



## District Leader Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **LAURA MARTIN**

Candidate's Office: **EASTERN DIVISION DIRECTOR** District Number: **73**

Toastmasters member since: **2016**

### Education:

Diploma of Children's Services  
Diploma of Nursing (half completed)  
Certificate of Medical Reception and Terminology  
Certificate III In Children's Services

### Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Secretary: 12/10/16 - 30/6/17  
VPM: 1/7/17 - 30/6/18  
VPE: 1/7/18 - 20/6/20 (2 years)  
President: 1/7/20 - 30/6/21  
\*\*(All offices mentioned above were held at Hawthorn Toastmasters)  
E16 Area Director: 1/7/24 - 30/6/25

### Toastmasters honors and recognition:

2017-2018: Toastmaster of the Year, Most Improved Leader and Outstanding Toastmaster  
2018-2019: Toastmaster of the Year and Valuable Toastmaster  
2019-2020: Outstanding Toastmaster  
\*\*All of these awards were achieved within Hawthorn Toastmasters

### Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

Working with children for many years has helped with handling conflict resolution within a few situations as an Area Director by having to help diffuse situations and ensure everyone is at peace.  
Working in retail gave me big responsibilities such as handling large sums of money, assisting customers and working as a team when I worked in the night fill team. I've had to budget allocated money for my Area Contest and the Division Contest as well as many club events. I worked in retail for 13 years. Helping customers and working with a team in retail is like helping any member within Toastmasters whether that be mentoring and helping out visitors. Working on the nightfill team, we sorted the load together as a team and filled the shelves with each other as a team.

### What experience do you have in strategic planning?

I hold a Certificate 3 in Children's Services and a Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood and Education). I worked in a kindergarten from 2016-2018 as the Group Leader for the Extended Care program (Wattlebirds group) for two days a week and a Co-Educator in one of the 4yo classes, also two days a week. In the Wattlebirds group, I planned the educational program for pre-school aged children which was play-based learning around their interests, current events and the community. In both roles, I took observations of the children and incorporated this into their future learning. In both roles, I worked with 1-2 other Educators to discuss and work together as a team to plan the children's learning and development.

### What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Organising many Toastmasters events and working to the budgets I was given.  
I also worked in retail for 13 years and working at the cash register, I was responsible for handling small to large amounts of money in the form of cash, cheques and debit/credit cards. I occasionally assisted in counting money in the cash register.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

When I worked at Woolworths, they brought in security tags and devices for loss prevention. I was in charge of ensuring staff were trained in how and what to use them for. I also guided them on what product types needed the store number written on with permanent marker. In my most recent job in a kindergarten, I was appointed the First Aid Officer. I was responsible for developing procedures in how to manage certain events such as a child having an anaphylactic response. I liaised with parents of children with allergies, asthma and other medical needs and ensuring that all medication on the premises was in date And that all staff were aware of which children in the centre Had certain allergies or medical conditions and where to find their medication. I developed procedures for when to check them And when they were due for reviewing or replacement.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Constructive feedback is your best friend, delegating helps alleviate stress and it never hurts to ask questions or ask for help. I've also learnt from mistakes or where I can individually or as a team strive for excellence. One of the biggest challenges I faced was having to have serious conversations with members who I consider friends, where there has been conflict, lack of support or input and having to help resolve these issues as an Area Director. I've had to think about whether it was important enough to raise with our Division Director or discuss with the relevant person in the trio. Leadership has helped me realise my growth and capabilities where I have often had a lot of self-doubt.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

**\*\*please see attached additional information below**

In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

**\*\*please see attached additional information below**

Additional information about yourself:

I enjoy networking with others and helping out where I can!  
My friend's 15yo and 10yo sons both have autism and ADHD. I take them to the footy and we are in the Cheer Squad. Along with being a Toastmaster, being in the cheer squad has helped with my own social anxiety and confidence. Being a leader is something I've always strived for excellence in and feel a sense of accomplishment.

## **District Leader**

### **ADDITIONAL Biographical Information for page 2**

#### **Why do you want to serve as a District leader?**

I've always felt like a leader in many aspects of my life from personal things/interests to work life and throughout my time in Toastmasters, I feel that it's helped shape me into a more humble person and leader. Through tertiary studies and working 13 years in retail and 8 years in Early Childhood, I've learnt a lot about organisation, time management, team work and what it means to step up and be a leader as well as supporting others. After holding many Toastmasters Club Executive roles, I wanted to push my leadership skills further. Taking on the role of Area Director this current year definitely proved to be a challenge but on many occasions it proved to be rewarding. I feel ready to step up and further my leadership skills as a Division Director.

#### **In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?**

The District Mission of 'We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence' is a lot that I've focused on in previous and current leadership positions I've held within Toastmasters. When I was the VPM of my home club, I brought in a strategy of having a "buddy system". I had a Toastmaster member sit with a guest for the meeting to explain the meeting, roles and answer any questions. I also put together a Visitor Pack which contained the Toastmasters Magazine (now retired as a hard copy), The Navigator booklet, Evaluate to Motivate sheet that one of our members had compiled to explain evaluations and a membership application form. Both of these strategies proved to be very successful in bringing in new members that we had to build a new club, Tooronga Toastmasters, to allow for growth in the club. This strategy also helped to earn the club a Smedley Award. I spent two years as the club VPE, constantly working out how and what needed to be done for the DCP, earning the club President's Distinguished.

As E16 Area Director this year, I have actively been assisting two of my clubs to incorporate a mentoring system as well as guiding them in holding a joint Open House meeting to expand their membership.

In order for all three of the clubs in my Area to achieve a point for COT, I reached out to each committee member to ensure they attended. My Area was the only club within the Eastern Division to have all my clubs achieve a minimum of 4 people in attending both COT's.

I'm also holding an Area Council Meeting for my clubs to inform them of changes for next year, work on any challenges their club is facing and helping each club to achieve excellence by obtaining President's Distinguished in the DCP.