District Director nomination Murray Coutts, DTM

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

He has many years of Management roles in the Hotel industry (3, 4 & 5) star hotels. Then several management roles in the Private Education Industry. Then self-employed as a Training consultant, as well as a consultant to clubs and societies.

These are all people industries, outcome-orientated and dynamic environments.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Toastmasters: He wrote four District Success Plans—a D72 long-range plan.
He developed a strategic plan for an education company, which repositioned them.
He led the development of many club success plans.
What experience do you have in the area of finance?
Toastmasters: He had two terms as district Finance Manager and wrote and presented three District Budgets. He also presented the treasurer role at COT on multiple occasions. He also worked as the Finance Manager for a Private training Company and a significant Business association. He had also completed successful tenders for Government funding.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?
He was on the committee which developed the D112 Procedures when the District was newly chartered. Part of that process involved extensive discussions with the staff at WHQ. Since then, he has developed many subsequent changes to the District 112 Procedures. Outside of Toastmasters, he has consulted with several clubs and societies on their constitutions, bylaws and policies.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?
The key lesson learnt was to keep track of the details while constantly focusing on the big picture. Another lesson was always to have a Plan B.
Toastmasters is an organisation of volunteers, and for those in key roles, sometimes other things in their lives (family, employment, education etc.) will impact their time for Toastmasters. Sometimes this timing is predictable, and sometimes, unexpected crises arise. So he learnt to have a backup and be flexible and accommodating.

What are the District's mission's major objectives, and how would you work to achieve them?
The District Mission is about building new clubs and supporting existing clubs. We are an organisation of clubs. The role of the District is simple, to keep all the clubs in our District. But, above all else, the District must support every club in creating and maintaining a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.
He will send two letters about the approaches and innovations he is developing to support the clubs and the District.

Additional information:
Murray has achieved A Pathways DTM and 3 Traditional DTMs, and a District 72 Citation.
His roles in D112 include District Finance Manager, District Administration Manager, Parliamentarian, Division K Director, Club Support Chair, and Club Coach Chair
Murray is now retired, allowing him to devote his time to Toastmasters. Over the years, he has visited clubs in every D112 Division and understands the differences between different types of clubs ad how they fit into and reflect their communities.

District Director nomination James Hippolite, DTM

James is a Technical Lead of software developers on a large project, delivering automated parcel and packet sortation and delivery services. His day job involves mentoring junior developers, negotiating with testers and reporting to the product owner. On a good day, he gets to do some coding, which has been his consistent career since graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration, majoring in Information Systems, and minoring in Commercial Law and Computer Science. James speaks six languages: English, Spanish, French, Māori, C# and Visual Basic!

James' speaking career started as a Microsoft Certified Trainer, where he learned to read a room and present technical information as entertaining but professionally as possible. So when shoulder tapped to assist with chartering MCBC Toastmasters in 2015, James relished

the opportunity to channel his latent, thwarted, dramatic personality onto an unsuspecting audience. Thankfully, both parties seem to continue to enjoy this symbiotic relationship.

James' vision for his year as District Director is to utilise the strengths of the old with the promise of the new. The Māori proverb, "*He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!*" translates to "What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people!" Post covid, I wish District 112 to enjoy face-to-face opportunities at least once a month but still use online training when appropriate. Our strength is in our people and utilising the drive, energy and enthusiasm of DTM Candidates to provide many services which the New Zealand public is crying out for connection, education and relevance.

Program Quality Director nomination Richard Perkins, DTM

Club quality is the experience and input of every member from within the security and comfort of your club. Each of us has varied expertise and abilities. We approach challenges differently with the overarching goal of excellence at heart. The value of learning has not changed, but the quest for perfection, as quoted by Dr Harriet Braiker, who said, "Striving for excellence motivates you; striving for perfection is demoralising."

My primary goal is "not to attempt perfection today, but to seek improvement tomorrow". (Unknown).

With this in mind, I will bring a practical component to training to further enhance D112 to achieve success for one and all. These practical sessions are partially in place and can be for training modules such as Zoom, basecamp management, social media and quality contests. In addition, there may be more modules to consider, and I am open to your ideas for further development. My dream is to build D112 together, which is why the 2023 – 2024 year will be about us all being able to focus on enhancing the skill sets of all members whilst enjoying the camaraderie and personal growth that naturally evolves.

Holistically viewing the current status of our District, I acknowledge that the lack of membership is still our greatest challenge. Therefore, I encourage you as members to step outside of your comfort zone and participate in the offered district activities. Our home club is the first step in our personal development journey as valued members.

The more equipped we are as members, the more our excellence will stretch further. The members can quickly achieve this by participating in the extension programmes and experiencing the "Family" that Toastmasters is.

I am positive that we can achieve success together. Join me in this quest.

Team of toastmasters: The time to build together has come.

Club Growth Director Nomination Neville Isherwood, DTM

I have been a Toastmaster since 2006 and have achieved three DTMs while being Area Governor/Director on three occasions and Division Governor/Director on three occasions. During this time, I have chartered three community clubs, all of which are still solid, listening to the needs of clients and members.

I have been in customer service roles for my entire working life listening to the needs of clients and members. The member's needs are paramount to me.

I have a reasonable knowledge of budgeting and district finances, having been previously married to a three-time District 72 Treasurer

In my opinion, we need to focus on retaining our existing members and growing our struggling clubs. But first, we need to find out why members are leaving.

Club Growth Director Nomination Marlene Krone, DTM

I am standing for the role of Club Growth Director for 2023-2024.

My inspiration to take a leadership role in a voluntary organisation such as Toastmasters stems from an inherent force to help people succeed. When people succeed, our world becomes a better place.

My journey in Toastmasters spans 23 years, and in that time, I have served on the District as an area governor/director (2005 and 2022), division governor (2010), Public Relations Manager (2015 for D72) and Administration Manager (2021). I have also served in all the club officer roles of a club executive.

The desire to help people succeed was the motivation to take the Toastmasters programme to the Pacific community in South Auckland, where a toastmasters club did not exist. However, Pacific Toastmasters Club was chartered in 2015, and it continues to help people become effective communicators and leaders and make a difference in their lives.

I am an executive assistant serving in the manufacturing and legal industries and, currently, the education sector. I strongly support and practise the core values of Toastmasters International Respect, Integrity, Services and Excellence and my values of fairness, supportive and courageous.

My vision is to return our district membership to what it was prior to Covid, introducing more and more people to a learning system that makes a difference in people's lives – the Toastmasters Education System. There is also much to be done in the leadership track of the programme to empower members to lead confidently.

Division K Director Nomination Marcus Bristol, DTM

When I started Toastmasters in 2015, I joined the club committee as a VPPR. While this was unexpected, both for the timing and the role, as I have no marketing experience, I found the role very fulfilling and have been involved in club leadership ever since. I originally joined Toastmasters to improve my public speaking skills. Still, I found that by being involved in the committee, I was also, almost accidentally, enhancing my leadership skills which is why I've remained a member.

Over the last year, I've been the Area Director for area K5, which has given me more insight into how Toastmasters operates at a District level. I've found this beneficial for myself and my clubs as I've had more significant opportunities to support the clubs in my area. I've also enjoyed collaborating with the other areas in my Division, sharing advice and knowledge and helping each other to succeed.

If I can be a Division Director next year, my focus will be club stability and growth. I still see many clubs struggling, and with my club coaching experience, I feel I'd be in an excellent position to assist them. In addition, I'm encouraged by the renewed interest I've been seeing in Toastmasters over the last couple of months and would like to help turn this interest into real club growth.

Division L Director Nomination Elizabeth Viljoen

With immigration on the cards, Elizabeth Viljoen joined the Swakopmund Toastmasters club in October 2018 to improve her confidence and English speaking skills. Since then, she has served in many capacities on a club level, mostly VPPR, but also as Secretary, VPM, VPE, and President. From 2020 to 2021, she served as District 112 Public Relations Manager and is currently the Area Director for L4. She has also been a club sponsor and mentor. Currently, she is a member of five clubs and a club coach, organising a series of Speechcraft courses. She was awarded the Chrissy Meyer Award for District Toastmaster of the Year 2020-2021.

During her career, she obtained skills that may serve her well in a District leadership role, such as building and supporting communities, strategic planning, and research. Other valuable skills include public relations, copywriting, newsletter editing, storytelling to promote brands, supporting students to understand their educational material, donor care, and fundraising. However, the most vital skills learned for this role seem to be strategic planning (vision, stakeholder involvement, teamwork), finance (working with a budget), and developing procedures (training and empowering).

The District's mission is to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. She has always been committed to developing and empowering those around her. She believes everyone should ENJOY establishing goals, developing and executing plans, training club and district officers, budgeting resources such as time, people, materials, and money, and celebrating every achievement, big or small. Elizabeth feels that, in a volunteer organisation, there should be joy in everything done so that it won't feel like a heavy load.

Division M Director Nomination Howard Chaffey

Toastmasters have been part of my growth since Oct 1991. I started with Flying Start Toastmasters and never left this group of eclectic and interesting Toastmasters, many of whom have become valued friends. I am also a member of the Northern Impromptu Toastmasters club, a relatively new club that meets only online and once a month. When I first began with Flying Start, there were impromptu competitions, some day, I hope they return. In the meantime, Northern Impromptu helps me practice this skill.

Competitions have been an addictive part of the Toastmaster's journey for me, moderately successful, twice reaching the District level in different disciplines, I will keep trying, and maybe one day, more rewards will come. The last couple of years has seen significant change and disruption to how most of us live and have given me the opportunity to rethink my contribution to toastmasters. I have long been an advocate for a coaching approach to leadership. Serving on the District leadership team will enable me to continue learning and help others grow and succeed in their leadership journeys.

Outside of Toastmasters, sports, travel, and family occupy our time; the more, the better. Our addictions to fresh air and dramatic landscapes are well suited to cycling, hiking and travelling. We are fortunate to live in Glendowie and are challenged by an exuberant German Shorthaired Pointer.

Division N Director Nomination withdrawn

Division O Director Nomination Mark Tweedale

I have been a Toastmaster since February 2012. I originally joined to increase my confidence in speaking in front of groups. I have enhanced and grown skills that I neither planned on developing nor knew there that much value. Speaking or presenting a topic to a group is one prominent enhancement area. Still, I prefer the evaluation side as you can provide constructive feedback and direction for other members to improve their presentations without being unnecessarily negative or harsh. This helped improve my communication at my job. The skills I developed gradually for me but more pronounced from a work perspective allowed me advancement in the company, where I gained a significant salary increase. There have been not only advantages for me in my career but also in my personal life. I had the opportunity to speak at my best mate's mother's funeral, unprepared, as he was overwhelmed with grief. I also spoke at my sister's wedding and gave the best man's speech at my best mate's wedding - none of which I would not have had the confidence to do without the skills learnt at Toastmasters.

As for why I am applying for this position, the outgoing Area Director suggested undertaking the Area director role a year ago. The District leadership role is on the road to my DTM. I feel I have grown my leadership skills due to the encouragement of my Division Director and the challenging activities and duties that are part of the role. Although the box is now being ticked, I'd like to pay it forward and help the next wave of Area directors by encouraging/guiding them and sharing my experiences of what was helpful to me through these challenges. After my stint as Area Director, I see there is more to help clubs and members develop and feel there is great benefit in inter-club relationships. It has been a tough year in Toastmasters and, generally, with follow on from Global and National challenges. I also feel the year ahead will not be easy, and I would like to be more involved to ease the stretch that clubs and members may feel in the period ahead.

Division P Director Nomination Clarence Tong

Let me introduce myself, my name is Clarence Tong, and I have been nominated for Division P Director. I have been doing toastmasters for five years and have achieved so much during my time at Toastmasters.

My main club is Toast of Broadway at Area M2 in the Parnell/Newmarket. I have been part of the committee for the club, which includes roles such as sergeant of arms, Secretary, and Club President. Also, last year I was Area Director for M2. However, my most significant achievement in toastmasters would be gaining my first ever "Triple Crown" in 2022. This is an excellent achievement, as completing a Pathway Path is a great accomplishment.

Outside of toastmasters, my trade of work is being a chiropractor. I have been running my business for nearly eight years. My other hobbies in life are Olympic weightlifting, which I have been doing for almost five years. Recently, I competed in the Masters World Cup at the beginning of March. This was the first time that I represented New Zealand in anything. In my spare time, I also enjoy playing Indoor Cricket.

Why did I accept the nomination for Division director P? My biggest thing in 2023 is leadership and learning to work with people and make people better.

Division Q Director No Nomination

Division R Director No Nomination