

Brisbane Division Report for District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting 6 April 2025

Shubhangi Chatterjee, Brisbane Division Director



www.toastmasters.org

The Brisbane Division continues to thrive, thanks to the tireless efforts of our committed Area Directors and Club Officers. Our team remains focused on boosting membership, strengthening club health, and driving growth across the Division. In our recent discussions, we reflected on the achievements of the past nine months, and made strategic plans for member retention, club growth, and DCP goals and finishing the year strong.

Key Updates:

Club Growth

We're making history! The **FICQ Toastmasters Club**—formed under the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland—was officially announced on 26 January during the Australia Day/India Day celebrations, attended by distinguished politicians. The club, with 17 enthusiastic charter members, celebrated its **inaugural celebration event** on **3 April 2025**, with high-profile guests including:

- Hon. Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Senator Paul Scarr, Shadow Assistant Minister for Multicultural Engagement
- Dr. Preethi Suraj, FICQ President and Charter Member
- Toastmasters District 69 and Brisbane Division Leaders including Lou Cervetto (District Director), Alex Smith (Club Growth Director), and others.

The **Charter Meeting** is scheduled for **7 April 2025, 6:30–8:00 PM at the Red Cross Building in Milton**. This is a significant milestone in the Brisbane Division's legacy of growth.

We're also in exciting conversations with **Faysel Ahmed Selat**, President of the **Queensland African Communities Council (QACC)**, to form another multicultural club in the Division. These efforts, alongside engagement with university and international students, show promising opportunities for more clubs on the horizon.

Brisbane Division Conference


The **Brisbane Division Conference** held on **15 March 2025** at Queensland Parliament was a resounding success with around 100 members in attendance. The event featured inspiring speeches, vibrant contests, and celebrated our Division's achievements.

Our contest winners moving forward to represent Brisbane at the District 69 Conference (3–4 May, Gold Coast) are:

- **Alexandra Price** – Humorous Speech
- **Robert Green** – Evaluation & Table Topics
- **Graham Cairns** – International Speech

I'll be proudly cheering them on at the District Conference!

We also launched the **Brisbane Division Rewards and Recognition Program** to honour members who went above and beyond:

 **Area Director of the Year** – Wayne Taylor (Area 5 Director)

 **Toastmaster of the Year** – Zach Davis-Hancock

 **Shining Star Award recipients** – Congratulations to all!

Club Health & Membership

Post-April renewals, **23 clubs are in good standing**. We're actively working with four clubs currently below the eight-member threshold to help them bounce back:

- **A P I Brisbane Club and bToasty Brisbane** are receiving focused support.
- **Brisbane Pride Toastmasters** is rebranding to **Pride Leaders Toastmasters** and will host a demo meeting in April to reignite interest and rebuild membership.
- **Red River Toastmasters** has submitted renewals on time and is awaiting final processing to regain good standing.

We are encouraging all clubs with fewer than 12 members to take on a Club Coach to support their revitalization journey.

Unfortunately, **All PETS Toastmasters Club** will be suspended due to low membership over two consecutive periods. We're hopeful about revisiting this idea of a pet-focused club in the future. Thanks to everyone who supported this initiative.

Area Directors' Insights:

Wayne (Area 5 Director)

- Conducting **2nd round of club visits in February, March and April**.
- Supporting Red River and API Brisbane clubs to regain good standing.
- Promoting DCP progress and timely educational award submissions.

Ariel (Area 15 Director)

- Focused on 2nd-round visits and DCP support.
- Working with **bToasty Brisbane** to help restore club standing and engagement.

Francis (Area 17 Director)

- Back in action after overcoming health challenges!
- With support from myself and Zach (Club Growth), Francis resumed club visits and strategic planning.
- A special highlight: a collaborative meeting with Urban Utilities, including Past International President Gavin Blakey and new CIO Shane Morgan, helped reinvigorate the club—resulting in 15 new members and a bright future ahead.

Yves (Area 21 Director)

- Conducting 2nd-round visits **in February, March and April.**
- Despite the All PETS club closure, the **charter of FICQ Toastmasters** ensures Area 21 maintains its club count.
- Ongoing support to help clubs achieve DCP goals.

Jessie (Area 25 Director)

- Conducting **2nd round of club visits in February to April.**
- All clubs in Area 25 continue to remain in good standing. The clubs personally reached out to me, including the ones with late renewals and confirmed their good standing status.

Membership Retention & Strategic Focus


Following April renewals, our Area Directors are actively assisting clubs by:

- ✓ Ensuring every club maintains at least 8 members
- ✓ Providing targeted support to clubs needing help (e.g. club coaches, demonstration meetings)

Next Steps:

- **DCP Goals:** Strategic Division-wide focus on achieving Distinguished Club Program goals with tailored support.
- **District 69 Conference:** Brisbane Division will shine bright on the District stage, and I look forward to personally supporting our champions in Gold Coast.

Let's keep the momentum going, empower every club, and finish the year strong.

 All aboard the 'Distinguished' bus! Let's drive our clubs to success together!
