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AUG - SEPT 2015



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Lion – Australia and PNG

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LION

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Connections, influence, friendship, philanthropy



Page 11 - President's profile

COVER: Before becoming Lions International's 99th President, Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada was more at home in a hospital operating theatre. Yet times change. Read his story on page 11, and discover his plans for Lions in 2015-16 in his President's Program on page 13.



Page 7 - A Lions knockout



Page 22 - Photo contest

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Contributions

Contributions for the October - November 2015 issue should be submitted by September 1 to The Editor, Lion magazine, Fawcett Media, 20 Millett Rd, Gisborne South, Victoria 3437 or emailed to tony.fawcett@bigpond.com.

皆さんの国際会長を務めることを、 大変光栄に思います



**By Dr Jitsuhiro
Yamada, Lions
Clubs
International
President**

These Japanese words (above) mean “I am honoured to serve as International President”.

素晴らしい奉仕の1年となることを楽しみにしています。 *That means “I look forward to a year of great service”.*

So how do Lions in Japan say “We Serve”? Well, it’s “We Serve”. Our motto is not translated. Lions throughout the world proudly proclaim “We Serve”. The universality of our motto underscores that despite language and cultural differences we Lions share a common purpose. And although I am the 99th International President, each of my predecessors having had their own priorities and approaches, International Presidents have shared a common commitment to service.

So I hope my year as President is like any other as Lions continue to serve with tremendous enthusiasm and impact. Yet I also hope to make a difference in how we serve. My theme is *Bringing Dignity to Others Through Humanitarian Service*. That’s something that has been inherent in Lions’ service since Melvin Jones first gathered Lions together. But by intentionally focusing on my theme and keeping it in the forefront we can be sure to maintain and even improve our commitment to service. Learn the complete details of my program by reading the story on page 13.

As a doctor, I have always been dedicated to healing and to do so while treating patients in a dignified manner. A good doctor not only treats illness but pays attention to the entire person – their worries, their concerns, their struggles. If you had asked me after many years as a doctor if I treated the whole person, I would have said, “Of course”. But it took a serious illness for me to re-evaluate my approach as a doctor. Likewise, as Lions we are dedicated to service, but reassessing our approach and focusing on the dignity of others in all we do will take our service to a new level.

I ask each of you this year especially to bring dignity to children. Through a project or program I ask you to make their lives better. Working together, 1.4 million Lions can help the next generation prosper and secure good health, find opportunity and achieve happiness.

**Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Lions Clubs International President**

Lions Australia gains SightFirst grant for PNG eye-care



Following an approach from Vision 2020 Australia and a consortium of eye-care providers in Papua New Guinea, Lions Australia has been successful in gaining a \$US289,800 (about \$370,000 Australian) SightFirst grant from LCIF to improve eye-care services in PNG.

PNG has poor outcomes across the range of all health indicators, including sight.

Currently eye-care delivery there is greatly fragmented. Spectacles and surgical consumables are distributed from different areas (yet in many cases to the same hospitals), and low vision device distribution is very limited.

It’s planned that the grant will go toward reducing costs and improving reach, allowing for better use of resources.

The Vision 2020 consortium drafted a broad proposal and following evaluation, it was agreed that the MD PNG Committee, under the authority of District Q2 (under whom PNG Lions reside), would pursue a SightFirst Grant to fund and facilitate this project.

Jazz becomes a stem cell first

Dr Sam Long, working in conjunction with the Australian Lions Spinal Cord Fellowship and StepAhead, implanted the first stem cells into canine patient Jazz in May this year.

Jazz had an intervertebral disc extrusion (slipped disc) in August last year and despite surgery had never recovered function in her back legs.

As part of the trial, Jazz had an MRI to define the precise location of the injury and then, during the same anaesthetic, had neural derived stem cells injected into the spinal cord at the site of the lesion. She recovered well and was home two days later. As part of ongoing care, she will be back for reassessment of her gait and bladder function every four weeks and we can’t wait to see her again as she is such a sweet, enthusiastic dog.



Have you ever seen a happier face? Lions, your fundraising and donations have made this possible, and more similar cases are being recruited to join the trial.

**– Lion Barbara Owen,
Lions Australia Spinal
Cord Fellowship**



FERRET FRENZY

FOR A TOWN'S FUTURE

Country Lions come up with one of the year's quirkiest campaigns

Picture courtesy The Weekly Times & photographer Zoe Phillips

In the race to host Australia's wackiest animal contest, the Lions club in the small Victorian Mallee town of Woomelang is pinning its future on ferrets.

The Woomelang club is offering \$5000 first prize for its inaugural "Ferret Frenzy" on September 25-27. Already entries are flowing in from around Australia. "We needed something to put the town on the map or we were in danger of disappearing," joint organiser and ideas man Rick "Bushy" Johnston told The Weekly Times newspaper.

"I had a look around and saw yabbies and sheep, races like that were

already taken – but there's still a lot of people with ferrets around here." During the event, ferrets will be coaxed down local burrows to locate Australia's most expensive rabbit.

"There will be no guns, no dogs, it won't be a bloodthirsty business and there's still plenty of rabbits around we need to get rid of," Bushy Johnston told The Weekly Times' Chris McLelland.

Woomelang, an hour west of Swan Hill, has a declining population of about 200 and has lost its pub and an engineering works in recent years.

Local Lions hope the event will put the town back on the map.

New award honours Canberra Lion

He had a keen sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and the heart of a Lion.

When Frank Brown passed away in May he had been a Lion for 38 years and a Charter member of the Lions Club of Canberra Kambah.

Over those years Frank was a committed community leader and his many roles in Lions were knitted together by one goal – to support Canberra families.

In 2013 Frank was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and his health declined. Before he died the club decided to mark his contribution to the community of the Tuggeranong Valley where Frank did so much of his volunteer work.

In setting up the Lion Frank Brown Memorial Award for Community Service to the Valley, the club achieved something quite unusual.

There are many top-down government and corporate awards but this one is about Lions as local volunteers giving credit to a fellow volunteer. It is a chance to acknowledge the remarkable work done by others beyond the Lions family. The award will be presented each year to a volunteer who, like Frank, has given inspirational

community service.

Frank was well known for his involvement with Lions Youth Haven, the 200ha farm Canberra and Queanbeyan Lions have run since the late 1980s. The farm is only 15 minutes from Parliament House and serves as a base for Lions programs for kids at risk.

Frank's vision was to create income from the property to expand Lions youth programs. In recent years he became the driving force behind building a 70-bed lodge on the farm. The building, which opened last year, fills a gap in Canberra's tourism market that sees over 160,000 school students visit the National Capital each year. Income from the new lodge will go to support Lions youth projects.

The farm is run on environmentally sound practices including generating solar electricity and soil and water management measures. So it is fitting an environmental volunteer is the first person to receive Frank's Award.

Glenys Patulny has been chair of the Southern ACT Catchment Group and supported Landcare and Waterwatch groups in the Tuggeranong Valley

for almost 10 years. As Deputy Principal of a local high school she encouraged students in environmental projects. She is also the Chair of the Murrumbidgee

Catchment Group, the convenor of the Tuggeranong Lake Carers' Group and Acting President of the Tuggeranong Community Council.

The Club selected Glenys after consulting Frank's family, local Members of Parliament and the ACT Legislative Assembly. Members then set about feverishly to have Frank present the award named in his honour. Sadly he passed away two weeks before the award ceremony and in a further tribute the new Lodge has been named after him.

The club will present Frank's award each February and believes it will become an inspiration within Tuggeranong's volunteer community.

– Lion Bob Crawshaw



LIONS ACTION

Young guns



President Kathleen Lynch presents Lion Jesse with his Certificate of Membership.

There was a buzz of excitement in May when Ingham Lions Club's youngest ever President inducted one of their youngest members to date.

President Kathleen Lynch, herself a former Leo, inducted Leo Jesse Trecco-Alexander.

Many might recall Jesse, who represented Queensland in the Youth of the Year in 2012-13 and as a state finalist in Leo of the Year in 2009-2010, for his stated aspiration to one day occupy The Lodge in Canberra.

"Jesse is a role model for all of the youth of Australia, an asset to his community, and it is now a pleasure to call him Lion Jesse," said National Membership Coordinator PDG John Muller of the induction.

John, a long-time mentor of Jesse, has set him the challenge of encouraging other YOTY & Leo alumni to also accept the opportunity to graduate and become Lions.

FOOTNOTE: Earlier this year Jesse stood as a candidate for the Queensland State seat of Hinchinbrook and was unsuccessful but his ambition still remains.

And Jonty makes three

Jonty the hearing dog wasn't about to miss out when his master Ron Cowell and Ron's partner Jean Thomas both received Melvin Jones Fellowship awards.

Jonty was presented with a Lion of the Year medal, just to ensure canine sensitivities weren't affected.

The dual presentations came at V5 Clarinda Lions' 30th Charter Anniversary.

Jonty has been a part of club activities for 14 years.

"In fact, he is the best PR representative we have had," said President David Oakley. "Everyone wants to talk to him and maybe we should have attached a donation tin to his portable kennel."

Jean joined Eltham Lioness Club before transferring to Lions in 1990 and both she and Ron have an almost 100% attendance record for meetings and projects.

Ron Cowell joined in 1992 and has held nearly every position. Ron and Jonty always accompanied Jean when she was District Hearing Dog Chairman and together they made a formidable team.

Ron and Jean have supported Lions' Licola Village for over 17 years.



Volunteer aid

The recovery from Cyclone Marcia that struck Queensland earlier this year is ongoing.

The Q4 Disaster Management committee recently handed over a \$14,704 cheque to support volunteer organisation Blaze Aid in Central Queensland. The cheque went to The Caves Lions Club for the operating and meals expenses of volunteers serving communities in the Livingstone and Rockhampton shires.

Blaze Aid set up three camps in Central Queensland – at Monto, Biloela and The Caves following Cyclone Marcia. Since 2009, Blaze Aid has run 35 base camps across six states. In addition to fencing and other works, BlazeAid volunteers help lift the spirits of those facing losses through bushfires, cyclones, floods and droughts.

HELPING OUT (pictured right): Lions Kevin Hinz, Barry and Bev Hannam and Mark Beattie present the cheque to Mary Howarth and John Libbinci of Blaze Aid.





Aussie Joe is a Lions **KNOCKOUT!**

“Aussie Joe” Bugner, the only boxer in history to have gone the distance with both Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, has won another accolade – that of Lions champion.

Thanks to Aussie Joe, Brisbane’s Logan City Marsden Lions Club recently raised more than \$3,500 for the Lions Children’s Mobility Foundation.

The money came from a three-course dinner where guests were enthralled by the former heavyweight boxer’s reminiscences and took part in an auction of boxing memorabilia.

Hungarian-born Bugner, an eager Lions supporter, has lived on the Gold Coast for more than 20 years following an international boxing career of 69 wins from 83 bouts.

While he had a long and illustrious career, he is still most famous for twice going 15 rounds with Ali.

“Ali was so fast and evasive,” he recalled to Brisbane’s Sunday Mail. “He was hard to nail with more than one punch at a time but I did manage to get my left jab going in both fights and I connected with plenty of shots. I trained very hard for both fights. I’m proud of the fact that I’m the only man in history to go the distance with

both Ali and Joe Frazier. And I went the distance with Ali twice, in 1973 in Las Vegas and again in 1975 in Kuala Lumpur.”

Bugner ended up forming a good friendship with Ali and happily recalls one pre-fight meeting at a promotional event.

“There were 200 people surrounding him as soon as he walked in. The first thing he says is ‘so you’re this white boy thinks he can whup me? You caaan’t whup me. Man, you soooo ugly. Your mamma must have been sad when she had you.’ I said ‘Muhammad, if you think I’m ugly you haven’t seen my sister.’ That stunned him. For the first time in his life he was speechless. But then he came back and said: ‘Boy, know how fast I am? I’m so fast I can put the light out and be in bed before it gets dark.’”

While Bugner proved a knockout on the night



COP THAT: Logan City Marsden Lion Darryl McLeod lands one on the boxing legend’s chin (top), while (above) Hart walker recipient Sofie Hopson and her sister Rachel admire a championship belt presented to the boxer in Australia.

of the Brisbane Lions dinner, Logan City Marsden President Bernie Low says the boxing legend was clearly outpointed when he came up against little Sofie Hopson, a recipient of a Lions Hart Walker on the night.

FROM THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT

From Council Chairman Phillip



Greetings everyone,

I feel very proud and honoured to have been elected as our Multiple District Council Chairman for the 2015/16 Lions year.

Thank you to all current District Governors for having the trust and confidence in me to be the Council Chairman. We have already had quality time working together at the International Convention in Hawaii, and we are already forming a great team to lead this wonderful Multiple District. My wife, Lions Lady Anne, has been interacting with those partners who also came to Hawaii, and we are very confident in saying that they will be very supportive of the work our District Governors will be involved in over the coming year.

I look forward to working with the Council of Governors, the Senior Management team and the Executive Officer and his staff. There are challenges ahead, and it is with excitement that we move forward to embrace them.

It is my role to work with and assist each District Governor to have a successful year and to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. They will need the assistance of every Lion in their District to achieve those goals.

I have had the privilege of serving as District Governor of 201V2 for the past 12 months and I would like to thank all Lions and fellow District Governors and partners for a wonderful and successful year. I would especially like to thank all the members of my own club, the Lions Club of Colac, and in particular Lion Tony Jones for all their support and understanding over the past three years, as I have devoted more of my Lions service to the District and now over the coming year to our Multiple District. It has meant that on many occasions they have been one member short for various projects and activities.

On behalf of Anne and myself I wish to congratulate Past Council Chairman Warren and Lion Marilyn for their support and leadership during that past year and during the handover process.

The role of Council Chairman presents new challenges and I look forward to working with the new District Governors and their partners in 2015-16.

Currently I view myself as being in active retirement, but for over 39 years I was involved in the teaching profession and for the last 24 years I was principal at four Catholic primary schools around south west and central Victoria. It was in 1987, when I first took up the position of principal in Coleraine, that I was approached by some of the local Lions members and asked if I would be interested in joining Lions. So began my Lions journey and understanding of community service. Membership in Lions enabled me to join immediately into the life of the community when I moved schools and as such I have been a Lions member of Coleraine, Koroit, Elmore and now Colac. This has been one of those decisions in life that I have never regretted.

My theme will be the same as it was when I was District Governor – “We Serve – A lesson for Life”. I truly believe that when we serve our community, be it local, national or international, we learn a great deal about ourselves as a human, we become involved and learn more about the people we serve, and in particular we learn a great deal about the community we serve. How very true is the caption that is currently being used as we build up to our centennial celebrations – “Where there is a need, there is a Lion”.

Our mission is “To Serve”, and to continue to serve we need to grow and to increase our levels of service. One of the roles of Council Chairman is to lead and encourage the Council of Governors in their management of the Multiple District, so that Lions of Australia can continue to serve and grow Together. The challenge of our new International President, Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada, is to continue with the “ASK 1” campaign, but he has added the extra challenge to start the asking at home. We, as Lions, all know how supportive our families can be as we carry out our actions of service, so why not ask them to be fully involved by becoming a member? The other challenge is for each of our 1,230 clubs to strive to be NET PLUS 1 at the 30th June 2016. If each club can achieve that simple goal then we automatically have another 1,230 Lions in MD201

ready to answer the challenge when we say – “Where there is a need, there is a Lion”.

Here in Australia we look forward to working with our new International President, Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada, as he promotes his theme of Dignity, Harmony and Humanity. We will learn more about this as the year unfolds. Dr Yamada points out that “as we strive to serve the needs of others, let us always remember to respect the DIGNITY of those we serve. As we reach out to others with hands of service, let us always remember it is not a handout. As we build others up, let us always remember serving others isn’t just an act of kindness; it is also a means to build understanding and HARMONY. As we show empathy for the less fortunate in our respective communities, let us extend empathy to all who are suffering around the world. And as we continue to serve human kind, let us remember that serving HUMANITY is not a duty, it is a responsibility”.

An opportunity to gather as the family of Lions will take place in Auckland, New Zealand at the 2015 ANZI Forum from Friday, September 4th through to Sunday, September 6th. It is a great opportunity to gather with fellow Lions from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands for fellowship and learning. A great program has been planned and I encourage you to go onto the ANZI Forum website to find out more and register.

Planning has already commenced on the Multiple District Convention in Echuca in Victoria in May 2016. More details will be published soon.

This year we will continue to focus on supporting our GMT and GLT coordinators at both District and Multiple District levels. This is all aimed at making sure we remain global leaders in community and humanitarian service. We will also continue to support our Youth Programs and Projects through Youth of the Year, Youth Exchange, Youth Camps, Leos and Peace Poster Program to name but a few of our youth initiatives. Let us continue to believe that we can continue to build our clubs, retain members and charter new clubs. This will require the courage and commitment of all Lions.

As Anne and I continue into this Lions year, we look forward to meeting and working with you and being your representative over this time. We look forward to being part of another successful year for Multiple District 201.

Travel safely and take care.

– Phillip Johnson

From Executive Officer Rob



YOUTH OF THE YEAR NATIONAL FINAL

– SAVE THE DATE!

8:30AM MONDAY 16 MAY 2016

In consultation with the Youth of the Year Committee, we have set the date for the Youth of the Year Final for the 4th day of the Echuca National Convention.

The Youth of the Year Final will be on Monday 16th of May commencing at 8:30am and concluding at 10:30am.

Why this date?

The Youth of the Year Final is one of the most popular events at our Convention. It is engaging, informative, positive and optimistic. We believe it is a great way to finish the Convention on a high note. Very importantly, it will also give us the opportunity to invite all the local schools in Echuca to attend the Youth of the Year Finals to be inspired about these young people and our Lions Association.

We are hopeful for an auditorium bursting at the seams with Lions, students and their families to be inspired and entertained.

Of course, the Leo of the Year Finals remain an important part of our program, celebrating the valued young members of our organisation.

Please make sure that you put this date in your diary and make your plans to attend.

The Echuca Convention

The Echuca Convention will commence at 4pm Thursday 12 May 2016 with a spectacular Opening Ceremony on the Murray River followed by the 'Meet and Greet' in the unique Heritage precinct. The Convention proceedings will conclude at lunchtime on Monday 16 May 2015 to give our Lions time to set up the hall for a very special Gala Dinner on Monday night to wrap up the Convention.

Council Chairperson Phillip and I have recently visited Echuca and the organising Committee is

well advanced in preparing for a great country convention. (For those of you who kindly completed the Convention survey after Newcastle, we are sharing those results with the Committee to assist in their planning).

The Lions Centennial

I am pleased to advise that Australia Post has agreed to circulate a stamp to celebrate the centenary of our Association. They haven't set the date yet, but will be in touch to consult on the design.

Each District has appointed a Centennial Coordinator who will be organising various events in your District but, following a Centennial Program workshop, I can advise you that the best thing your club can do is complete its activity reports, to ensure that your current community service activities are credited towards our centennial goals. The Multiple District will finalise its centennial plans at the Council meeting in September this year.

My best wishes to you as we commence the new Lions year.

– Rob Oerlemans



SERVICE HONoured: PCC John Kilpatrick AM with his wife Ellen.

50 years a Lion and now an AM

PCC John Kilpatrick of the Charlestown Lions Club (and a former mayor of Lake Macquarie) has been acknowledged with a Medal of the Order of Australia (AM).

He joins a select and small band of Lions who have received the honour.

The AM follows an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) John, a Lion for more than 50 years, was awarded in 1994.

In the latest honour, he was recognised for his service to the community through leadership of social welfare organisations and to local government.

John is the longest-serving Lake Macquarie mayor and served as the chairman of Anglican Care for 35 years.

He has also been on the board of Samaritans for 30 years, served as a trustee of the Anglican Diocese for 36 years, and was on the board of the Greater Building Society for more than a decade. He was involved with Meals on Wheels for more than 35 years.

Coming up

1. Bid for the 2019 MD201 Convention:

Bids are sought from Lions Districts and Clubs to host the 2019 Multiple District Convention. For full details and a bidding package please contact Executive Officer, Rob Oerlemans at info@lions.org.au

2. ANZI Pacific Forum, Auckland New Zealand

– The forums are a great way to meet Lions from our Constitutional Area as well as our International Leaders. Forums also provide training workshops useful to club members. Any Lion is welcome to attend a Forum. For more information follow the links to the Forum website at lionsclubs.org.au/anzi-pacific-forum-2015.

3. Please note the deadlines regarding

Motions to the Echuca National

Convention in 2016 – on page 25 of this magazine.

Turning tables on telemarketer

Don't you just hate those telemarketers who ring at all inconvenient times?

I just had one (name deleted) ring and the woman did her usual spiel "thank you for your past support" etcetera. I replied: "Before you go any further, I am in the Lions Club and we sponsor many, many critical foundations as a result."

She said: "Oh really, I reckon you provide the very best Christmas cakes anywhere and I've been buying them since my mother passed away. I don't even bake, I just warm them up and cover them in custard."

Then came the golden question. "You know, I've always loved what the Lions do, I wonder if I could become a member?"

Well, guess what I said?

I promised if she joined I would make every effort to be at her induction.

I thought a new member for \$50 worth of raffle tickets was a good bargain!

– **Wayne OAKES**
V2 District Governor,
Lions Club of Camperdown

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WOMEN IN LIONS

Lion Nicole "Feathers" Phillip under the microscope

Lion Nicole Phillip, or "Feathers" (she wears feathers in her hair) as she is known, is a young Lion (30) who is passionate about what she does as a member of the Apple Mac Qld Lions Club.

Nicole, who featured in the Two Hands video, has been secretary of her club and was a Zone Chairman at 22. She also has two District Governor awards.

Self-employed, she trains people to use Apple computers and other Apple devices.

I asked Nicole about her involvement in the Qld



Apple Mac Users Club.

Twenty five years ago, she says, her father started a project refurbishing old computers for the disadvantaged. As a five-year-old, Nicole became involved in helping her father.

Even at this young age she knew her way around computers and took great pleasure in showing people how to use them.

Sixteen years ago, her father was asked to join Lions and she and her brother were taken along to meetings. The club her father joined didn't approve of children being at meetings so he transferred to another. It wasn't long after that, 2003, that her father made the decision to form the Qld Apple Mac Users Club.

This club was a merging of the computer club and a Lions Club. This allowed the computer project that her father had established to continue. In 2003, the club was chartered with Nicole, then 18, as the charter secretary.

The meeting structure is different to a traditional Lions club.

The club meets face-to-face every 2-3 months, with all other business conducted by phone, email or SMS. It uses social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote upcoming events.

It has 20 members and calls on the assistance

of volunteers at various times.

The main focus of the club is LARC, the Lions Aid and Relief Centre. LARC's aim is to provide quality education and health equipment to those in need. The club helps communities in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region and collects used hospital and educational equipment. Every year on average it dispatches 10-15 containers full of supplies to communities in Queensland, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

The funding: The club asks for donations from the recipients to cover the transport costs. It also sells toys made under the Work for the Dole program in its warehouses in Ipswich, Woolloongabba and Hamilton. Toys are distributed to nursing homes, dementia units, children's hospitals and at Christmas functions for disadvantaged children. It also holds two fundraising events, Barefoot Bowls and a Melbourne Cup function.

At the moment "Feathers", along with club members, is involved with Personal Energy Transportation (PET) units that give mobility, independence and self-worth to victims of polio and land mine explosions. The cost of a PET unit is \$300, and the QLD Apple Mac Club receives donations to sponsor units.

"Feathers" was seen riding around on a PET at the Newcastle Convention.

Why Lions? "Feathers" remains a Lion to continue the good work her father started. She says Lions opened her eyes to seeing developing countries struggling for basic needs, and realising just how much of a lucky country Australia is.

"We waste so much equipment," she says, "when there are people less fortunate than ourselves who can use that discarded equipment, providing them with a better quality of life. We recycle much equipment that would go to the tip, to assist those who need it.

"We help the wider community, not only in Australia but in developing countries. What we do epitomises the Lions motto We Serve."

"Feathers" believes that to attract young people like herself, Lions needs to realise that young people are time poor, and that clubs must look at designing their meeting structures and projects to accommodate this constraint.

It was wonderful talking to such a vibrant young person with a passion for what she does.

If you know someone in your area that is interested in Lions, please invite them to your club.

Thank you, "Feathers".

– **PDG Brenda Henderson**

Calling Doctor Yamada

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan, our 99th International President, promises to advance the health of the association

For 45 years he has donned surgical scrubs and, as families anxiously paced in the waiting room, operated on the brain, neck or back.

Neurosurgery has not been his only occupation. Yamada also served as a hospital director, a job with a huge impact, not only on individual families, but on an entire community.

Now Yamada serves all Lions, having taken the oath as the 99th international president of Lions Clubs International on June 30 in Honolulu.

His work in medicine requires a steady hand, a keen eye for detail and the ability to make tough decisions by quickly synthesising reams of information. Granted, the presidency is not brain surgery. But he needs to keep rallying Lions around the measles program, our sight efforts and other life-saving or life-changing major initiatives, strengthen membership and retention, and keep the centennial celebration on course.

So how will he lead our association of 1.4 million Lions?

Yamada can draw on lessons learned from a frightening cancer diagnosis and shoddy care from a physician. He can muster the gumption and ingenuity that led him, as a hospital director, to pioneer new forms of care. Or, a leadership based on personal experience, he can recall what it is like to be a regular Lion or even the disaffected Lion as he once was, so lacking in enthusiasm he nearly quit his club.

Maybe he'll even invoke a story about a possible Martian invasion. He did just that in marshalling



GOING BACK: Dr Yamada returns to Ajsai Nursing College, where he taught. Photos by John Timmerman

support among Lions for a bold plan to save the Great Wall of China.

Ultra-focused in the operating room and duly serious in hospital staff meetings, Yamada, 71, often



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surprises acquaintances with his geniality and humour in more relaxed situations. He may surprise Lions, too with his approach. He promises not a major operation, not an overhaul – nor, on the other hand, a cursory checkup but instead a thorough, decisive and empathetic bedside manner as top Lion. “My philosophy with medicine and Lions is to leave things in a better state than how I found them,” he says with conviction. “That’s why we ‘treat’ and that’s why ‘we serve.’”

Yamada has a doctor-like presence. “Dr. Yamada is the quintessential brain surgeon,” says Masako Kawai, who met him 20 years ago when they volunteered together to promote tourism and commerce in Gifu Prefecture, where Yamada lives. “He’s always calm, warm-hearted, focused and ready to make a good decision that has a big impact in a split second. He always has a keen eye for details and always keeps the big picture in mind.” (Some of the quotes in this story were translated from Japanese.)

Medicine has enveloped Yamada’s life. His father was a doctor. As a boy, Yamada was entranced by the TV show Ben Casey. Here was man who did what his father did and wore a shining white coat to boot. Certain of his calling at an early age, he earned his medical degree from Nihon University in 1968.

Not surprisingly, medicine even was the context of his courtship, marriage and now, for decades, his smooth, loving partnership with his spouse. He met Toshiko in medical school. They traded lunches, shared lecture notes and in time shared a life. Yamada fondly – and modestly – recalls their days together as medical students. “She took good notes. I did not,” he says, unconvincingly.

“I knew from the beginning he was a gentle and honest man,” says Dr. Toshiko Yamada. “He’s truly a big thinker. He thinks about things many years into the future.”

Yamada had what it took to prosper as a neurosurgeon. His healthcare colleagues attest to his coolness under pressure in the operating room. Those qualities are a prerequisite for a neurosurgeon. But his innovative track record as a hospital administrator sets him apart. Yamada added a rehabilitation centre to Kizawa Memorial Hospital.

Yamada’s daily experiences as a doctor swayed him to be bold and innovative as a healthcare leader. His sudden own terrifying illness as a patient

transformed him as a doctor and jolted him into a heightened understanding of the preciousness of life and the obligation to give back. In the summer of 1983, at just 39 years old, he was shocked to learn he had liver cancer. He underwent an emergency operation. “I thought I would die. It’s an indescribable feeling,” he says.

A year later, still fearful of dying, he saw his doctor again. “Why am I still alive?” he asked. The doctor matter-of-factly replied, “Your tumor was benign.” Yamada was incredulous. And furious. Post-op biopsies take a couple weeks or even days. “Why didn’t you tell me?” he demanded. The doctor stood his ground, however shaky. “I was waiting for you to ask,” he curtly responded.

Yamada resolved to henceforth provide the kind

zone chairperson. He had an idea. Why not protect the Great Wall of China? Erosion was wearing it away, and a forest of trees would provide a protective shield.

His proposal landed with a thud. How could Lions of Japan overcome tensions between the two nations and summon the technical expertise and manpower for the project to succeed? That’s when Yamada, out of the blue, concocted a tale of an earth at risk of Martian invasion. “What if space aliens were looking down at the Earth for sign of an advanced society? The Great Wall is supposedly visible from space,” Yamada told the Lions leaders. “If Martians saw the wall was crumbling they’d think humanity was in decline – ready to be conquered. We need to protect the Wall.”

It was poppycock, a silly story. Yamada knew it. The Lions knew it. (His wife knew it, too. “Maybe you are one of the aliens,” she dismissively told him when he recounted the story to her.) But the tale shook Lions from their dead seriousness, their doldrums and their inability to see beyond the obvious and the easy. They agreed to take on the landmark tree-planting project.

Many hurdles remained. Chief among them was the problem of “iron trees”. The Lions soon realised that any trees planted soon would be chopped down by villagers desperately reliant on firewood to cook their meals. A Lion remarked that the only tree left standing would be an iron one.

The solution was a tree more valuable standing than one cut down. Lions would plant chestnut trees, highly valued as a source of nutrition.

Another daunting obstacle was finding a respected, resourceful partner in China to help circumvent a host of political and practical barriers. This is where luck – the residue of design – came in. Yamada happened to read a newspaper story about a Chinese professor leading tree planting in Inner Mongolia to combat desertification. Yamada called him on the phone, and the professor told him that “the perfect person to help you just happens to be in Japan now.” Adds Yamada, “The pieces just fell into place.” In three years, with the help of local Chinese volunteers, Lions planted 68,000 trees. The Martians stayed put.

– Adapted from a story by Jay Copp
 ■ Watch videos on our New International President and his theme at lionmagazine.org.



A LIFE OF HEALING AND SERVICE: Our new International President Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada dining with his children and grandchildren.

of care he expected for himself. Something else came alive inside him. No more would he take life for granted or take from life all the good it offered without trying to make life better for others. “I was so thankful. I felt there was a God. I wanted to serve. I wanted to give back,” he says.

The next year Yamada became a Lion. The timing was perfect. His father, who had been a Lion, had just passed away. His uncle, a district governor, encouraged him to fill his father’s shoes and join.

Yamada flourished as a Lion after he became the organ donation coordinator. “That was a turning point for me as a Lion,” he says.

As a club president, district governor and international director, Yamada championed a multitude of successful projects. Integral to his leadership has been a willingness to take chances, to stir the pot, to step outside the box, doing so in fanciful way if that’s what it took to quell doubt and rouse support. His district governor sought to do a large-scale service project when he was serving as

**Dignity.
Harmony.
Humanity.**



Bringing Dignity To Others

Through Humanitarian Service

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL • 2015-2016

PRESIDENT DR. JITSUHIRO YAMADA

EVERY YEAR, thousands of small cranes cross over the Himalayas at an altitude of 8000m in V formation for their seasonal migration. They are known as demoiselle cranes and they are the smallest species in the crane family of birds. During the summer, they reside in the steppes of Mongolia. As winter approaches they form groups and begin their southward journey to India. At 8,000 meters, the temperature is minus thirty Celsius and the oxygen saturation is only one third of the terrestrial oxygen level. Those brutal conditions make their migration a life or death journey in the truest sense.

This grueling route would be impossible for a small number of birds. By flying in a large V formation, each bird can make use of the backflow of air over the wings of the other birds in front of them and by doing so, reduce the total energy expended. The leading bird expends the greatest amount of energy so it is necessary to continually rotate new birds into the position. The demoiselle crane depends upon the cooperation and harmony of every other member of the flock. While each bird is small, every bird has great dignity.



Demoiselle cranes seasonal migration over the Himalayas

The determination demonstrated, as well as other characteristics like teamwork, and their family structure, have endeared the crane to multiple cultures. In Japan, the crane has traditionally been a symbol of long life. In the Japanese art of origami, the crane is the most basic and representative form that all children learn how to make. There is a custom of folding cranes and giving one to a loved one who is suffering from disease or injury as a way to say, “we wish you a quick recovery and long life.” The folding of origami cranes is a meditative act that shows the heartfelt wishes of friends and family for the ill to become well again. But the crane has also become known as a symbol of peace – not only in Japan but around the world.

We Lions have been fostering international peace and harmony through service, giving hope to all people, and giving opportunity to live with dignity. As a medical doctor, I made a career out of fighting for the dignity of human life. A doctor might be able to save 10,000 lives over the course his career. By working together, our association can save tens of millions of lives each year through our programs.



Japanese Origami



Peace, hope, determination, teamwork
and uniting people through service are
central elements of my presidential theme –

“Dignity. Harmony. Humanity.”



Childhood should be a happy time

Bringing Dignity To Others Through Humanitarian Service

“What should move us to action is human dignity: the inalienable dignity of the oppressed, but also the dignity of each of us. We lose dignity if we tolerate the intolerable.”

Dominique De Menil

There are many questions, scientific and otherwise, to which we may never have answers. But one thing is certain – human dignity should not be a privilege. One of the basic tenets of human dignity and self-respect is the ability to provide for oneself and for one’s family. Imagine being a parent, watching your children go to bed hungry, or having a child diagnosed with a treatable disease but with no means to afford proper medical treatment. Millions of people here on earth wake up each morning wondering if they will be able to feed their children that day, or provide for their healthcare. They face an uncertain future, with little hope of bettering themselves or giving their children a life of certainty.

Childhood should be a happy time, filled with pleasant memories – vacations with family, celebrating holidays, familiar and delicious aromas coming from the kitchen, favorite stories shared with friends. It should be a time dedicated to study and preparing for the future, with a support network in place.

But for many children, there is no school. There is no support network. There are 2.2 billion children in the world today, and nearly 1 billion of them live in poverty. Poverty has devastating effects on children. It is linked to substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition and food insecurity, poor academic achievement (even when education is available), lack of medical care, and so much more that most of us take for granted. And it isn’t only in developing countries.

Children of course are our future and tomorrow's leaders, yet they are in the most desperate need of our help. So service to children will continue to be a main focus area this year. Thousands of children die each day from treatable disease, hunger, and lack of fresh drinking water. Parents often watch helplessly because they don't have the financial resources, nearby reliable facilities, or both, to save their children. I want to help alleviate the needless suffering of children. No – we can't save every child. But just by strengthening or expanding our existing programs for children, we can make a difference. That is why I am introducing this year the Children's Dignity Initiative. Under this initiative, I am encouraging Lions to expand service to children by:

- Supporting and brightening the outlook of children in hospitals
- Responding to the needs of children in refugee camps
- Addressing the needs of hungry children
- Continue and expand the Reading Action Program



Those are only a few of the many services opportunities that address the needs of children. You can read more about the Children's Dignity Initiative on the lionsclubs.org web site.



Serving others. Those are not just words to Lions. Our organization was founded on that very principle. Our tradition of service continues, and in fact has grown to meet the needs of our communities and a changing world. But we don't just serve. We don't simply provide food, shelter, or address the immediate need. We provide hope. We provide the promise of a brighter tomorrow. And yes, we restore dignity.

The question is "can we do more?" We MUST do more. Our 100 year anniversary is approaching. The centennial service challenge is an ambitious undertaking. In order to reach our goal of serving 100 million people in the areas of youth, vision, hunger and the environment between now and June 30, 2018, it will be necessary to triple our output of service in those areas. I know we can do it. Lions have shown time and time again their willingness and ability to exceed challenges when it means others less fortunate will benefit. We asked Lions to plant 1 million trees, and they exceed that ten-fold. There are countless other examples.



Service to others is changing the world. Think about it. As we serve others, we are sowing the seeds of harmony, understanding and peace. Our service programs –restoring sight, protecting children from measles, feeding empty stomachs, planting trees, and so much more, are strengthening humanity and forming bonds of mutual understanding.



Children of course are our future and tomorrow's leaders

Harmony: Mutual Understanding Through Service

Anthropologists have identified hundreds – if not thousands – of cultures. But it doesn't take an anthropologist to point that out. Just in our own world of Lions, we know we have many outward differences. But as a neurosurgeon, I can tell you beyond all reasonable doubt that in spite of any outside characteristic like skin color, hair color, different features, the way we speak, or other factors that identify culture, on the inside we are basically the same. A heart is a heart. We all function in the same manner. That shouldn't be just a scientific approach; it should be the human approach – to dignity, to harmony and to humanity.

In this rapidly changing world, where cultures and people circulate and interact on a daily basis, those people who know how to communicate effectively across cultures, in both personal and professional contexts, will have a crucial advantage over those who do not. Cultural sensitivity requires empathy, curiosity and respect for other people's opinions and beliefs

Culture is a strong part of people's lives. It influences their views, their values, their humor, and their hopes and aspirations. People learn how to function and maneuver within their own culture from the day of birth. Sometimes people mistakenly draw the conclusion based on their own perspective that all cultures are alike, that if they understand their own culture, they can easily operate in others. Not so.

Global Projects For Harmony

It is important to understand and appreciate cultures unlike our own. There is no better way to cultivate better understanding and appreciation than through joint service projects at the district and multiple district level. I encourage district governors and council chairpersons to reach out to each other internationally. I have seen this international cooperation work first hand in projects between Lions of Japan and Lions of the Philippines. International joint service projects provide a different perspective to their routine and an appreciation for other cultures. Bringing people together to address the needs of others creates true harmony within the international community. This type of activity is at the heart of the Third Purpose of the Association – “To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.”

Clubs can also get involved in international cooperation. Clubs that participate in our Twinning program gain a unique understanding of another culture. Interacting with members from different cultures and with different points of view can go a long way in broadening our outlook and provides inspiration for activities in our own community.

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

Mother Teresa



Bringing people together to address the needs of others

Lions serve with sincerity,
they serve with passion

More Members Equals More Service

Our members and our clubs are the heart of our organization. Lions serve with sincerity, they serve with passion, and they serve unconditionally.

We have enjoyed a lengthy period of membership growth. We have shown an increase in worldwide membership for seven years in a row. There are a number of reasons for our success; we have a dynamic Global Membership Team, effective marketing strategies coupled with easy to implement membership growth programs, dedicated leaders beginning at the club level and unprecedented outreach to women and family members, to name only a few. Together, we have built our membership to nearly 1.4 million members.

I want to continue that growth. More members equal more service.

Club Presidents Hold The Keys To Our Success

Our association's energy radiates from each club. So naturally, club presidents are at the heart of our success. They have the power to succeed. They have the power to affect change. They have the power to transform the way we do business. So I am asking club presidents to transform the atmosphere of their club. Transform the club to one in which members feel confident, and to one which works in unison with the community it serves, thereby garnering respect. Wouldn't it be wonderful if new members came to us instead of the other way around?

I have come up with 7 points of excellence for club presidents.

“Ask One” Begins At Home

Lions volunteering with family is a great way for families to have fun and feel closer. It is even better when family members become Lions! If you ask one, you should ask your closest friend, the person you trust most – your loving spouse and partner. Share your commitment and enthusiasm for Lions with your family members. Families that serve together as Lions establish a family tradition of serving others.

The Ask One membership campaign starts at home. If Lions families are on the front lines serving their communities, the word will spread wider and faster. We will gain the recognition we deserve as the greatest service organization in the world.

Humanity - Bringing It All Together

If clubs are at the heart of our community service, then LCIF is at the heart of our worldwide service. LCIF grants create goodwill, eliminate human suffering, and restore hope and dignity for people around the world. LCIF programs and partnerships enable us to treat preventable blindness; provide free medical care and medical training for doctors and nurses; teach life skills to school children; and so much more. This year I am asking Lions to take every opportunity to support LCIF with your generous donations and Melvin Jones Fellowships. Your support underscores our ability to combine dignity and harmony while serving humanity.

Photo Credit: Dan Morris



Club President Keys To Success

1. Increased value in being a member (*better education for new members*)
2. Making clubs that members are proud to be in (*improving club satisfaction*)
3. High quality service projects (*relevant to the actual needs of the general community*)
4. Serving with family members (*because “Ask One” starts at home*)
5. More female members / young members (*the ideal man to woman ratio is 1:1*)
6. Being leaders in the community (*more leadership training*)
7. Thinking outside the box (*reform of inefficient practices, customs and policies*)



Conclusion

As we approach our centennial celebration, we would do well to remember and meditate upon the words of our founder -

“You can’t get very far until you start doing something for somebody else.”

Melvin Jones

We have demonstrated throughout our history the ability to bring people together for a common cause. We have shown time after time that national boundary lines are nothing more than dots on a map. In spite of conflicts and disputes throughout the world, we work beyond differences – a grassroots coalition of peace through service.



**Bringing people together
for a common cause**



*“Be kind. Be open. Be curious. Be strong.
Be generous. Be sincere. Be loyal. Be honest.
Be a Lion.”*

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada

Dignity

As we strive to serve the needs of others, let us always remember to respect the dignity of those we serve.

As we reach out to others with hands of service, let us always remember it is not a handout.

Harmony

As we build others up, let us always remember serving others isn't just an act of kindness; it is also a means to build understanding and harmony.

Humanity

As we show empathy for the less fortunate in our respective communities, let us extend empathy to all who are suffering around the world.

And as we continue to serve human kind, let us remember that serving humanity is not a duty, it is a responsibility.

I am immensely proud and extremely humbled to be the president of the global leader in humanitarian service – Lions Clubs International. I wish you 1,000 cranes. But most of all, I hope the service you bestow on others brings you tremendous love and fulfillment, and fills your heart with joy and peace.



How \$700 can save a mother and her baby

On the doorstep of Australia, five women die in childbirth every day.

It's happening in Papua New Guinea. It's described statistically as maternal mortality ratio (MMR).

In Australia that figure is six per 100,000. In PNG it's 750 per 100,000.

In essence, other than family planning only one intervention has been shown to reduce or prevent maternal deaths in circumstances such as in PNG – encouraging mothers to have supervised deliveries.

In Australia, access to safe and hygienic maternal health care services is a given rather than a privilege. However, currently in PNG only 36% of births are attended by a skilled healthcare worker, and less than 30% of women have a supervised delivery in a healthcare facility – a situation that all too often leads to birthing complications and, as a result, death.

Yet the Lions of Australia can do something about it!

We are approaching every Lions club of Australia via their Districts to consider small funding support for some simple projects to provide assistance to the birthing mothers of PNG. This approach received the tacit go-ahead of the Governors at their January Council meeting.

Bush Huts

It has been identified that PNG mothers can walk about 50-65km to a health centre, then be turned away as not “term”, then later die from blood loss beside a track in the open heat and rain, trying to walk back to a supervised delivery. Of course,



Huts like this one, built for just \$700, can give shelter to women on their long walks to health centres.

often the baby dies at the same time.

What has proven successful is the provision of bush huts beside the health centres, allowing mothers to stay in a culturally acceptable and familiar “hut” near to supervision, pending delivery. These need to be locally made and can be provided for about \$700.

Baby Bundles

Mothers in remote areas are often poor with little food and clothing, are shy and simply do not understand the need for supervision in birthing.

What has been successfully trialled in remote areas is the provision of an incentive to attend the health centre for birth via a “baby bundle” containing some basic needs for both mother and baby in a baby bath. These cost 50-60 kina or about \$25.

District Q2 has already provided \$6,500 for some initial bush huts and baby bundles.

Health Centres

Many health centres in remote areas of PNG are extremely basic and lack water, power and suffer a general lack of communications.

Advice is that deliveries, even in health centres, are often undertaken by torchlight at night.

It is considered that in a tropical sunlit country, the provision of solar power and satellite phones at health centres in a variety of locations MAY be reasonably easy to achieve.

This is being investigated as a potential project. Costings will revolve around bulk purchase arrangements and local installation.

Mechanics of proposal

The idea is that a campaign for one-off donations via Australian Lions clubs be administered by your MD PNG Committee under the authority of the Q2 DG of the day.

It is believed that these small projects are eminently affordable by individual Lions clubs with the real health and human benefit-to-cost ratio for a modest outlay being enormous.

In fact, it is suggested that provision of \$25 or \$700 will save the life of a mother and a child.

PDG Gary Kenny

MD PNG Committee, Project Officer

Meet a darn good Lions fellow

Associated with the Australian College of Optometry in Carlton, Victoria, the National Vision Research Institute has a proud record of achievements in eye-related research.

Dr Shaun Cloherty is the Lions Senior Research Fellow at the NVRI with a background in aeronautical engineering that has held him in good stead in his present work with the Bionic Eye.

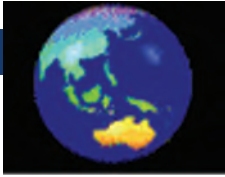
Shaun's association with the institute goes back to 2011 when he moved with Prof Michael Ibbotson to his new digs in Carlton from the ANU in Canberra.

He has a long list of accolades, including high impact publications, and he has won several large grants from the federal government.

The Victorian Lions Foundation is a major contributor to Shaun's work which includes supervising PhD students on projects related to the development of the bionic eye and amblyopia (weakness of one eye in young people).

Dr Cloherty (right) receives the Lions Research Fellow award from Lion, optometrist and NVRI board member Rod Jackson of V3's Mirboo North club.





AROUND THE NATION

Photo courtesy The Maitland Mercury



Maitland Lions ensure local train passengers are sitting pretty

Maitland Lions in NSW have done their bit for local transport with the donation of benches for the convenience of train travellers.

The benches, costing \$6,500, were recently installed at the Maitland railway station.

“The donation will be much appreciated by our customers, especially the elderly,” station manager Antony Gorman told the local newspaper.

“When they’re leaving the train station and waiting to be picked up by friends or relatives,

HAPPY BAND: Members of the Maitland club are happy with their success in providing station benches. The sign is one the club erected earlier to welcome visitors to Maitland.

they’ve now got somewhere comfortable to sit.”

The money was raised from gate donations at the Maitland Showground from various events.

Lions are invited by Macular Disease Foundation Australia to enter its fifth annual mEYE World Photographic Competition.

Many Lions know the Macular Disease Foundation Australia through past fundraising efforts to support its invaluable work in sight care.

A high profile judging panel including media identity and Patron of Macular Disease Foundation Australia Ita Buttrose will decide this years’ winners.

It’s easy to enter. All you need to do is submit a photograph online that represents the theme of See My World, plus a brief description. There is over \$13,000 worth of prizes to be won.

The competition runs until 8 September this year. Visit www.meyephoto.com.au for all the details.

This awe-inspiring photo (right) of a snow leopard in the wild, taken by Dr Kerry Boytell of Mosman NSW, won last year’s Healthcare category prize.



Sounds good at Goulburn West PS

Hearing rates are up at the West Goulburn Public School in NSW following the donation of a better classroom sound system by the Goulburn City club.

The \$3,500 device, known as a 'Pro To Go', amplifies the teacher's voice, helping to boost the numeracy and literacy skills of students.

"This unit has great benefits for students in general, but in particular for deaf and the hearing impaired children as well as those who suffer from any form of attention deficit disorder," said Goulburn City President Ray Strong.

It is the 756th unit supplied to Australian schools by Lions Hearing Dogs Inc.

Said Ray Strong: "Eight years ago Hearing Dogs Inc. received a legacy of some millions of dollars from a wealthy South Australian resident, Mrs Beth Klugh.

"This amount has been invested and the earnings are being allocated to the provision of Field Sound Systems in primary schools. The program is quite different from the main mission of Hearing Dogs Inc in providing hearing dogs to the deaf and hearing impaired."

HAPPY HANDOVER: West Goulburn school captains Ella Park (left) and Sam Dunn accept the sound system from Lions Club of Goulburn City President Ray Strong (back left) and Club Secretary Mark Woodward.



SAUSAGE SAVIOUR: Paddington Bear lent a hand selling 27kg of sausages when members of The Caves club held their Lions Biggest BBQ at the local Bunnings store. The two-day event and a raffle raised \$2800 for Kids with Cancer.

BARBIE WITH BENEFITS:

The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) is \$332 better off thanks to Victoria's Benalla Lions and their annual Lions Biggest BBQ. All proceeds from the BBQ are used in the fight to improve survival rates, now around 80%.



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RECOVERY QUILT: Lions from the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland and Q3 Zone 12 cabinet members show off a quilt raffled to raise funds for the Nepal earthquake recovery. The quilt, made and donated by Maleny Blackall Range Lions President Helen Johnston, raised \$4113.65. Interestingly, the quilt was won by a man who had previously trekked in Nepal.



TOP JOB: His Excellency the Governor of South Australia The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Torrens Valley President Phil Bowman for his assistance to those affected by the January Sampson Flat bushfires. Among other things, Phil organised ALF Emergency Grants and administered a \$100,000 Recovery Grant.

LIONS OUT AND ABOUT



POPPY TIME: Chris Rigg from Victoria's Haddon Lions checks 3801 artificial poppies from the Ballarat RSL that were placed on tree plaques in Ballarat's Avenue of Honour. Local Lions were assisted by Phoenix College and Ballarat Special School students.



ON DUTY: Several former Australian Army-serving members of Brisbane's Inala Lions Club donned uniforms to take part in the Anzac Day parade. They were joined in showing respect by a big-eared friend. Throughout Australia many Lions took part in Anzac Day events.



MOVING LOO: Victoria's Paynesville Lions Ken Ford, Bill East and Kevin Burns manhandle a chemical toilet they donated to the Cockatoo Rise war veterans' retreat in the Gippsland Lakes region.



ON THE MOVE: Shivam Thakur, 11, a Duchene Muscular Dystrophy sufferer, tries out his new powered stand-up wheelchair donated by eight clubs in Zone 13 of N2. The handover was made at a dinner attended by Shivam's parents and his two sisters.



HIGH SPIRITS: Port Lincoln Lions and guests were in happy mood celebrating the club's 50th anniversary. About a hundred people attended and during the night Lion John Leech received his 50-year Charter Monarch from C1 District Governor Rosemary Wenham.



ON SHOW: Sydney's Mosman Lions know how to advertise the value of Lions in the community. Their promotional effort came at Curraghbeena Park in Mosman where they had earlier provided a shade sail to protect children enjoying themselves in a playground.



ON PARADE: Sydney's Kings Langley Lions share the Lions message on their club's distinctive trailer during the Blacktown Festival parade earlier this year. The happy Lions distributed show bags and information leaflets to the many spectators who came out for the parade and are hoping their invitation to join will attract new members.



FISHY: Minnamurra Lions join the house captains of local Peterborough Special School to celebrate the club's part in raising \$3000 for the school at a kids fishing contest held in Kiama Harbour by the local fishing club. The Lions staged a barbecue. Lions pictured are (from left) President Hugh Sail, John Know and Brian Divers. Front right is Mark Way of the Kiama Fishing Club.

How Barbara's Dad set her on the Lions path

When Orange Canobolas Lion Geoff Hill died late last year it was a giant loss for his club.

Yet the blow of the club's loss was softened just a little when earlier this year Geoff's daughter Barbara Hill signed up with the club.

While Barbara lives in Bathurst where she had a choice of two clubs, she opted for her father's old club.

Her reasoning makes interesting reading.

"Growing up I watched my dad each fortnight get dressed and proudly put on his Lions badge, to go to the Lions meetings with a pocket full of change for the fines," says Barbara.

"I remember Dad and his Lions mates cooking sausage sandwiches at events and pouring beer at Orange's Towac Park for horse races. I guess I didn't realise then that he was volunteering his time to raise money for the needy. I just saw him having laughs with his mates.

"I certainly remember the wonderful Christmas parties that the Lions club would have; they always made sure Santa visited us no matter whether we were in the Sydney, Tumut or Orange Canobolas Lions clubs.

"As I got older I started to really understand how important the Lions club was to my Dad as it wasn't just a club, it was HIS club! He was proud to be a member.

"A few years back I thought about joining the Lions club in Bathurst because I wanted to give back to the community in which I live. Then once my father passed I felt a very strong urge to join the Lions club with which I had grown up. I wanted to stay connected to my father and the friends he had made over the 34 years he had been in the Orange club. I am now very proud to be a Lion and wish to volunteer for as many events as I can. And I hope to make long lasting relationships with wonderful caring people, just like my dear old Dad did."

— Brett Campbell

Orange Canobolas Lions Club

FOOTNOTE: In recent years, Orange Canobolas Lions have donated \$5000 to the Orange Base Hospital for the training of nurses. At a club meeting in April a motion was passed to rename this fund The Geoff Hill Memorial Scholarship.

Presentations and Venue at Echuca Convention

Lions wishing to secure venues for activities or make 'on-stage' presentations at Convention must make the request in writing to the Executive Officer, by 31 December 2015.

Lions are advised that:

Project Notices of Motion, having been duly passed at a District Convention or adopted by Council, are to be provided to the Executive Officer prior to 1 January 2016. (For full requirements, refer to the MD201 Constitution Clauses 96.1 and its sub-clauses)

Fundraising Activity Notices of Motion, having been duly passed at a District Convention, or adopted by Council, are to be provided to the Executive Officer prior to 1 January 2016. (For full requirements, refer to the MD201 Constitution Clauses 104.1 and its sub-clauses.)

Other Notices of Motion

Other Notices of Motion, having been duly passed at the Council, a District Convention, a District Cabinet or a Lions Club, are to be provided to the Executive Officer prior to 1 March 2016. (For full requirements, refer to the MD201 Constitution Clauses 96.2 and its sub-clauses.)

Rob Oerlemans
Executive Officer
Lions Australia

LCIF Special playground brings joy to kids

With the help of your community anything is possible. For proof, look no further than Belton, Texas where the smiling faces of children brighten a new handicap-accessible playground made possible by the efforts of local Lions, the community of Belton and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

The story of the inclusive playground began in 2012 when city officials and the Belton Lions decided their town needed a place where all children could play, regardless of physical ability. As always, finances presented a challenge, but after raising US\$50,000 from the community over two years – along with matching funds from the city of Belton – Lions were awarded a \$75,000 Standard grant by LCIF to cover the remaining costs. After years of fundraising and hard work, the playground began to take shape.

Over the next several months, Lion planners worked with Texas-based We Build Fun, Inc. to build the playground and assemble the equipment. In December 2014, the community of Belton came together to celebrate the partnership that made the playground possible. The project cost \$180,000.

SIGHTFIRST LCIF provides hope in Colorado

“I’m sorry, but you are going blind. We can’t do anything about it.”

For many people diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), these words can stir fear, anger and confusion. For 80-year-old Maurine Sanford, they spurred defiance. “I’m not going to let that happen!” Sanford vowed.

While Sanford’s blue eyes may look healthy, her sight is mostly blurry and dark. She has geographic atrophy, a late stage of the dry form of AMD. When Sanford’s good friend Mary Duncan, who lives with low vision due to glaucoma, learned about Sanford’s condition, she recommended that Sanford visit the Enight Skills Center for Visual Rehabilitation in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Enight is the only nationally accredited, low-vision clinic in Colorado that offers a complete set of services to assist people who have low vision to improve their life skills, independence and self-confidence. The Fort Collins Lions Club has been a major supporter of Enight since the clinic was established in 2001. In 2013, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) awarded a US\$200,050 grant to fund a three-year SightFirst project to expand low-vision mobile services throughout Colorado. As the implementing partner, Enight purchased a van and equipped it with eye exam tools and devices.

For the past two years, the onsite van has

“This is another great day in Belton,” City Manager Sam Listi told the Belton Journal at the opening of the park. “Both the Belton Lions Club and LCIF were a major part of this project, and local citizens contributed over \$50,000.”

The playground features handicap-accessible equipment including slides, a merry-go-round, monkey bars and more. Multiple ramps allow wheelchair access to the full park, so special-needs individuals such as parents and guardians can observe the children. Padded turf adds further accessibility by forgoing the gravel and sand found in most playgrounds for a material much friendlier to wheelchairs.

“With the help of individual donations from Lions members, the City of Belton and LCIF, we were able to fund the playground. It was truly a joint community project,” said Robert Jones of the Belton Lions Club. “Wheelchairs can access all areas of the playground because of the artificial padded turf and multiple access ramps. The equipment is for all



Padded turf on the new playground in Belton, Texas makes it easy for wheelchairs to access the park

children, and is used daily by visitors, special field trips by local child care centres and Belton school special needs field trips. It is just an amazing facility.”

For information on Standard grants and to find out how your Lions club can apply, visit lcif.org.

– Eric Margules



Melody Bettenhausen of Enight shows Maurine Sanford how to use a closed circuit monitor/desktop video magnifier to write a cheque. Photo by Wayne Crownhart

travelled around rural Colorado promoting low-vision care, educating the local Lions and the community about tools and techniques available for people with low vision and providing low-vision evaluation and rehabilitation services. More than 100 Lion volunteers have participated in low-vision evaluation and education events, provided logistical support or taken the lead in information sessions. More than 290 low-vision patients have received rehabilitation services and follow-up consultations including home visits.

Over the past two years, Sanford has met regularly with an occupational therapist and an optometrist, who have helped her identify ways to better use her remaining vision such as turning her home into a low-vision friendly space. Low-vision patients like Sanford are assessed simultaneously by therapists and optometrists, who provide a personalised plan of action including follow-up care such as phone calls and home visits.

Sanford is grateful to all who have helped her along the way. “Before, I walked around hunched down, not wanting to do anything for fear of being hurt. But thanks to Enight and the Lions of Colorado, I am able to stand up straight and move forward to the next phase of my life,” she says.

District 6 NE Governor Bob Kitchell and Enight Board Chairperson Lion Doug Hutchinson believe that the SightFirst project has successfully reached out to an under-served population who were not only losing sight but losing hope as well. Hutchinson, who has low vision, says, “I am amazed at how minor adjustments in actions and behaviour can have major positive results in my day-to-day life. As a Lion, I proudly support our initiative and we look forward to helping more people in Colorado.”

For information on SightFirst programs and grants, visit lcif.org.

– Marie Anne Sliwinski

Fancy some UK hospitality?

District 105EA England offers Lions from Australia and New Zealand the opportunity to mix with Lions from its district in East Anglia via Operation Friendship.

This UK district has successfully played host to downunder Lions for several years.

You will be staying with local Lions families, attend a District Convention (held in mid March) and, of course, see all the sights the area has to offer.

The offer is for a Lion and his/her partner to spend 2-3 weeks as a guests of the district. All accommodation and local travel will be provided.

The lucky Lion is required to meet the cost of travel to and from their home to District 105ea.

The program offers a wonderful opportunity to meet and make new friends with Lions and their families in a different country, to experience the international nature of our organisation and to understand why Lions Clubs International is one big family.

Contact initially is I.R.O. Len Russell, District 105EA England. Applications must be received by mid December – email len.russell@btinternet.com.

A run-away success

It's a record to make any club proud ... donations in excess of \$70,000 to more than 65 charities, community groups and disaster appeals in just one year.

That's what Queensland's Runaway Bay club achieved in 2014-15.

The club says it was accomplished through a range of activities with support by way of grants and sponsorship funds from the Gold Coast City Council Division 3 Councillor Cameron Caldwell, Runaway Bay Shopping Village and the Australian Lions Foundation.

So where did all that money go?

For starters, \$47,000 was donated to charities and community events, \$23,000 was distributed in disaster relief support and \$45,000 was injected back into the local economy purchasing food, stock, equipment and services to enable the club to conduct fundraising and to hold community events.

yoursay
Lions' letters

No longer feel lost

Recently I had the privilege of meeting a charming lady who is a partner of a Lion. In conversation she told me one of the most positive stories I have heard about a Lions club, and I would like to share it with others.

I was reminded by her that we often hear and tell about what a Lions club can do for its community, but we as Lions sometimes forget that, what can be done for one of our own is no less important than anyone else.

I was told of a set of unfortunate circumstances that this family found itself in, through no fault of its own, that caused them to have to leave a family home of many years, their family, friends and community. This also resulted in a dramatic change to their lifestyle for the worse.

Having been required to move to a new town in a different state meant that her husband could no longer pursue his chosen career. Neither of them knew anyone there and this resulted in them both being depressed and severely so for her husband.

Thankfully and because her husband is a Lion, a few phone calls were made that in turn led to him joining the Lions club in their new town. This was life-changing for her husband and reading between the lines I think most possibly lifesaving.

Her husband was in due course invited to a meeting and returned home from that first meeting with a positive impression of the club's functioning and happy atmosphere.

This lady credits the new Lions club with having helped them both through one of their most challenging moments in life. I am also told that they have been actively included in the social activities and have many new friends.

In the lady's own words: "It has become a large part of our lives and we thank them all for that. We no longer feel lost and alone, but are busy and included in all club endeavours. They've given our lives purpose and meaning."

I have been prompted to write this as it is positive and in the retelling of this story my hope is that if read by others, it might bring about a more tolerant and caring attitude to our fellow members.

PDG Bob Radford

Time for a Trading Pin?

Does your club have a Trading Pin? If not, has your club had a Club Pin?

Would you like your club to have its own pin?

The Australian Lions Pin Trading Club (ALPTC) encourages all clubs in MD201 to have their own pin.

Trading pins were introduced many years ago as a means to create friendship and fellowship between Lions attending International Conventions. Trading has developed into a worldwide Lions friendship.

We encourage all Lions clubs to issue their own pin to further the ideals of Lions, promoting friendship amongst members and working together for our common aim of We Serve. We see nothing but added advantages to our Lions movement as more members mean more hands to work for your community. Wearing a club pin would advertise your club at club or community functions and give added recognition to both your club and our wonderful organisation.

Another benefit we see are costs. Historically, bannerettes have been used by clubs for various presentations and we believe Club Pins are a more cost effective means of club promotion.

Since 2002 our club has been recording the issue of pins produced in Australia and Papua New Guinea. It has been found that in excess of 2,200 pins have been produced since the first known Australian pin was issued in 1958, a registration pin for the MD Convention in Sydney. We do believe though, there are more pins waiting to be discovered. Annually we produce a CD with all images of Australian pins we know of today.

Pins are produced in many categories, some being MD International, Australian Convention, Club and District, District Convention, personal as well as special categories such as Lioness, Leos, Youth Exchange, Spinal Cord Fellowship, Youth of the Year and more.

Our current ALPTC pin is the first in a series of seven commemorating Waltzing Matilda.

Your Club Pin would be a welcome addition to those already available. Should you be interested in seeking help to produce a pin, our ALPTC executive can readily assist with designs and competitive production costs. For Further details please contact us.

*President Lion Bill Sutton,
bill@bsim.com.au
Secretary PDG Lance Leak,
lanceleak@exemail.com.au*

1. Singapore was selected as the site for the 2020 International Convention.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 1. Approved the engagement of Crowe Horwath LLP for the external audit and tax services of The International Association of Lions Clubs and Lions Clubs International Foundation, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, through June 30, 2017.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: 1. Reviewed ongoing disputes and litigation in District 321-A3 (India) and established a three-year moratorium on district governor, first vice district governor and second vice district governor elections beginning with elections for 2015-2016 fiscal year officers.

2. Removed District 301-A1 (Philippines) as a district. Clubs within the former District 301-A1 will be provided the opportunity to transfer to other districts within the Manila area of Multiple District 301.

3. Revise Chapter III, Paragraph A.2.b.(2) and Paragraph B.4. to replace the phrase "twenty (20)" with the phrase "ten (10)."

4. Adopted a resolution to change the title of Chapter XV, Paragraph J, of the Board Policy Manual to "Dispute Resolution Procedures."

5. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws to establish standardized and mandatory district constitution and by-law provisions for election procedures effective July 1, 2016.

6. Effective July 1, 2016, revised the Board Policy Manual to adopt mandatory provisions of the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws.

7. Revised Chapter XV, Paragraph J.4., of the Board Policy Manual to establish a new District Governor Suspension Procedure.

8. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2015 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to permit payment of dues up to 15 days prior to the close of credentials at district (single, sub-and multiple) conventions effective July 1, 2016.

9. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2015 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to revise redistricting procedures.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE: 1. Changed the deadline date for the 2015-2016 Excellence Awards from September 30 to August 31.

2. Appointed Past District Governor Robert Fassouliadjian to serve as Coordinating Lion for the Republic of Armenia effective immediately through the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

3. Appointed recommended Lions from provisional districts to serve as district governors for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and Past District Governor Robert Talley to fill the vacancy of district governor-elect and to serve as district governor for District 30-S (Mississippi) through the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

4. Revised the District Governor Expense Reimbursement Policy for 2015-2016 to simplify the process and to give more flexibility to the use of funds.

5. Revised the policy regarding Publications and Information Available to Certified Candidates for the Offices of Second Vice President and International Director to allow data to be shared in an electronic format.

6. Changed the name of the "Club Excellence Process" to "Club Quality Initiative" (for English version) to alleviate confusion between the program and the Club Excellence Awards.

7. Revised the policy regarding the Priority Club Status to include new, cancelled and status quo clubs, and changed the name to "Priority Club

Designation."

8. Revised the Redistricting Policy to ensure effective communication and club support of redistricting proposals that are reviewed by the International Board of Directors.

9. Requested that a Constitutional Amendment be drafted that would allow a multiple district to approve a redistricting proposal (without the approval of affected full sub-districts) during the multiple district convention when the proposal consolidates one or more sub-districts of which one or more sub-districts has fewer than 35 clubs and 1,250 members.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION

COMMITTEE: 1. Approved the FY 2015 3rd Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.

2. Approved a revised Retirement Income Plan Investment Policy Statement.

3. Approved that the exchange rate for the Lions of Venezuela to pay for new clubs and new member fees be 6.30 VEF per USD through June 1, 2015, and then transition to the SICAD 1 rate published on a monthly basis. Additionally the board approved the exchange rate for the Lions of Venezuela to pay for dues at 6.30 VEF per USD through June 1, 2015, and then transition to the SICAD 1 rate published on a monthly basis.

4. Approved crediting clubs in sub-districts O-1 and O-3 in Argentina the 35 percent tax imposed on credit card usage in Argentina when used to pay club dues and fees through March 31, 2016.

5. Determined that the international president may authorize Lions serving on special committees attending the board meeting to fly business class when total flying time for round-trip travel exceeds 10 hours, not including time on the ground for connecting flights. All travel expenses must be within the budgets allowed for board meetings.

6. Approved a housekeeping revision to Chapter IX and Chapter XXII deleting an outdated chart regarding the claim submission dates.

7. Approved adding Jason Cobb, Manager, Financial Reporting and Analysis, and Christine Hastings, LCIF Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis, as signers on all association bank accounts.

8. Determined that the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee must approve a bank account in any country, unless the association currently maintains a bank account in that country or the account is temporary to support the operations at the international convention.

LCIF: 1. Approved report of the LCIF Finance Committee.

2. Approved the plan for a revised LCIF governance structure and will review policy changes at the June meeting, noting with thanks the contributions of the LCIF Governance Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$450,000 to fund a low-vision research award in collaboration with Research to Prevent Blindness, with funding from the foundation's designated sight account.

4. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$47,376 for a Lions Quest project in collaboration with the NoVo Foundation, with funding from the foundation's designated youth account.

5. Increased the humanitarian grants budget for the current fiscal year by US\$2 million.

6. Approved 102 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totalling US\$5,173,980.

7. Tabled one grant.

8. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$73,581

for a joint sanitation project with the Sujana Charitable Trust.

9. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$25,000 for a Lions Quest project with the Sujana Charitable Trust, with funding from the foundation's designated youth account.

10. Approved a pilot block grant in the amount of US\$200,000 for KidSight USA programs, with funding from the foundation's designated sight account.

11. Nominated three individuals for the 2015 Humanitarian Award, with the final selection to be determined by the international president.

12. Closed the foundation's designated humanitarian needs account, due to its redundancy, and approved that funds available be used to fund future disbursements for measles grants.

13. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual to reflect: a) housekeeping updates necessitated by a title change, b) an addition to the standard grant criteria, c) changes made to the International Assistance Grant approval process in order to streamline it, d) the inclusion of a description of the grant controls process, e) revisions to the Lions Quest awards and recognition, f) housekeeping updates to the Statement of Investment Policy related to investment manager performance measurement benchmarks, and g) revisions to the Forms of Recognition to include new programs for club recognition and major donors.

14. Amended the Board Policy Manual to reflect housekeeping updates necessitated by a) a title change and b) previous omission of a word.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE: 1. Approved a 2015-2016 Faculty Development Institute for qualified Lions of Constitutional Areas I & II.

2. Approved a 2015-2016 Emerging Lions Leadership Institute for qualified Lions of Constitutional Area VI.

3. Approved curriculum and funding support for a 2015-2016 Emerging Lions Leadership Institute for qualified Lions of Africa.

4. Increased the participant registration fee for Faculty Development Institutes to US\$150; increased the participant registration fee for Advanced Lions Leadership Institutes and Emerging Lions Leadership Institutes to US\$125. Both adjustments will take effect at the start of 2015-2016.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 1. Approved a processing fee of US\$100 to be assessed to club charter applications not approved by LCI, effective July 1, 2015.

2. Approved the advance payment of US\$30 for adding any additional charter members effective July 1, 2015.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: 1. Made name badges featuring the centennial logo available for purchase through Club Supplies.

2. Authorized the addition of 100 medals each of the Leadership Award and Presidential Award for Lions Year 2015-2016.

3. Made various changes to Chapter XXI of the Board Policy Manual to reflect current practices.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: 1. Selected the Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Awards for 2013-2014.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI website at lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.



HELPING HAND: Mooloolaba Lions load coastal hay headed for Winton as part of the drought aid program, while (inset) children of Winton Central enjoy the school breakfast program.

Heading on an outback hayride

Lions know all about helping others but sometimes that help extends to fellow Lions.

That was the case recently when drought relief aid came through one Lions club helping fellow Lions across a vast Queensland district

The Lions receiving the aid were in Winton, the furthest west Lions club in District Q4 – who have been servicing a community crippled by four years of drought.

The town of 1,000 people is highly dependent on the vast country making up its rural hinterland for its survival. This small Lions club is a crucial part of this close knit community.

The assistance came from the Lions Club of Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast in the south-east corner of Q4.

Sunshine Coast Lions had consulted Winton Lions on how they could help and, after conferring with the Q4 cabinet, put a plan into motion.

Local media supported the project by promoting

a “bucket” collection in the largest shopping centre on the coast, with donations totalling more than \$1,000.

The Mooloolaba Lioness Club chipped in \$1,000 and the Swanies Leo Club based at Maroochydore High School donated \$200.

The “Lions” share of funding, amounting to \$16,441.75, came from stallholder fees at the Fishermans Road Markets run by Mooloolaba Lions each and every Sunday morning.

With money in hand, \$14,000 worth of hay was trucked from the Atherton Tablelands and the coast to offset the cost of sustaining the remaining breeding stock on properties.

Winton Lions organised a drought relief committee with the council to manage the distribution of hay.

The second largest part of the project was providing \$4,200 funding for food supplies for a 12-month “breakfast” program at the two

Winton schools.

The Swanies Leos on the coast requested that their contribution be used in this area.

The Leos earn most of their revenue through helping out at the Sunday markets and were particularly wanting to help fellow students in the rural community.

In a further act of care, Mooloolaba Lions organised gift packs of cosmetics for some of the mums and wives in the Winton community.

“This club-to club help will not turn around the fortunes of this drought-stricken community in the south-west of Queensland,” said Peter Whalan, Public Relations Officer of the Lions Club of Mooloolaba. “The Winton folk do know however that fellow Aussies care and that the Lions clubs across the country work to support each other in ser vice to their respective communities.”

Echuca Lions cast off for a rollicking riverboat Convention



Riverboats will be the theme and up to 1500 Lions are expected to attend next year's National Convention in Echuca.

Convention chairperson PDG Barry Higgins said many had already pre-registered at the Newcastle Convention.

The opening ceremony will be held on the newly reconstructed Echuca wharf area.

Echuca will become the smallest town to host the National Convention but judging by the District V6 Convention held there earlier this year, it will be an event not to miss.

For details, visit Echuca.vic.lions.org.au and follow the prompts. Whilst researching, don't forget to visit echucamoama.com for a full overview of the region's offerings. Great accommodation deals are available from the Echuca Moama Tourism Authority.

Echuca is in the heart of Rich River Country. With a district population of about 20,000, it is centrally situated on the Murray River 216km north of Melbourne. Autumn is a lovely time with an average of 10 hours of daylight and daily average temperatures in May of 20 degrees.

Tourism is a major attraction with the focus being the mighty Murray with the bustling Port of Echuca on its banks. It is recognised as one of Australia's finest heritage icons. Built in 1865 by the Victorian Railways, the Port of Echuca Wharf was crucial to Echuca's development, as goods from NSW and Victoria were transported by rail to Melbourne for shipment around the world. The town and the port precinct were the setting for the movie *All the Rivers Run*.

The port offers an extraordinary insight into our pioneering days.

The wharf, which has undergone a \$3 million facelift with walkways and interactive displays, will host the convention's opening ceremony, while the meet and greet will be on the adjoining "Old Street".

While the Murray has the largest and oldest fleet of paddlesteamers in the world, modern Echuca offers the visitor great shopping, a myriad of accommodation, from motels, apartments and B&Bs to houseboats and caravan parks, and a variety of restaurants to suit all budgets.

The Stubberfield Sports and Entertainment Centre will be the home of the Plenary sessions and seats up to 1800 with plenty of free parking adjacent.

Echuca looks forward to planning an unforgettable "Country Convention" in a city that combines modern sophistication with the history and magic of yesteryear.

LEOS ROAR

Congratulations to Bulahdelah Central School Leo Club in N3 that received its Charter from 2014/15 DG Margaret Pearce in a special ceremony at the school (see picture below).

The Charter President is Jaxon Harris, assisted by Secretary Ellie Gooch and Treasurer Karl Price. Prior to Charter the club ran a Biggest BBQ Fundraiser.

Congratulations also to Cherrybrook Leo Club in



N5 that received its Charter in June. The Charter President is Duldhini Wijesinghe and he is assisted by Secretary Inuri Wettasinghe and Treasurer Chadana Wettasinghe.

We welcome both these clubs as the newest Leo clubs in MD201.

Special congratulations also to Sunraysia Leo Club in C2 on a fantastic year of service in 2014/15. Sunraysia Leo Club is the home club of 2015/16 Leo of the Year Katerina Blekic and raised over \$5,445 for its community through projects such as a fashion parade, Lunar Fest, Irymple Carols & Pool Party, the Wentworth Show, a trivia night, youth awards, Triple J One Night Stand and assisting Red Cliffs, Irymple and Brounga Gol-Gol Lions on joint projects such as the Tractor Show and Bunnings barbecues.

It was a privilege to attend the Sunraysia Leo Club handover in June and to install the 2015/16 President Ivana Blekic and her Board of Directors for the coming year.

We should all be proud of this inspirational Leo club and congratulate Charter President Katerina for her great work in the club's Charter year.

Congratulations also to the Leo Club of Samford in Q3 on a very successful high-tea fundraiser that raised \$3,833 for the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

With the support of all members of the Lions Family in MD201, we chartered 11 new Leo clubs in MD201 in 2014/15 and provided more young people between 12-30 with an opportunity to serve their communities in a positive way as an essential part of the Lions Family.

So if your Lions club is considering sponsoring a Leo Club – Stop Considering, Do It! Full details: MD201 Leo website – www.lionsclubs.org.au/leos

In conclusion I thank all Lions in MD201 for your ongoing support of our inspirational Leos. Say G'day to a LEO today – You won't be disappointed.

Martin Peebles

**MD201 Leo & Youth Outreach Committee
Chairman**

BREKKY TIME: About 6,000 people turned out for Brisbane's 100th anniversary Anzac Day dawn service and Q1 and Q3 Lions ensured they didn't go away hungry. They served a breakfast of roughly 3000 bacon & egg rolls and 3000 sausages in bread in just over an hour. At times the sea of people queuing was 50 to 60 deep.



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

As you and your club get ready for the Youth of the Year program once again, I need to draw your attention to some rule changes and other important matters.

In doing so, I invite you to download the Club YOTY Manual from: <http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/yoty/yoty-resources/> (references, below, relate to either the page or paragraph numbers where these changes can be found).

1. REVISED RULES:

- 1.1 Child Protection Requirements; page 2.
- 1.2 Updating and resubmitting entry forms; 2.4.8
- 1.3 Role of the reserve judge; now defined; 4.1.6
- 1.4 Public Speaking penalties; now defined; 2.4.4.1 & 2.4.4.2

2. NAB JUDGES' FLYER: This flyer, which can be downloaded from the website (Resources page), should be used by club members when approaching local managers for support as the sponsor's judges representative. It may be used to introduce the local Lions club YOTY representative to the NAB staff, or manager, in particular.

3. Additional GUIDELINES for JUDGES' briefings; appendix 4; page 22.

4. LOGOS: The latest logos are available for downloading from the YOTY resources page.

5. ENTRY FORM: (after consulting our Legal Officer)

- 5.1 Contestants have the opportunity of opting-out of their contact details being retained by Lions.
- 5.2 Contestants have the opportunity of opting-out of having their names and other details being publicised on Lions websites and other media.
- 5.3 The contestants' schools are now asked to declare that the entrant's academic and other claims are correct.

5.4 The club president, or delegate, acknowledges that the club is sponsoring and supporting the contestant

6. TRAINING has been identified as an essential component of keeping up-to-date with the rules and procedures. Your District Chairperson may contact you regarding a training and information seminar.

7. YOTY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION REQUEST CLUB: This document is available for downloading from the resources page of the YOTY website. As long as the contestant and his/her parents have agreed with the declaration at #6, on page 3 of the Entry Form, it is quite acceptable for a club to record and to forward this information to you. Please submit this document to your District Chairperson at the conclusion of your club final.

8. WINNER ADVISORY FORMS: These forms make provision for essential data to be provided to your DC. As soon as your final has been completed please send it to your DC.

9. DATES:

- 9.1 District Finals should be completed by the weekend of 2/3 April.
- 9.2 State Finals should be completed by the weekend of 23/24 April.
- 9.3 The National Final will be held at the MD Convention on Saturday, 14th May. (TBC)
- 9.4 Earlier levels; that is dates for the completion of Club, Zone and Region finals, will be determined and advised by your District Chairperson, in consultation with stakeholders.
- 10. All Lions are invited to visit and "to like" our Facebook page: Youth of the Year Australia.
- 11. Contact your District Chairperson for further information by consulting your Lions Directory or by referring to the Contacts and Dates page of our website.

Brian Williams, Chairman, Lions Youth of the Year Program

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

MATTHEW MCLEAN

Matthew was the 2008-09 'N' Districts Youth of the Year State Winner. He attended Saint Francis Xavier College in Newcastle and was sponsored by the Lions Club of MacQuarie North, N3. In May 2015, he was a judge on the National Final judges' panel in Newcastle. Interestingly, the interviews were conducted at his former school.

SPEAK to any YOTY contestant and they will tell you how the experience benefited them. For many, it was a chance to build their confidence. For most, it offered an opportunity to meet like-minded young people. For me, it provided these and so much more. I can draw a line from my YOTY experience to where I am today.

When named the NSW winner, I

walked away not only with a trophy but an introduction to Bond University, a place I would soon call home. The skills I developed opened a world of opportunity in the years that followed. My time working for state politicians, in research centres and as President of our student associations, can all be traced back in some way to my Lions experience.

Even today as a strategic and social policy advisor in the Australian Government, I draw on what I learnt from the Lions. YOTY is a gift that just keeps on giving. My involvement in the quest introduced me to the places and people that shaped my development. So much of what I have done and what I will do, I owe to the Lions of Australia. **;**



WIDER HORIZONS: *Matthew McLean, 2008-09 "N" Districts winner, credits Youth of the Year with opening up new skills that allowed him to realise far more of his potential ... "I draw on what I learnt from the Lions".*

Facing facts

Want the latest Lions news quickly? Lions Facebook is the place to get it – and now it's easier than ever. Just focus your smartphone camera on the QR barcode below and it will be yours almost instantly. Or simply type "Lions Australia Facebook" into your search engine.



LIONS
NEWS
IN A
SNAP

Learn what's on the go, what's coming up, and what other Lions are thinking and doing



LEND A HAND, OR TWO!

Australian Lions needs a hand. Each year we help countless thousands of people around the world in hundreds of different countries. But we want to do more. To do that we need your help. We need a hand in the form of new members to expand the load of good deeds being done. Joining is by invitation but interested men and women over 18 and of good moral character and reputation are encouraged to apply.

Just fill in this form and send to the Executive Officer at Locked Bag 2000, Newcastle NSW 2300 or executiveofficer@lions.org.au so it can be forwarded to a Lions club near you.

Full name: _____
Email address: _____
Phone number: _____
Address 1: _____
Address 2: _____
City/Locality: _____
State: _____ Post code: _____
Country: _____

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