

Brisbane Division Report for District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting 9 February 2025

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The Brisbane Division is thriving with ongoing efforts from our dedicated Area Directors and club officers to boost membership, strengthen club health, and drive growth. In our latest team discussions, we focused on reflecting on the last 7 months, 2nd round of Club Officer Training (COT), member retention and club growth, and geared up for the Area 17 conference and Brisbane Division conference.

Key Updates:

Club Growth: Brisbane Division is making history with the formation of **FICQ Toastmasters Club**, a new club under the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ). The club was officially announced on 26th January during the **Australia Day/India Day** celebrations, with prominent politicians in attendance. With 20 committed members ready to go, the club will soon be submitting its charter application, with an inaugural meeting planned for March/April 2025. This marks another milestone in Brisbane Division's legacy of growth!

Brisbane Division conference: Mark your calendars! The Brisbane Division Conference will be held on Saturday, 15th March 2025, from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the Queensland Parliament. Our team is hard at work curating an exceptional event filled with learning, inspiration, and celebration. Stay tuned for more details!

Club Health & Membership: With 27 clubs - the highest in District 69, Brisbane Division is committed to ensuring club success. Our top priority is for every club to have at least 8 members and remain in good standing as we approach the March 31st membership renewal deadline. Area Directors are leading the charge, supporting clubs with retention and recruitment strategies.

Currently, **two clubs have fewer than 8 members**, and we are actively working with them to regain their good standing. Additionally, clubs with **fewer than 12 members** are encouraged to onboard a **Club Coach** to help rebuild their membership and set them up for long-term success.

Area Directors' Insights:

Wayne (Area 5 Director)

- Successfully hosted the **Area 5 Conference on 30th November**.
- Conducting **2nd round of club visits in February and March**.
- Encouraging club officers to attend the second round of COT.
- Working with me and the District Club Growth Director to support **Red River Toastmasters**, which is currently facing financial and administrative challenges.

Ariel (Area 15 Director)

- Led the way by hosting the **first Area Conference of Brisbane Division on 12th October** at the Polish Club.
- Conducting **2nd round of club visits** and advocating for COT attendance.
- Actively supporting clubs to ensure they finish the year strong.

Francis (Area 17 Director)

- Overcoming health challenges and back in action!
- Hosting the **Area 17 Conference on Saturday, 15th February** at the **Century Room, The Pavilions, Allan Border Field, Albion.**
- With the support of Brisbane Division Club Growth Director, Zach, and myself, he is resuming club visits and providing strategic guidance to clubs.

Yves (Area 21 Director)

- Successfully hosted **Area 21 Conference on 9th November** at **Eleven Bridges Distillery.**
- Conducting **2nd round of club visits from January to March.**
- Ensuring **all clubs in Area 21 remain in good standing**, including All PETS Toastmasters which has fewer than 8 members.

Jessie (Area 25 Director)

- Successfully hosted the **Area 25 Conference on 2nd November** at **74 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill.**
- Scheduled **2nd round of club visits in February and March.**

Club Officer Training (COT) Success:

The first round of **COT** was a resounding success with record-breaking attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback. We even welcomed Toastmasters from District 70 and 66! Now, clubs are looking forward to the **second round of COT in February**, ensuring they are equipped with the best tools to lead their clubs to success. **Stronger training leads to stronger clubs, and Brisbane Division is setting the gold standard!**

Upcoming Area Contests & Conferences:

The Brisbane Division Team is in full swing, preparing for their upcoming contests and sending out “Save the Date” notifications. These contests are an incredible opportunity for members to showcase their skills and grow through friendly competition.

Key Dates:

- **Area 17 Conference:** Saturday, February 15th, 8:30 am - 3 pm, Location Century Room at The Pavillions, Allan Border Field, Albion.
- **Brisbane Division Conference:** Saturday, March 15th, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, at the Queensland Parliament.

Club Membership Retention:

With the March 31st renewal deadline fast approaching, Area Directors are proactively working with clubs to start the renewal process early. The goal?

- ✓ Every club maintains at least 8 members in good standing.
- ✓ Clubs with membership challenges receive targeted support (like getting them to participate at the Showcase Sprint, helping them to get a club coach) to rebuild and thrive.

Next Steps:

- **Continue supporting early membership renewals** and offering strategic guidance to struggling clubs.
- With the **Area 17 Conference** details now published on the District 69 website, Francis and I are actively promoting the event and encouraging strong participation from clubs in Area 17.
- **Launch the promotional campaign for the Brisbane Division Conference**—flyers are in the works!

We are confident that with these continued efforts, the Brisbane Division will empower our clubs, grow membership, and ensure every club thrives. Let's keep the energy high, ensure every club thrives and let's finish the year strong.

 **All aboard the 'Distinguished' bus!** 