



DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT FOR WESTERN DIVISION FEBRUARY 2025

Directors Name: John Bushell

Overview

Western Division comprises 21 clubs in four areas with 277 members at 6th February 2025. One club – Morning Talkers Toastmasters Club located in Ipswich - is not in good standing having only five members. All other clubs in the division attained a membership complement of eight or more members, but 11 of the remaining 20 clubs have 12 or fewer members.

While club membership of 12 or fewer members is considered precarious in Toastmasters terms, many of those clubs that are located in smaller towns operate as vibrant clubs with the membership they enjoy. Nevertheless, those clubs are endeavouring to attract members to remain viable in the face of an aging demographic.

Area Director Club Visits

All clubs were visited and reported on in the first period. Area directors are currently conducting their second round of club visits.

Conferences and Contests

All area conferences have been held with the division conference planned on 1st March 2025. Preparations for the division conference to be held in Toowoomba hosted by the Compass Toastmasters Club are progressing satisfactorily.

Leadership Succession

The planned succession of an area director to the role of division director has become problematical because of the illness of the aspiring candidate. A new candidate for that role is being sought. Candidates for area director roles are coming forward so that a full complement of leaders at this level is expected to be ready before the end of the current year. Clubs within the division are selecting candidates for club leader roles and all roles will be filled.

Distinguished Club Program

Three clubs are assured of achieving distinguished status at present, but concentration on gaining education and training goals in the remaining months of the year will see an outcome comparable to that achieved in 2023/24.

Prospects for Membership Renewals

Renewal by 1st April 2025 presents a challenge due to the low exchange rate of the Australian dollar to the US dollar requiring an increase in fees expressed in Australian currency. The higher cost of renewal in the cost-of-living circumstances could see some members of multiple clubs reducing their membership commitments.