

REPORT TO DEC FROM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2025

A very successful conference Celebrating 100 Years of Toastmasters with our whakatauki of Ka Mua Ka Muri (looking back to inform the future) was held on the weekend of 16-19 May 2025 at the Millennium Hotel in Rotorua.

Over the whole weekend we had 215 attendees, some who came for the whole weekend, some who came for one day and others who attended parts to support friends or family members in contests or came to the dine and dance.

Over the three days we had the DEC / DOC, candidates showcase, a district council meeting, two keynote speakers, three workshops, four contests, a dine and dance party and a comedy hypnotist. We also had awards to present and prizes to give away.

Funding was received from Rotorua Trust who gave \$8,550 towards printing, design and bags, giving us the ability to do something a little special for each attendee. A report is to go back to them showing how the monies were spent, showing income and expenses for the whole conference.

As people arrived at the venue they were presented with a laptop bag with the Toastmasters 100 Year logo and the Rotorua Trust logo. Those who had registered for the whole weekend were also presented with a 100 year pin. Each bag included pad, pen, sweets and the programme plus local information on what to do and see. Each delegate also received a swing tag with the agenda on one side, highlighting what they were attending, their name, clubs and Toastmasters number on the front. Different coloured lanyards were used for different attendees – green for first timers, spectators were given yellow and full delegates given black. Trio wore red and the conference committee had special committee ones and wore red hats so they could stand out in the crowd to answer questions and assist as needed. A beautiful ribbon was presented to each club with the 100 year logo on it.

As an extra to the standard registration, attendees could order lunches and Friday night comedy and Saturday night dine and dance tickets.

Feedback during the conference and on our emailed feedback form (44 answers only) was very positive about the overall conference. There was however a lot of disappointment in the food for those with dietary requirements. The hotel had been made aware of all people that had specialist requirements and I am disappointed that they were not catered to in the fashion I would have expected. I have advised my disappointment to the Hotel.

Other feedback was around the sound system and contests which the trio already have in their sights.

Attendees loved the reception they received at our registration desk and their gifts. They enjoyed the theming where they could take pictures. Lovely feedback on both our keynote speakers and our workshops. Enjoyable contests, well run. Happy with how well the district council meeting went. The highlight for many was the dine and dance with the live music and the ability to network with people they hadn't met before and others they hadn't seen for some time.

The committee enjoyed the challenge of running this conference and wish future conference committees all the very best.

A breakdown of income and expenses will follow.

Regards

Jennie Perkins DTM

2025 D112 Conference Chair