Toastmasters New Zealand North
District 112

District 112 Immediate Past Director's Report

District	**112**	Immediate Past District Director	**Sharon Kerr-Phillips** 0210599897	Report Date	**15th April 2022**

Reflections of this year

As outgoing District Director, I was advised all emails would stop on the 1st of July 2021 and that the abrupt slowing down of pace could be disconcerting. But that never happened, the emails kept on pouring in, with our District keeping in touch, asking questions, and seeking advice. I guess when you have been in Toastmasters a while, regardless of your title, you will always be asked questions and be there to help, service leadership at its best!

This year has presented similar, but different challenges. When COVID first arrived, we were directed that contest would be held online, but this year we were given a choice. We hung out for long as we could, but with most Area Contest being held at the start of the Omicron peak, we had little option, but to hold our contests online. This resulted in Area contest being rushed and held on top of each other. As Area Contests were not spread out, this placed pressure on our clubs with more clubs than previously nominating Area representatives instead of benefiting from the growth and leadership experience of holding club contests.

With the changes in alert levels, it feels as if more in person opportunities are on the horizon. I hope this means that contests can be spread throughout the year next year. That we will be able to present awards and recognise people in person without being hindered by lockdowns. That our incoming trio will have the opportunity to attend international conferences and Toastmasters International training in person.

Participating in Toastmasters online has certainly developed a different set of worthwhile skills, but nothing can replace the networking skills and strong lifetime friendships gained by attending club meetings, Area and Division events and especially Toastmasters International training and conferences in person.

District Leadership Chair Role

It was a privilege serving as District Leadership Chair this year and I would like to commend our District Leadership committee for their dedication and flexibility in vetting a complete set of district candidates for the 2022/23 Toastmasters year.

Apart from one candidate, who's interviews were rescheduled for health reasons, all interviews took place between the 15th and 20th March.

While the DLC report with the names of the 16 committee members and a complete set of 12 candidates was submitted to our District Director six weeks before May's District Council meeting, the decision was made to give candidates the option to update their bio summaries and photos, if they chose to do so.

A matter arose concerning a candidate the morning before the report was due to be published. This was resolved overnight and the original report, with the addition of the final updated candidates' summary bios and photos were emailed to our District Director. A reminder of the importance of the report being published that day was emailed again later that afternoon.

Nobody will ever fully appreciate the unending work District Directors do behind the scenes. The morning the report was due, our District Director attended the funeral of our much loved and respected Toastmaster, Allan Holloway. Our District Director drove straight back from the funeral to attend to an extremely urgent and tense Toastmasters matter which resulted in him returning home late that night. As a result, the report was published on the 10th of April, a few hours too late and is now unfortunately, invalid.

My apologies that my DLC report emailed by our Admin Manager was incorrect – it stated that as the DLC report was complete, no candidates would be standing from the floor. I fully appreciate how it happened, but as the DLC report had been given to our District Director six weeks previously and in addition, as our District Director was in receipt of the final updated summary biographies and photos before the deadline, I never anticipated the report would end up being invalid.

Please note that as a result, any qualified candidates who now wish to stand from the floor for any role may to submit their nominations and required paperwork to our District Director before the **30th of April 2022**.

Candidates' Showcase

Please come along to our online live Candidates' Showcase on the **6th of May at 4:30pm**. Meet our potential district leaders for the 2022-2023 Toastmasters year, before you have your voice heard and vote at the District Council meeting on the 7th of May.

Thank you

This is my final report as IPDD. It has been such a pleasure watching our district leaders grow this year, you have been an incredible team. I think that Stephen, Wendy, and James have made an outstanding trio. Thank you for your dedication and commitment through very different times.

To all my protégés, you know who you are, I am extremely proud of you, thank you!

The year is not over yet and I am often astounded by how much is completed in the last three months of every Toastmasters year. I will continue to eagerly monitor the Toastmasters International dashboard each morning. I will also **continue looking for suitable Area Directors** for next year – I encourage you to please help us identify and encourage our future leaders to take up the role of Area Director.

Enjoy your last few months and I hope that when you reflect in years to come, you will appreciate the learning opportunities this year represented and the contributions you have and will continue to make to Toastmasters.

Sharon Kerr-Phillips, DTM

Immediate Past District Director and District Leadership Chair

021 059 989 7