. That means each of our clubs would need to register 5 members before the end of June. Nothing is ever impossible, but it is a tough challenge.

Club Growth

At the end of the 2019-2020 year, there were a few clubs that had indicated they would be likely to dissolve. We did not encourage these clubs to close, but rather gave them the opportunity to take time to decide. Most of these clubs have chosen to close, which has impacted upon our club base.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming **TWG Toastmasters** and **Kura Korero O Microsoft** as new clubs to our District.

At the time of writing this report, to attain our distinguished club status, we need to increase our number of clubs in good standing by 17. Two clubs - **Dial-up Toastmasters** and **Training and Coaching Online Club**, have submitted their charter documents already and a further two or three clubs could potentially charter by the end of June. There are six clubs that realistically have the potential to become a club in good standing, only time will tell if this happens before the end of June.

We have a meeting on Monday that could potentially result in a few clubs chartering, but despite the current new clubs chartering discount offered by Toastmasters International, some of these clubs may only charter in the next Toastmasters year.

Distinguished Clubs Goal

At the time of writing this report, the District had 47 distinguished clubs. To attain our District's distinguished clubs goal, a further 20 clubs need to become distinguished by the end of June. Traditionally New Zealand has never missed this goal. It is hoped that all clubs will ensure their educational awards are not only signed off in base camp but are also registered on the Toastmasters International website. Where clubs need more members to have a minimum of twenty members, or a net gain of five members, it is hope that clubs will reach out to their guests and past members to encourage them to benefit by joining Toastmasters or renewing their membership. Again, time will only tell if we achieve this goal in the 2020–2021 year.

DISTRICT WEBSITE

The development of the website had a bumpy start. It took us from June last year to March to realise The Web Company was not going to deliver what we required. In April Warp Speed Computers came onboard and was able to create what we wanted in less than two weeks at a fraction of the cost. Warp Speed Computers also provided Elizabeth and me with training at no extra cost. We now have the framework of what we want and will continue adding to the website. More changes primarily made by Mike Diggins, will be seen before the end of the 2020-2021 year.

An important part of what we stand for as a District is making Toastmasters accessible to EVERYONE. The first change we made to the website was to add the accessibility function. It was therefore an absolute privilege to be a finalist In the [2021 People's Choice Accessible Business Awards](#), in the category, **Digital Spaces**.

UNMUTE ME" DISTRICT 112 ONLINE CONFERENCE

Stephen Budai and his team delivered a well-run and executed District Conference. We congratulate our contestants for embracing the online challenge! The calibre of the speakers was

excellent. Congratulations to Bradley Thompson who won the District 112 International Speech Contest and will be representing us at the District Quarter finals

AWARD DINNERS

Neil Stichbury and his team arranged a successful awards dinner for the 2019-2020 year, which was well attended. It was wonderful seeing the achievements of the 2019 – 2020 year finally being recognised. (The Awards Dinner had to be rescheduled a few times due to lockdowns).

The 2020-2021 Awards Dinner

The 2020 – 2021 Awards Dinner will be held on the 18th of September in Auckland, following District officer training. Please register your expression of interest to attend this event.

<https://forms.gle/po14P2U1x64fJYnh8>. We look forward to celebrating the success of the 2020 – 2021 year, as well as recognising our long serving members (some who have been members of Toastmasters for well over 25 years).

DISTRICT INCENTIVES

Toastmasters International have advised that the order should take 21 days to be delivered but have cautioned that due to the high number of orders placed, this may take a little longer. We will be in touch once we are in receipt of your orders.

The District incentive of Club Officer badges has arrived, and Wendy Wickliffe will be arranging your receipt of these badges.

THANK YOU

This year has presented many challenges: lockdowns; the passing of Kingsley Moody; the very last year's registration of the traditional program Advanced Leader Silver and Distinguished Toastmasters awards. It has been such a privilege working with a team of people who have embraced the challenges and seen them as growth opportunities. As a District team we seem to have always been on the same page and the support everyone has given and received has been incredible.

I would like to make special mention of Stephen Budai and Wendy Wickliffe, I have loved every minute working with these two very dedicated people, who are passionate about Toastmasters. I believe the three of us have worked exceedingly well together and we have all grown as leaders.

None of this year would have happened had we not had the support of our Top Table, amazing Area and Division Directors and District field officers. As a team, you have made me so proud, and I have loved watching your growth. Thank you too to your families and friends who have allowed you to invest your time in District 112.

A big thank you to our District proof-reader, Toni Sharp, who picks up every little error made. Toni has been a wonderful support throughout the year in so many ways, thank you Toni.

Just a reminder that as leaders, please always give others the opportunity to grow, set your vision, but let our newer leaders find their voices. Listening to your teams take on things gives you insight into their knowledge and skills and an indication of growth opportunities for your team. Once your team has spoken, you will always be able to provide direction and share your own pearls of wisdom.

All the best to our District Officers for the 2021 -2022 year, I know we are going to see results not yet achieved in District 112.