

# SOUTHERN CROSS

NEWSLETTER OF **TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL** DISTRICT 73

HISTORY OF **DISTRICT 73**



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL  
**DISTRICT 73**

VICTORIA  
CLUBS IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATES OF  
TASMANIA



[www.d73.toastmasters.org.au](http://www.d73.toastmasters.org.au)



**SOUTHERN CROSS**

Newsletter of Toastmasters  
International District 73

History of District 73

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The year was 1954, it was two years before television and the Olympics Games arrived in Australia, but Toastmasters arrived in the country when a club called Melbourne was formed at the Hotel Federal (pictured below), which was at 555-589 Collins Street Melbourne. The arrival of the new club was announced in the New Clubs column in The Toastmaster magazine of June 1954, (as seen above). What happened to the club isn't know, but the current Melbourne Toastmasters was chartered in 1962.



The oldest continually chartered club in District 73 is Limestone Coast Toastmasters, formerly known as Naracoorte, in country South Australia, forming in December 1961.

It was formed after group of people from Naracoorte read an article in an edition of the Reader's Digest titled "Unaccustomed as I am" about Toastmasters.

Communication between the group and Toastmasters International resulted in Limestone Coast being formed. Launceston is also said to have resulted from this article when it formed in January 1962. The growth in the number of clubs in Australia prompted Toastmasters International to grant Australia Territorial status in January 1963. Another club, Hobart, was formed in September 1963.



In 1964 the International President of Toastmasters, Alex P. Smekta, above, visited Australia with his wife. During their time here they visited clubs at Naracoorte and Launceston, was interviewed on TV and radio and by the press, and received at a civic reception in Melbourne. Before they attended the Territorial Council of Australia Conference, they were guests of honour at a

dinner with State and Federal politicians and leaders of industry. In the three years following the International President's visit five clubs were formed. They were Devonport in 1965, Port Phillip and Legal and General in 1966 and Van Diemen and Mount Gambier in 1967.

In July 1971 two new Toastmasters Districts were formed in Australia. District 69 included all clubs in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Northern New South Wales. District 70 included the rest of the clubs in Australia, including Yarra Valley and St. James that were formed this year. St. James became Box Hill Toastmasters and Yarra Valley has become Croydon-Yarra Valley.

Four clubs were formed in the area now know as District 73 during 1973. These clubs were Diamond Valley in April, Whitehorse in July, Adelaide in November and Frankston in December. Similar growth was achieved in 1974 with three clubs being established. Clayton RSL (which became The Oaks and now Chadstone Oaks) chartered in April, Essendon in July and Banyandah in August.

History was made in 1975 when Piers Foa from (Croydon) Yarra Valley was elected to the position of District Governor of District 70, the only person outside New South Wales to ever do so.



*Above: Piers Foa, District Governor of District 70 in 1975-1976 and only Victorian to be District Governor of District 70*

However, Piers will be remembered as the man behind the forming of District 73. Piers had the idea for a new district around 1974. One of the reasons was the expense of travelling to and from NSW, which he had as a District Executive member.

There was only 15 clubs in the District 73 area in 1974, below the requirement of 30 by Toastmasters International. After failing to obtain some clubs from Southern NSW and the ACT, he set about a big drive to create new clubs.

After some persistence by Piers, the requirement was reduced to 25. By the time of the 1976 District 70 Annual Convention, at which Piers was District Governor, there were 23 clubs. World President George Scott was in attendance at the convention. The only reason George announced that District 73 was formed was because of documents prepared by Piers that two clubs were in formation. George was heard to describe Piers as being "extremely persistent" and would go to exceptional lengths to make his dream come true.

It did when District 73 started on July 1st 1976, the start of the 1976/77 Toastmasters year. The clubs in the states of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania had become Australia's third Toastmasters District.



## DISTRICT 73

### 1976 – 1977 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Ray Scott**  
Frankston

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**Toastmaster**  
**Of The Year**  
**(TMOTY)**

**Ray Maino** Yarra Valley  
**David Murfett** Devonport  
**Jos Bernedes** Banyandah  
**Don Jones** Yarra Valley

The honour of being the first District Governor of District 73 went to Ray Scott from Frankston Toastmasters. Ray was the Lieutenant Governor of the Southern States Division of District 70 for 1975/76. He first started with Toastmasters in 1966 in England. When Ray immigrated to Australia in 1970 he joined a Toastmasters club here after four days. During the District's first year, 1976/77, four clubs were formed. These were Bayside, Blue Mendi, North Adelaide and Talkabout.

### 1977 – 1978 Toastmaster Year

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

District Governor:  
**Ron Ellis**  
Ringwood  
**Tony Jessop** Whitehorse  
**Dennis Finn** Mt Gambier  
**Rick King** North Adelaide  
**Ray Scott** Frankston

A drought of new clubs lasted nearly two years. This covered the term of the second District Governor Ron Ellis of Ringwood, who

had been Toastmasters Territorial Council of Australia President in 1969/70.

### 1978 – 1979 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Tony Jessop**  
Whitehorse

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**Len Hooper** Whitehorse  
**Tony Wright** Yarra Valley  
**Bill Johnson** Devonport  
**Chris Hone** Adelaide

The District's third District Governor was Tony Jessop from Whitehorse. During his term Ballarat was chartered.

### 1979 – 1980 Toastmaster Year

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

District Governor:  
**Len Hooper**  
Whitehorse  
**Tony Wright** Yarra Valley  
**Mary Scott** Frankston  
**Susan Dwyer**  
North Adelaide  
**Bob Jones** Whitehorse

Len Hooper, also from Whitehorse, went on to become District Governor in 1979/80. During Len's term three clubs were formed. They were B'nai B'rith, Sunbury and ANL.

**1980 – 1981 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Tony Wright**  
Yarra Valley

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**Mary Scott** Frankston  
**John Dutton** Essendon  
**Derek Mandy** Whitehorse  
**Margaret Little**  
Diamond Valley

Tony Wright was elected to the position of District Governor for 1980/81. Valewood and Guide Dogs (now Kew) would both chartered during Tony's year. Tony's year was cut short when he was transferred to Sydney before the end of his term. The then Lieutenant Governor Education and Training, Mary Scott completed Tony's year.

**1981 – 1982 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Mary Scott**  
Frankston

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**John Dutton** Essendon  
**Tony Gelme**  
Diamond Valley  
**Margaret Croser** Adelaide  
**John Dutton** Essendon

Mary Scott, the wife of the District's first Governor Ray Scott, became the District's first female District Governor in 1981/82. Mary initially came to Toastmasters in 1977 when Mentone (now Sandbelt) required some more members to become chartered. Mary only came along just to boost numbers

and wasn't really interested in doing a table topics speech. However, after doing one better than expected she decided to become involved in Toastmasters. Clubs chartering in Mary's year included PW Melbourne, Lilydale and Mornington

**1982 – 1983 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**John Dutton**  
Essendon

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**Ray Thatcher** Knox  
**Piers Foa** Yarra Valley  
**David Evans** Mt Gambier  
**Jeannie Chapman**  
Banyandah  
35 (1 new)  
26 CTMs and 5 ATMs  
Naracoorte SA  
Travelodge,  
Tullamarine VIC

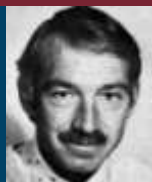
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**  
**Annual Conv.**

The Toastmaster of the Year for the previous year became the District Governor for 1982-83 when John Dutton became District Governor. After four clubs were formed under the Governorship of Mary Scott the chartering of new club's slowed in 1982/83. Hawthorn was the only new club to charter this year.



Southern Cross April 1983

## 1983 – 1984 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Ray Thatcher**  
Knox

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Jeannie Chapman**  
Glen Waverley  
**Andrew Bolotin** The Oaks  
**Hymie Zawatsky**  
B'nai B'rith  
**Tony Levy** B'nai B'rith  
39 (5 new)  
36 CTMs and 6 ATMs  
Sheraton,  
Spencer St, Melbourne

Ray was perhaps the first senior Toastmaster to recognise the vital importance of working towards Distinguished District status by taking a planned approach. Because District 73 had grown at such a derisory rate in its early years, our very survival as a District was in serious doubt when Ray took office in July 1983. Accordingly, Ray made club extension the centrepiece of the many watershed changes that occurred in his year. Ray can also fairly be credited with bringing the 'interstate clubs' into a true partnership with Melbourne interests, one of the major drivers of District success over the next 20 years. The truest measures of Ray's influence are that we now regard being a Distinguished District as commonplace and we have become a truly unified District.

Five clubs chartered in Ray's term including National Australia Bank and Gourmet.

## 1984 – 1985 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Jeannie Chapman**  
Glen Waverley

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Andrew Bolotin** The Oaks  
**Jim Pearce**  
National Australia Bank  
**Phillip Bate** Gourmet  
**Jane Walker** Banyandah  
46 (7 new)  
92 CTMs and 10 ATMs  
Sheraton,  
Spencer St, Melbourne

Jeannie Chapman became the second female to be District Governor of District 73 in 1984/85, with Mary Scott being first.

The success in chartering the of new club didn't continued on from Ray's year into Jeannie's year, it improved when seven clubs were chartered in 1984/85. Some of these clubs were AGC House, City Centre, Alfred, Myer Doncaster and Fremantle.

Also during this Toastmasters year District 73 became a true Toastmasters District when it lost its Provisional District Status, and went from being District 73P to District 73. Today a district needs 45 clubs with 20 members to become a Provisional District and needs 60 clubs with 20 members to become a true Toastmasters District.

**1985 – 1986 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Andrew Bolotin**  
The Oaks

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Jim Pearce**  
National Australia Bank  
**John Marshall** Melbourne  
**David Nottage** Mt Gambier  
**Chris Robinson** Lilydale  
52 (6 new)  
93 CTMs and 10 ATMs  
Windsor Hotel, Melbourne

The District Governor for the District's tenth year was Andrew Bolotin. During this year six clubs were chartered including PW Perth, Hobart and Myer Dandenong, and the rechartering of St James AMP that has since gone on to be Box Hill.

**1986 – 1987 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Jim Pearce**  
National Australia Bank

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Ian Roissetter** Cranbourne  
**Jayant Bapat** Whitehorse  
**Roger McMillan**  
City of Perth  
**Mary Macdermid** The Oaks  
49 (2 new)  
63 CTMs and 7 ATMs  
Perth

The second decade of District 73 started with Jim Pearce from the National Australia Bank club being elected to the position of District Governor. During Jim's year, which was 1986/87, saw two clubs chartered. These were St. George and City of Perth.

**1987 – 1988 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Ian Roissetter**  
Cranbourne

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Josephine Ward** Essendon  
**Richard Bennett**  
City Centre  
**Glen Morgan** Western Div  
**Craig Rees**  
Myer Melbourne  
63 (8 new)  
90 CTMs and 12 ATMs  
Hall of Residence  
Monash University  
Ballarat

During Ian's year as District Governor he saw his own home club of Cranbourne charter. Other clubs that chartered in this year that are still around are Western (Werribee), Moorabbin Saints and Festival City.

**1988 – 1989 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Josephine Ward**  
Essendon

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**

**Richard Bennett**  
City Centre  
**Charlie Holden** Knox  
**John Capel** Bayside  
**Jim Pearce** Gourmet  
63 (8 new)  
90 CTMs and 12 ATMs

District 73 undertook a "Youth Policy" when it elected its, and quite possibly the world's, youngest District Governor. Josephine Ward from Essendon was the District Governor. Josephine's year saw an incredible eight clubs charter within the District.



These were; Westpac 360, Monash, City of Glenorchy, Hollywood, Southern Cross, Sunrise and Platform Speakers. Diamond Valley split to form another club, Nillumbik.

**1989 – 1990 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Richard Bennett**  
City Centre

**LGET  
LGM**

**International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY**

**Clubs  
Awards  
Annual Conv.**

**Charlie Holden** Knox  
**Jane Walker**  
South Perth Sayers  
**Graham Corry** Banyandah  
**Jill Klimpton**  
Moorabbin Saints  
*66 (3 new),*  
*96 CTMs and 14 ATMs*  
City Conference Centre,  
Flinders St Melbourne

Richard Bennett, a member of City Centre, guided out of the 1980's and into the 1990's the District. Three new clubs charter during 1989/90 including ANZ Talk of the Town and Westpac Eastern.

**1990 – 1991 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Charlie Holden**  
Knox

**LGET  
LGM**

**International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY**

**Clubs  
Awards  
Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

**Les Ager** Bayside  
**Heather Kay** Railroader  
**Angie Muirhead**  
Platform Speakers  
**Norma Dart**  
Platform Speakers  
*68 (3 new),*  
*99 CTMs and 24 ATMs,*  
Princeton Convention Ctr,  
Sale  
Karralyka Centre, Ringwood

Charlie Holden, a long time member of Knox, was elected to the position of District Governor. Charlie's year saw four clubs charter, Eastern Shore, Talk of the Town, Swan and Champion. During this year 99 CTMs, 24 ATMs and 610 new members were registered.

**1991 – 1992 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Les Ager**  
Bayside

**LGET  
LGM  
International  
Speech Contest**

**TMOTY  
Clubs  
Awards  
Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

**Eamonn Moran** Kew  
**Rita Danko** BHP  
**Roger McMillan**  
St Georges  
**Jim Dinan** Glen Waverley  
*78 (10 new),*  
*141 CTMs and 25 ATMs*  
Dorest Gardens Hotel,  
Croydon  
Westside Hotel, Hobart

During Les Ager's year as District Governor he was Les was instrumental in focussing on the need for growth and discussed with the senior Executive and the Long Range Planning Committee how to achieve it. District 73's World Ranking dramatically rose this year, from 65th to ninth.



Southern Cross April 1991

**1992 – 1993 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Eammon Moran**  
Kew

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Edmund Breen**  
ANZ Talk of the Town  
**Jim Dinan** Glen Waverley  
**Megan Patrick-Rolf**  
North Adelaide  
**Yvonne Cowling** Knox  
89 (11 new),  
158 CTMs and 42 ATMs  
Beverly Crest Hotel,  
St.Kilda  
Box Hill TAFE  
Convention Centre

Eammon Moran from Kew firmly took hold of the reins when he became District Governor. He was determined that the District would build on the growth that had occurred during Les' year.

One of the things done during this year was to increase the number of educational awards registered. This was partly done by running a contest to find the oldest unregistered CTM, which was won by Norman Johnson from Melbourne who had completed his CTM seven years previously.

District 73's World Ranking this year was the highest it had ever reached, reaching number two in the world. This was the highest the District has ever been placed and was the second time it was a President's Distinguished District.

**1993 – 1994 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Edmund Breen**  
ANZ Talk of the Town

**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**  
**Annual Conv.**

**Jim Dinan** Glen Waverley  
**Jill Kimpton**  
Moorabbin Saints  
**Sally Yarrow** B'nai B'rith  
**Les Ager** Bayside  
103 (14 new),  
180 CTMs and 24 ATMs  
Tower Motel, Kalgoorlie  
Ramada Grand Hotel,  
Glenelg

Edmund Breen had a big act to follow.

Edmund's year as District Governor saw a number of achievements records set, in particular CTMs registered and new clubs formed. This completed three consecutive years of significant growth for the District.

The District's world ranking for this year was down just, from two to three.



Southern Cross April 1993

## 1994 – 1995 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Jim Dinan**  
Glen Waverley

**District  
Theme**

The Team – Caring &  
Sharing

**LGET**

**Jill Kimpton**

**LGM**

Moorabbin Saints

**International  
Speech Contest**

**Danny Owen** Werribee

**TMOTY**

**Roger McMillan**

St Georges

**Clubs**

**Trevor Wing-Quay**

National Australia Bank

**Awards**

111 (8 new),

**Annual Conv.**

202 CTMs and 34 ATMs  
Ballarat

Following on from three years of significant growth is a tough job. The two years previous the District had finished second and third in the world. The man who took up this challenge was Jim Dinan. Big Jim, as he was more commonly known, didn't want to just equal the achievements of his predecessors; he wanted to improve on them. He wanted to take District 73 to the Number One position in the world.

Jim built a special kind of camaraderie around him. This was created by his dedication and great enthusiasm to Toastmasters. This was spread to those that meet Jim. Even with the efforts of Jim, the District failed to reach his lofty targets. However, the District achieved a new high in the number of CTMs registered, ATMs registered and equalled the previous years total of new members.

## 1995 – 1996 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Jill Kimpton**  
Moorabbin Saints

**District  
Theme**

Share the Experience

**LGET**

**Danny Owen** Werribee

**LGM**

**Yvonne Cowling** Knox

**International  
Speech Contest**

**Jocelyn Matrenza** Knox

**TMOTY**

**Jo Marshall** Swan

**Clubs**

107 (4 new),

**Awards**

173 CTMs and 38 ATMs

**Annual Con.**

Frankston

When Jill Kimpton took over as District Governor for 1995/6 she saw it as a year to consolidate on the growth of the four previous years. However, memberships were down in particular due business reasons in corporate clubs.

During this year the District received visits from the then International Director for Toastmasters International Gavin Blakey, the 1994 World Champion of Public Speaking Dr Morgan McArthur and future District Communicator of the Year Award recipient Campbell McComas at the Annual Convention.



Southern Cross October 1994

**1996 – 1997 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Danny Owen**  
Werribee

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**

20 Years – Promoting  
People’s Potential  
**Yvonne Cowling** Knox  
**Julie Cody** Lilydale  
**Kate Cooper**  
Glen Waverley  
**Charlie Holden** Knox  
102 (3 new),  
195 CTMs and 38 ATMs  
Lilydale International

Danny Owen took over as District Governor for the 1996/7 Toastmasters year. During this year growth occurred in different ways than usual.

This year saw some events being run by Division Governors that stimulated additional communication and leadership opportunities for many members. An Education and Training committee was setup and a Toastmasters Showcase was held. Other achievements included the putting together of a Victorian Debating Contest for clubs to participate in and the computerisation of the membership procedures and supplies.



Southern Cross July 1996

**1997 – 1998 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Julie Cody**  
Lilydale

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**  
**Annual Conv.**

Co-operation makes it happen!  
**Dick Briggs** Valewood  
**Tom Boon** Williamstown  
**John Spinella** Box Hill  
**Edmund Breen** Hobart  
107 (5 new),  
209 CTMs and 98 ATMs  
Tullamarine  
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart

For the second time in the District’s history the previous years Lieutenant Governor Education and Training didn’t become the new District Governor. Yvonne Cowling’s new job meant it was impossible to be District Governor. So Julie Cody became the District Governor.

She was an inspiration to all through her commitment, patience and leadership. This inspiration could also have been the reason for the District achieving a record number of ATMs registered in a year to that time. From 38 ATMs registered in the previous year, this increased by 60 ATMs to reach 98 ATMs. This was one of the main reasons for the District 73 climbing the World Rankings again, from 38 to 13.

The theme for Julie’s year was “Co-operation makes it happen!” She chose this because she believed that there was a need to foster that spirit of teamwork, fun and friendship.

## 1998 – 1999 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Dick Briggs**  
Valewood

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**  
International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

Education + Fun =  
Fulfilment. It's the  
Toastmasters way  
**Tom Boon** Williamstown  
**Kevin Siu** Valewood  
**Ed Daly** Ballarat  
**Brenton Chappell**  
Quintessence  
118 (11 new),  
220 CTMs and 87 ATMs  
York on Lilydale Mt Evelyn

As it called him on the caricature of him, "Mr Toastmaster" Dick Briggs became the District Governor for 1998/1999.

Dick increased the number of District Officers and Co-ordinators that the District had.

These position included Assistant Bulletin Editor, District Sergeant-At-Arms, District Database Officer and District Webmaster. The introduction of the role of Webmaster was the Districts first major push into the new mode of communication and marketing in the Internet. Clubs were encouraged to make a presence on the web with their own site. The District's website received praise from many Toastmasters from overseas.

The theme for Dick's year was "Education + Fun = Fulfilment. It's the Toastmasters way." This was designed to take us back to the grass roots of what Toastmasters is all about and to set goals for the upcoming year. The

District continued its climb back up the World Rankings this year, climbing three places to be ranked 10<sup>th</sup> and was Select Distinguished.

## 1999 – 2000 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Tom Boon**  
Williamstown

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**

International  
Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

**Clubs**  
**Awards**  
**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

Take the next step  
**Kevin Siu** Valewood  
**Judith Talanoa**  
Dandenong  
**Ed Daly** Ballarat  
**Norman Lingwood**  
Whitehorse  
127 (9 new)  
192 CTMs and 90 ATMs  
King Village Resort  
Wantirna  
Barossa Arts and  
Convention Centre,  
Tanunda

Tom Boon took the next step and became the District Governor for 1999/2000. That was Tom's theme for the year, "Take the next step." This was designed to focus on taking a step forward and to face whatever the future brings.

Tom had set a goal of becoming a Distinguished District. Through hard work this was achieved. This meant that the District had been distinguished for three years in a row.

After eight years former District Governor Charlie Holden gave up the reins of the Southern Cross. Charlie had turned it into an icon of the District. Norman Lingwood from Whitehorse took up the reins.

## 2000 – 2001 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:

**Kevin Sui**

(Valewood).

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**

**International Speech Contest**  
**TMOTY**

**Clubs Awards**  
**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

“Work Together – Work Better – Achieve More”.

**Judith Talanoa** Dandenong

**Geoff Morrissey**

Moonee Ponds

**Ed Daly** Ballarat

**Julie Cody**

Sinclair Knight Merz

122 (4 new)

209 CTMs and 92 ATMs

Werribee Mansion,

Werribee

Box Hill Town Hall Box Hill

The District theme during Kevin Sui’s year as District Governor was “Work Together – Work Better – Achieve More”. By this Kevin from Valewood meant that the District Executive could only set goals and show the course to get there. It requires a collective effort and continual support of every member in the District to achieve them.

However, District lost two important members. Jim Dinan, Big Jim, died suddenly in October. Jim had been a member of four clubs, but was behind the formation of many others. He would help set them up, but allow others to take the credit. Jim was the Convention Chairman for the May 2001 District Annual Convention. Tragedy struck again when Val Thompson, the District Community Contact Co-ordinator passed away. For many years she was the first point of contact many new toastmasters had with the organisation. Val spent time with everyone and made sure they got the best Toastmaster contacts she could. These events effected the performance of the District that fell to the 64<sup>th</sup> in the world.

## 2001 – 2002 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:

**Judith Talanoa**

(Dandenong)

**District theme**

**LGET**

**LGM**

**International Speech Contest**  
**TMOTY**

**Clubs**

**Awards**

**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

“Alone you fly, Together we soar – Distinguished your destiny”.

**Geoff Morrissey**

Moonee Ponds

**Peter Iredale** Kew

**Cliff Boer** Victoria Quay

**Graeme Stevens**

Glen Waverley

122 (6 new)

203 CTMs and 100 ATMs

Karralyka Centre, Ringwood

Dandenong Club,

Dandenong

Judith Talanoa, a member of Dandenong, was the District Governor for 2001/02. The theme for this year carried on the theme of teamwork, like Kevin’s the year before. It was “Alone you fly, Together we soar – Distinguished your destiny”.

Changes were made to the Contest

Scheduling that would effect contests from the 2002/03 Toastmasters year on. Instead of how the contests were paired previously, from 2002/03 onwards International and Evaluation would be together and Humorous and Table Topics as well.

The most ever ATMs were registered by District 73 in this year up to this time. Members from our district registered one hundred ATMs.

## 2002 – 2003 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Geoff Morrissey**  
(Moonee Ponds).

“Alone you fly, Together we soar – Distinguished your destiny”.

**Peter Iredale** Kew

**Ed Biggs** The Oaks

**Cliff Boer** Victoria Quay

**Andris Bilkin**

Southern Cross

124 (4 new)

Sebel Albert Park

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

**District theme**

**LGET**

**LGM**

**International Speech Contest TMOTY**

**Clubs**

**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

Geoff Morrissey of Moonee Ponds took over the leadership as District Governor in 2002/2003. Club membership numbers was an area that Geoff thought that the District had to look at. He had two of his greatest allies in this cause in his two Lt. Governor. They, Peter Iredale (LGET) and Ed Biggs (LGM) brought great Toastmasters knowledge and innovation to the District Executive.

How truly great a leader is depends on the team behind them. With his two Lt. Governor behind him, Geoff Morrissey was truly a great leader of this District.

But in this year Geoff wasn't the highest-ranking Toastmaster in Australia. Not even his counterparts from Districts 69 and 70. In this year and Australian was the International President of Toastmasters International. The International President was Gavin Blakey DTM from Queensland. Gavin had been in Toastmasters for over 21 years, 20 of those in a leadership role. Gavin visited the District during the District Annual Convention held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle WA.

## 2003 – 2004 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Ed Biggs**  
(The Oaks now Chadstone Oaks)

**District theme**

**LGET**

**LGM**

**International Speech Contest TMOTY**

**Clubs**

**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

Toastmasters Towards Tomorrow

**David Nicholas**

Victoria Quay

**Marlene Sinclair** Knox

**Verity Robbins** Doncaster

**Paul Dixon** Silver Service

134 (10 new)

Visy Park,

North Carlton

Erskine on the Beach,

Lorne

After Peter Iredale had to withdraw his nomination for District Governor during work commitments, Ed Biggs was elected unopposed as the District Governor. When Ed took over he hit the ground running. Unlike his marathon running it was more like a sprint. In the first 100 days of the 2003/04 Toastmasters year a number of reforms had taken place.

The prime reforms had been:

- Bringing the District Budget fully into accord with Toastmasters International Requirements,
- Integrating Western and Central Division Accounts into the District's Books,
- Amending the Travel Policy for Contests and Training to allow more funds to be directed to marketing,
- Reviewing the structure of Speechcraft and the distribution of net proceeds,
- Reviewing and recommending amendments to Continuing Motions,
- A special draw down of \$15,000 from Reserves to drive a concerted marketing campaign.

Many of these changes were due to Toastmasters International funding priorities. However, the overriding objectives have been to operate as a one District unit and to direct the major focus and funds towards membership growth. Ed led the District well through these changes in direction.

Other changes implemented during Ed's year were:

- To hold only one convention each year instead of the then two conventions,
- To introduce a set schedule in regards to where Conventions are held,
- Changing the Southern Cross into an e-mail style newsletter.

The set schedule in regards to where Conventions are held involved all four states covered by the District. Conventions were now to be held in Victoria or Tasmania in even numbered years, and South Australia and Western Australia in alternating odd numbered years.

**2004 – 2005 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Marlene Sinclair**  
(Knox)

**District theme**  
**LGET**  
**LGM**

“Discover the Magic”.  
**Les Courcha** Kingston  
**Andris Bilkins**  
Southern Cross

**International**  
**Speech Contest**  
**TMOTY**

**Daryl Pedder** Synergy

**Clubs**  
**Awards**

**Geoff Morrissey**  
Moonee Ponds  
138 (12 new),  
226 CTMs and 118 ATMs,  
10 DTMs

**Annual Conv.**

Stamford Grand,  
Glenelg SA

The theme for Marlene's year was “Discover the Magic”, and during this year the District did. The District was again a Distinguished

District. The main reason for this was the members achieving more than predicted. The District target number of ATMs was more than doubled (52 was the target – 118 was what was achieved). The target number of CTMs was reached in the last few days of the year (182 – 226) and the target number of District clubs was achieved with 12 clubs chartering during the year (135 – 138).

A big increase in club numbers occurred at the Victorian Government Department of Human Services. Through the efforts of in particular Jacinta D'Sousa and Bruce Hill DTM, five clubs were formed inside the Department. These clubs were The Gavellers, The Babylons, The Wafflers, The Happy Hour and The Dynamos.

This was the first year that there wasn't a Semi-Annual Convention, and also the first year that all four District Contests were held at the Annual Convention held at the Stamford Grand in Glenelg SA. The Table Topics Contest was held on Friday night, Humorous Speech Contest on Saturday morning, the International Speech Contest during the Convention Dinner on Saturday night and the Evaluation Contest on Sunday morning.

It was also the first year that Divisions outside South Australia and Western Australia conducted Club Officer Training conducted Club Officer Training. As hoped, more Club Officers were trained at these sessions due to more being held and that they were being held closer to those officers.

One of the highlights of the year was the Toastmasters Demonstration. It was held at BMW Edge at Federation Square in Melbourne during Toastmasters Week. The Demonstration was held over four mini one-hour meetings. This event was all in effort to further publicise Toastmasters in the general community and was organised by Jacqui Gullick DTM (then District Public Relations Officer) and her Public Relations Committee.



## 2005 – 2006 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Andris Bilkins**  
Southern Cross

District  
theme  
LGET  
LGM  
International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY  
Annual Conv.

“Building Strength on  
Diversity”.  
**Lisa Cluett** Victoria Quay  
**Jacqui Gullick** Dandenong  
**Jock Elliott** Kew/Gourmet  
**Franco Principe** Adelaide  
Launceston Country Club  
Casino, Launceston Tas

For the first time in the history of District 73 someone living in Victoria wasn't District Governor. Andris Bilkins, the previous years Lt. Governor Marketing, was voted in as District Governor in his own home state. However, Andris does have a Victorian connection as he was born in Victoria.

Andris was elected as District Governor unopposed after work commitments prevented Les Courcha, the previous year's Lt. Governor Education and Training, from standing.

The theme for Andris' year is “Building Strength on Diversity”.



Southern Cross Edition 15 October 2005

## 2006 – 2007 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Geoff Morrissey**  
(Nillumbik).

District  
theme  
LGET  
LGM  
International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Annual Conv.

“Developing confidence,  
discovering success”.  
**Sylvia Chuah** Boroondara  
**Bernard Marmion**  
Whitehorse  
**Verity Robbins** Doncaster  
**Judy Murphy** Lilydale  
124 (4 new)  
Esplanade Hotel,  
Fremantle WA

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Toastmasters in Australia, and the thirtieth anniversary of District 73 a first occurred. It was the first time that someone had become District Governor for the second time.

Two of the main achievements of Geoff's team were Distinguished District status and discussions that lead to the future splitting of the District.

The District achieved Distinguished District status and set in place strategies that led to the following two years also being Distinguished District.

Also, District Governor Geoff Morrissey and his team held extensive discussions with TI WHQ staff (Donna Groh, Dan Rex included) and most International Directors and candidates, at the International Convention, as a lead into the splitting of the District a few years later.

**2007 – 2008 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Mike Helm**  
Rising Stars

**District theme**

Inspire, Enthuse, Involve  
**Bernard Marmion**

**LGET  
LGM**

Whitehorse  
**Damian Chong** Launceston

**International  
Speech Contest**

**Chris Smith** Shepparton

**TMOTY**

**Marlene Sinclair** Knox

**Annual Conv.**

York on Lilydale Mt Evelyn

For the second time in the history of District 73 someone living in Victoria wasn't District Governor. Mike Helm, the previous years Perth Division Governor, was voted in as District Governor in his own home state. However, unlike Andris, Mike didn't have a Victorian connection.

Mike was elected as District Governor by a slender margin from Sylvia Chuah, the previous year's Lt. Governor Education and Training.

**2008 – 2009 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Bernard Marmion**  
(Whitehorse).

**District theme**

The Passion to Succeed  
**Damian Chong**

**LGET  
LGM**

(Launceston)

**Carrol Jones**

(Williamstown)

**International  
Speech Contest**

**George O'Keeffe**

(Valewood)

**TMOTY  
Annual Conv.**

**David Reynolds** (NAB)

Hahndorf Resort &  
Convention Centre,  
Hahndorf

For the third time a member of Whitehorse Toastmasters became District Governor when Bernard Marmion was voted in. The gap between Bernard and the last Whitehorse District Governor was 29 years. Bernard became the first District Governor to hold the two Lt. Governor positions before becoming District Governor since Geoff Morrissey did when he was District Governor the first time in 2002/2003. Before this, the trend was for the District Governor to always do this.

This year was one of District 73's best with the achievement of being Distinguished. It was just the second time the District had achieved Distinguished status for three consecutive years. "This would never have happened without the dedicated hard work of all the members," Bernard said.

## 2009 – 2010 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Damian Chong**  
 (Launceston, Tasmania)

District  
 theme  
**LGET**  
**LGM**

International  
 Speech Contest  
**TMOTY**

Clubs  
 Awards

Annual Conv.

Exceed Expectations  
**Bruce Hill** (Postmasters)  
**Mark Richards**  
 (Canning Vale)

**Linus Chang** (Kew)  
**Max Warlond**  
 (Postmasters)

177  
 275 CCs and 136 ACs, 102  
 CLs, 53 ALs, 18 DTMs  
 Novotel Hotel, Creswick  
 Ballarat

What a year it was for District 73 where the year's theme was to Exceed Expectations. The District has achieved Distinguished status for the 4th year in a row and has really proven the District theme correct.

By the end of the year the district achieved all of the goals set for us by TMI and have Exceeded Expectations in membership and new clubs, which is a terrific accomplishment. The district managed to start 12 new clubs this year, 6 in WA (CSBP, Mundaring, Southern River, Victoria Park, TEEM & Toast2FS) and 6 in Victoria (Marsh Masters, PB, ANZ Power of Speech, Thales, Hume & Planet Toastmaster).

On the membership side, 1512 new members joined the District, which was a record by a long way. The district received 7243 membership payments which

surpassed last year by over 300. Again Exceeding Expectations!

Within the District, 79 clubs achieved Distinguished status or better (25 Distinguished, 21 Select & 33 Presidents). Our Area & Division Governors have produced brilliant results this year with 26 out of 40 Areas achieving Distinguished status or better (9 Distinguished, 9 Select & 8 Presidents) and 7 out of 10 Divisions achieving Distinguished status or better (1 Distinguished, 2 Select & 4 Presidents). All of these great results have lifted the District to 26th place in the world rankings and to 3rd place in the Region (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea). This is a result the district could be proud of.

**2010 – 2011 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Bruce Hill**  
(Postmasters)

**District theme**

Achieving Greatness Together

**LGET - East**  
**LGET - West**

**Carrol Jones**  
(Williamstown)  
**Mark Richards**  
(Canning Vale)

**LGM - East**

**Catherine MacGillivray**  
Brimbank

**LGM - West**

**Ross Wilkinson**  
(Fremantle Gateway)

**International Speech Contest**  
**TMOTY**

**Brett Gresham** (Synergy)  
**David Nicholas** (Victoria Quay)

**Clubs Awards**  
**Annual Conv.**

183  
305 CCs and 149 ACs  
Parmelia Hotel, Perth WA

Being the final year that District 73 would be as it was, the District achieved a lot with the increased size of the District Executive due to the District splitting the following year. The following were achieved or submitted:

- District Success Plan was submitted on time;
- 98 per cent of division and area governors trained and submitted the report on time;
- Membership payments grew by 3% over the previous year (achieved 7497 membership payments);
- Achieved a net club growth of 3% with 183 clubs at year end;
- Achieved 305 CCs,
- Achieved 149 ACs

**2011 - 2012 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Carrol Jones**  
(Williamstown)

**LGET**  
**LGM**

**Catherine MacGillivray**  
(Brimbank)  
**David Murphy**  
(Happy Hour)

**International Speech Contest**

**Andrew Kneebone**  
(Northern Exposure)

**TMOTY**

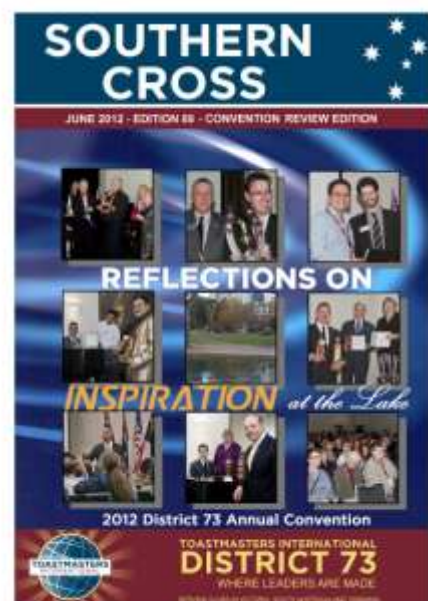
**Terry Barridge** (Hawthorn)  
124 (4 new)

**Clubs**

Sebel Albert Park

**Annual Conv.**

Toastmasters was all different in 2011/2. Firstly, the District was now made up of three states, with Western Australia forming their own District. Secondly, Toastmasters International introduced a new branding system. It also saw the end of yearly themes for Districts.



Southern Cross Edition 88 June 2012

## 2012 – 2013 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**Catherine McGillivray**  
(Burbank)

**David Murphy**

(Happy Hour)

**Anthony Murray**

(Tea Tree Gully)

**Yuri Ptschelinzew**

(Box Hill)

**Anna Hergt** (Ivanhoe)

128 (4 new)

Rydges on Swanston,  
Carlton

Adelaide Hilton, Adelaide

By Catherine MacGillivray DTM, PDG

**LGET**  
**LGM**

**International**  
**Speech Contest**

**TMOTY**  
**Clubs**

**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.**

By Catherine MacGillivray DTM, PDG

Representing District 73 and Toastmasters International as District Governor was an opportunity I couldn't resist! I had been working towards this goal for the past 3 years and I could not have been ready for the position without the help of mentors. It is so valuable to have someone to speak to who has been through the same experience and seek guidance from their knowledge. Marlene Sinclair DTM, PDG and Carrol Jones DTM, PDG who planted the seed and Mark Richards DTM, PDG and Damian Chong DTM, PDG who believed in me and gave me all the help I needed and we became life-long friends.

I planned many goals with the District leadership team at the start of the year. With the help of the District Executive and all of our members, we were able to reach the goal of Distinguished District. It was a challenging role to be District Governor and juggle all of

my commitments including working full time. But when you put your heart and soul into something, it is amazing how much you can achieve. I could not have achieved the success (that everyone in the district should be proud of) without the help of my right hand man – David Murphy DTM, IPDG who was LGET at the time and who kept me going through the hard times. There were many other people who helped me throughout the year and helped the district. As a team, we achieved so much in 2012-2013 that it is impossible to mention everyone who contributed to our District's success.



Southern Cross Edition 90 September 2012

2012-2013 was a year where we brought back the Semi-annual convention "Out of the Box" which was organised by Anna Hergt DTM in just 6 weeks. The semi-annual was a brilliant success, with a guest speaker from South Africa, workshops and a dinner. We invited non-Toastmasters and Speechcraft participants to attend and their feedback was really encouraging. Hopefully they all joined a club after the event.

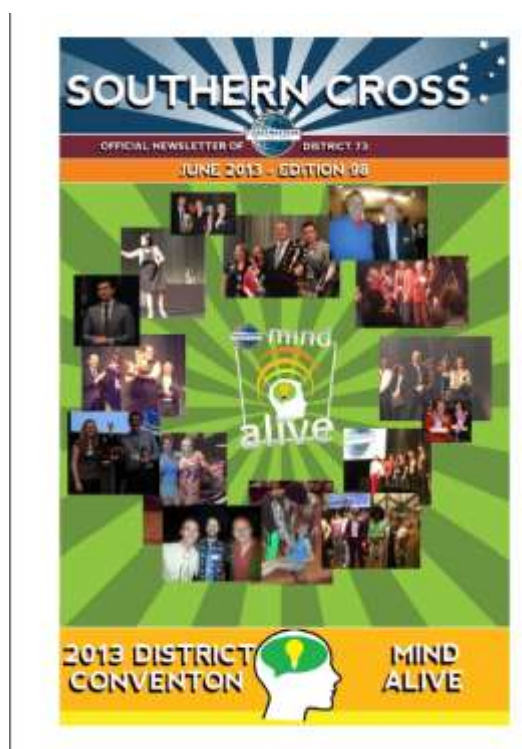
The annual convention was held in Adelaide and had over 200 Toastmasters from across the District attend. It was an enjoyable and successful weekend and the 70's themed dinner was a highlight for all, including our keynote speaker Rory Vaden who had never seen a group of Toastmasters dressed up and dancing at a District convention. We learnt to take the stairs, especially when we don't want to and we saw the District finalists compete in the four Toastmasters contests held each year.

Thank you to everyone who helped out a contest, workshop, speechcraft course, Toastmasters Leadership Institute, a club event, semi-annual and annual conventions and any other event that was held during the year. There were so many successful events and members who gave up so much of their time to help the District.

During the year, our Area and Division Governors worked hard to raise the bar from previous years and embrace the new

Distinguished Area and Division programs. Our district grew by 1,313 new members during the year (7% growth) and we grew the district with 5 new clubs (3% growth). Out of a total of 128 clubs, there were 77 distinguished clubs (62% of the total) with 21 clubs President's Distinguished. Wow!

My Toastmasters journey has not finished. This year I'm excited to enter club contests and it is an exciting path to take, after five enjoyable years in leadership positions. Toastmasters is a place where we are all welcome and we can achieve our own success in our own time. I hope you will think about what leadership role you might like to take to help your club, your district and yourself to become a leader – you never know where it might take you!



Southern Cross Edition 98 June 2013

## 2013 – 2014 Toastmaster Year



District Governor:  
**David Murphy**  
(Happy Hour)

**LGET**  
**LGM**

**International**  
**Speech Contest**  
**TMOTY**

**Clubs**  
**Semi Annual**

**Annual Conv.** CQ Functions, Melbourne  
By David Murphy DTM, PDG

**Anthony Murray**  
(Tea Tree Gully)  
**Tracy Green**  
(Hawthorn)

**Aaron Ng** (Monash)

**Keir Wells**  
(Ivanhoe)

124 (4 new)  
Rydges on Swanston,  
Carlton

As District Governor during the 2013-2014 Toastmasters year, it was definitely a memorable year. During my election speech I stated three things that were to be my focus:

1. increasing the awareness of Toastmasters,
2. identifying and providing more support resources, and
3. building on the tagline “Where Leaders Are Made”.

In line with those, we undertook a number of exciting initiatives during the year. Among them was Kay McCartney, DTM – our Public Relations Officer – delivering on advertisements being placed on Melbourne trams. We also updated, printed and distributed our District’s Toastmasters flyers for prospective members as well as focused

on developing hand-over documents for senior leaders.



Southern Cross Edition 99 July 2013

The last of those initiatives was given a high priority in order to ensure a smooth transition between district officers each year. During my years in district senior leadership, there were no hand-over documents, and all I received was the standard District Leadership handbook. The documents we have now initiated will be constantly revised year-on-year, building a solid and workable document that will significantly reduce the learning curve for those taking on leadership roles.

A definite highlight was starting the year with a full complement of division and area governors. It was the first time I can remember that all roles had been filled, and it

was heartening to end the year without any resignations. Without doubt, having a diverse group of leaders worked well in promoting leadership across our district. Members are beginning to understand the importance of leadership and the benefits of being a leader.

The goal of being distinguished was a big driver and we believed we had the ability to achieve this goal. In order to be a distinguished district there are certain targets that need to be reached. The district needs to have 85 per cent of all governors trained and the must submit a success plan and district budget. We met these goals easily.

The remaining goals are: a three per cent growth in new clubs, a three per cent growth in membership payments and at least 40 per cent of clubs distinguished or better.

In previous years the challenge has always been getting enough new clubs. Catherine MacGillivray, DTM and Past District Governor achieved distinguished status on 29 June 2013 when Victorian Governors Club was chartered.

Other District Governors know what it's like to get down to the wire. In my year we had a similar challenge. We surpassed our new club goal and instead of achieving a three per cent growth, we had doubled this with a six per cent growth. Fifty-two per cent of clubs were distinguished or better. Eleven clubs achieved 10 out of 10 distinguished club goals.

However, we missed our membership payment goal by a mere 135 payments.

It doesn't seem like a lot. That's an average of only one membership payment per club. In October we had 2,342 membership payments. In April that figure dropped to 2,165. While we added 1,193 new members, we unfortunately lost members as well.

In 2012-2013 the district added 1,313 new members. There are many hypotheses as to why our membership payments may have gone down, but it's about what we do going forward that's important. Membership retention is the biggest challenge that affects our district. Think about your own club. Is there a member you haven't seen for a while? If so, give them a call or drop them an email to encourage them to continue along their Toastmasters journey.

Keep that communication going and inspire them to keep fulfilling their goals.



Southern Cross Edition 100 August 2013



**2014 – 2015 Toastmaster Year**



District Governor:  
**Anthony Murray**  
(Tea Tree Gully)

**LGET  
LGM**

**International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY  
Semi Annual  
Annual Conv.**

**Tracy Green**  
(Hawthorn)  
**Yoke-Ching Tan**  
(Docklands)  
**Bharat Sangekar** ( )  
**Bruce Hill** (Postmasters)  
Milano's Brighton  
Launceston Country Club  
Launceston Tasmania

**Club Growth  
Director  
International Speech  
Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Semi Annual  
Annual Conv.**

**Tracy Green**  
(Hawthorn)  
**Bharat Sangekar** ( )  
**Darrell Pitt** (Carlton)  
  
Rydges on  
Swanston, Carlton  
Rydges on  
Swanston, Carlton

**2015 – 2016 Toastmaster Year**



District Director:  
**Tracy Green**  
(Hawthorn)

**Program  
Quality  
Director  
Club Growth  
Director  
International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Semi Annual  
Annual Conv.**

**Yoke-Ching Tan**  
(Docklands)  
**Christine Dimitros**  
(Carlton)  
**Sarah Hanieh** ( )  
**Jaqueline Bignell** ( )

Grand Chancellor on  
Hindley, Adelaide SA

**2017 – 2018 Toastmaster Year**



District Director:  
**Christine Dimitros**  
(Carlton)

**Program  
Quality  
Director  
Club Growth  
Director  
International  
Speech Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Semi Annual  
Annual Conv.**

**Elizabeth Allwood** ( )  
  
**Ben MacEllen** ( )  
**Carole McCulloch** ( ) and  
**Tracy Green** (Hawthorn)  
  
Hotel Grand Chancellor,  
Hobart Tasmania

**2016 – 2017 Toastmaster Year**



District Director:  
**Yoke-Ching Tan**  
(Mighty Docklands)

**Program Quality  
Director**

**Christine Dimitros**  
(Carlton)

**2018 – 2019 Toastmaster Year**



District Director:  
**Elizabeth Allwood**  
( )

**Program Quality  
Director  
Club Growth  
Director  
International Speech  
Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Annual Conv.**

**Susan Pederick**  
( )  
  
**Bharat Sangekar** ( )  
**Debbie Horoba** ( )  
  
Novotel Melbourne

St.Kilda

**2019 – 2020 Toastmaster Year**



District Director:  
**Susan Pederick**  
( )

**Program Quality  
Director  
Club Growth Director  
International Speech  
Contest  
TMOTY  
Clubs  
Annual Conv.**

**Vicki Travers  
Karl Hughes**





Toastmasters International District 73

2019