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DISTRICT 201V6 ~ JANUARY 2024 ISSUE



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

JOHN HOUGHTON

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2023 - 2024

What's in this Month's Issue...

DG Report.....	3
1st VDG Report.....	5
Safety.....	5
Echuca Lions	6
Cobram Lions.....	6
Corowa Lions	6
Benalla Lions.....	7
GMT Report.....	7
Wangaratta Lions	9
LCIF.....	10
Yarrowonga Lions	11
Licola 50 Year celebrations.....	13
District Noticeboard.....	15
Bunnings & Lions	15
Links, Contacts & Useful Information	16

TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR - COME TO
THE 47TH V6 DISTRICT CONVENTION!

SAVE THE DATE!



24-27 May 2024 | Tropical Bliss

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

www.mdconv201.com

Darwin Convention Registration - Now Open
<https://mailchi.mp/lions/november-23>

Registration Form here
<https://lionsclubs.org.au/.../06/20231130-Flyer-Rego-W.pdf>

**Lions Clubs International
Convention 2024**

MELBOURNE

2024



June 21 - 25

Early Bird registration fee will close **January 12th** where the regular fee will be US\$265 until June 16th.

This is once in a long time where a Lions Clubs International Convention is held in Australia. The first convention in the Southern Hemisphere was held in 1991.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. This is a forum that presents an opportunity to learn from others, exchange ideas and explore new ways of reaching out and supporting our communities.

Visit www.melbourne2024.org.au and register before the cut off date for early bird registrations.

DG Report



Echuca President Lion Geoff Crossman



Echuca Service Award Presentation



50 Year Award Presented to Lion John Hewlitt



Moyhu President Lion Louise Baker

Happy New Year to One and All. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and brought the New Year in knowing that even though another Year has passed we still have work ahead of us to ensure Lions are there to assist and help our communities. Thank-you to everyone who continues to work with dedication, fellowship, growth and ensuring that this fantastic organisation continues to provide service to not only our own communities but also those around the world.

We have seen some turbulent weather in recent weeks across all communities including our own and around Australia, please keep them in your thoughts and remember that we can always help no matter where we are located.

On our club visits we discuss our District's goals and to stress that we need all clubs and members to support us in achieving the goals we have put in place. One of our goals is to reach 1,250 members to get us out of transition. AS I write this report our present our number is 1072 members.

Our visits are always very informative, enjoyable and a wealth of knowledge gather from all the Lions that we have been meeting with during this time. On Tuesday December 5th a visit to the Echuca Lions Club was very enjoyable and held in a wonderful old establishment. Echuca were busy with their Christmas raffle and giving to the community as well as the Lions Christmas Cakes. Echuca recently inducted their first female Lion – Lion Jenny and she is certainly 'throwing' herself into assisting the Echuca Lions wherever possible. Lion Ian Whately also attended not only as his own club but as Zone Chairperson for that area, due to Lion John Hewlitt not able to attend the meeting that night, Lion Ian and myself visited Lion John at his

John Houghton

home to present him with his 50 Year Service award from Lions International.

The next night we visited the Lions club of Moyhu for a lovely evening in the Lions Park at Moyhu. It was an enjoyable night of light discussions and plans for the future. Moyhu Lions were getting ready for their Annual Christmas Market due later in the month as well as providing assistance to those in the community. Lion Max Baker was also the recipient of 35-year service award on this evening and if anyone knows Lion Max he wasn't stuck for words. If you ever need to stop somewhere, the Lions Park is a credit to them as a fantastic spot to visit and enjoy with family and friends. Lion Alison and Steve Kazenwadel attended as well as Lion Alison being the Zone Chairperson.

Thursday 7th December was a trip to the Benalla Lions Club for their December meeting, which was well attended. I had the privilege to induct a new member – Lion Peter Brown with the assistance of his Sponsor Lion Bruce Walker. Lion Bruce also received a 40-year Service Award. Lion David Lowing also received a service award for 30 years.

Thank you to all the Zone Chairpersons who attend on my visits to support the Clubs.

Don't forget to put the Melbourne International Convention in your diaries for next year. The convention is being held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre from June 21st – June 25th, 2024.

It is great to see a larger number of Lion Clubs in V6 are reporting Service and correcting their membership databases, it would be great to see 100% of Clubs undertaking these tasks by the end of March 2024.

Lions Clubs are the best kept secret and we need to promote ourselves and our projects to the wider community. The more hands we have assisting in our projects the more hearts and minds we can help in our community and beyond. I would like to suggest that all clubs look at their Internet/Facebook exposure and ensure that it's kept up to date with a variety of pictures of people and activities.

2024 will be a busy year, and we must continue to strive to make District V6 one that is moving forward with the times, listening to our members and caring to our communities close to home and those farther

afield. Please keep safe and well during 2024 and let's enjoy our time together as Lions.

Don't forget to put the Melbourne International Convention in your diaries for next year. The convention is being held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre from June 21st – June 25th, 2024.

As my theme for 2023-2024 is Building a Better Future I believe we can do this together and Change the World.

John Houghton

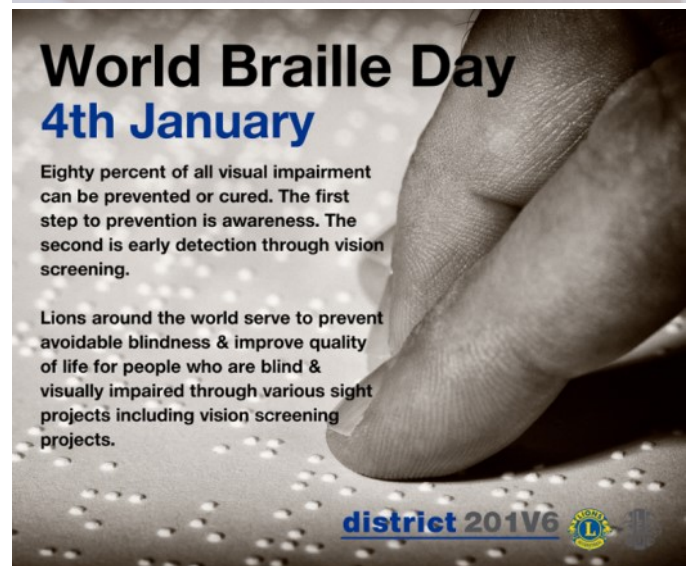
District Governor 201V6
*Building a Better Future
Changing the World*



Moyhu – Lion Max Baker



Benalla Lions – Lion David Lowing



Benalla Lions – Lion Bruce Walker



New Member at Benalla-Lion Peter Brown



1st VDG Report Geoff Turnbull

Hopefully we have all managed to enjoy a lovely Christmas and New Year, along with some family time and a bit of relaxation. This is an important period for us to slow down, take some “us time” and reset for the coming year. We can now set our sights on having a great 2024.

For me, the endless assignments continue to flow in, and in the next couple of the months things just get busier. I have the privilege of being invited to the Council of Governors meeting in Sydney during January along with my fellow DGEs from around the country, which is also accompanied by several days of training.

Then in February it is off to Chicago for nearly a week of intensive training, with hundreds of other DGEs from around the world. It is a wonderful opportunity to network with a very diverse array of Lions and I am very much looking forward to it – though not so much to the forecast temperatures of 20 degrees below zero!

During January there will be a lot happening behind the scenes with building the team that will carry on for the next Lions year, and continuing with the goal setting process that has now been occurring for several years. The benefits of this process are starting to be visible, and we can all look forward to a strengthening of Lions within our district.

Safety Message...

Example

A charity organization, staffed by employees and volunteers, arranges a sausage sizzle to raise money. The event takes place at a local park, where an employee and volunteer are responsible for the setup of a barbeque. They recklessly cause a gas leak, which results in a minor explosion. The employee, volunteer and a passer-by are injured. As the charity is an employer, it is a PCBU (A Person conducting a business or undertaking) covered by WHS (Work Health and Safety) Laws and owes duties to all three injured parties – the employee, the volunteer and the pass-by.

Example

Someone volunteers for an organization which provides assistance to elderly residents. They drive clients to and from medical appointments in their own car. There is a risk that they could be involved in a car accident while they are volunteering. The organization they volunteer for can't completely eliminate the risk but they do a range of things to help minimize it.

The organization:

- ✓ Checks the driver has a current drivers licence
- ✓ Checks that the car is properly maintained, currently insured and registered.
- ✓ Provides the driver with its “Driving Residents Policy” and training before they begin volunteering
- ✓ Checks that the driver understands the “Driving Residents Policy” and requires that the driver and any passengers comply with the road rules of the state they operate in, including wearing seat belt

By doing these things the organization has done what is reasonably practicable to comply with its duties under the WHS Laws

John Walker
District Safety Officer

Echuca Lions

Members of Echuca Lions received approx. 650 Santa Letters, and Members have returned Letters back to children who have written to Santa. I must say some of these Letters from these children are just beautiful and their drawings just so colourful.

We pick up these letters from four (4) Primary Schools and one (1) Kinder from around Echuca .

I must say I have been in Lions for almost 50 years and this project is certainly one of the most rewarding and I would certainly say to other Clubs that if you are not being in touch with SANTA, that maybe it is time, because the kids and Lions Members will just love this Project

Kevin Woolnough, Echuca Lions

Cobram Lions

Congratulations on the three (3) Cobram on the Murray Leo club members who have been performing at functions in Cobram over the past few week. They are fantastic. Well done boys.



The band and their "roady" Matthew Hicks. Xavier North - Lead guitar / vocals, Noah Ferguson - Drummer / vocals, Samuel Donnelly - Bass / Vocals

The Cobram Lions club have been busy this month, with some highs and lows.

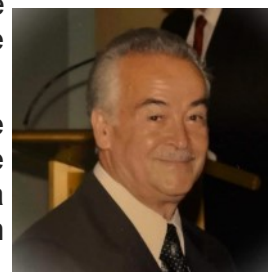
The Annual Christmas raffle and Twilight market with Food Vans was a great success. Front page news. Santa and his helpers.



The club made a donation towards the local dance group who are taking their students to Queensland to compete in a national competition in January. We wish the students a successful trip and hopefully they put Cobram on the map in the dancing world.

It was fantastic to learn that the Cobram Lions Club winner of the Peace Poster has her entry now at the National level.

It was with great sadness the club members along with the DG John Houghton formed a guard of honour at John Artavillas funeral this week. John had been a Cobram Lions for over 54 years. John did so much for Cobram over many year. He will be missed by so many.



Corowa Lions Club

The Lions Club of Corowa have ventured into making Donuts at the Corowa monthly Markets. It's an initiative of new President Stuart and a number of other Corowa Lions to become more visible in the public.

They will also be looking at Fairy Floss and coffee will be added as we move forward.

It was also great to have Lion Corrinie Barker back working after many months off with cancer.

Corowa Lions are also doing great things with their Can collection project, raising approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 a month for Lions Cancer projects and other community Lions projects. All 10 cent containers are collected by Herman Fransen and his willing workers each Monday and on the 1st Monday of each month the members do a big collection in Rutherglen, Wahgunyah and Corowa. Cans are also being collected by DG John in Wangaratta that also supports the Corowa Club project.



From Left to Right -- Herman Fransen, Marlene Gleeson, Kay Whisson and Corrinie Barker.

Benalla Lions

Benalla Lions Clubs Certificate Presentation on the 6th December - The Benalla Lions Club once again presented Certificates to the Girl Guides to recognise their voluntary work in the community, this was the fourth time the Club has made these presentations. The awards are presented to the Girl Guides that have completed 100 hours of service in the community, however this year they individually completed more than that. This year the presentation was made in the Benalla Botanical Gardens, where they were having a Christmas Party tea, however they also appreciated the soft drinks and the bag of lollies that the Benalla Lions Club provided.

This presentation was also featured on the front of our Benalla Ensign Newspaper by the papers Editor, so hopefully these young people will consider their volunteering for the community by joining Leos and Lions in the future.

The photo was taken in the Benalla Botanical Gardens.



GMT Report

As of December 20th, we have 1071 members after beginning 2023/24 with 1048 members. We have added 64 new members and dropped 41. We are net +23 for the year and net +6 for the months of November and December. Congratulations to Benalla, Katamatite, Upper Kiewa Valley, and Wodonga.

We continue to trend positively regarding new members as DG John's goal was 95 new members. However, I continue to add that we need to keep vigilant regarding the drops. Three members were dropped during the months of November and December. Over the last few months sadly we have lost three members who have passed away. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service to Lions and their communities.

I have repeatedly mentioned one of DG John's membership goals is the chartering of one new club. The reestablishment of a presence in the Mansfield area is a key goal. On Saturday 4th November DGE Geoff and Lion Janice Turnbull, PDG Omen Ndlovu, PDG Peter and Lion Margaret Poels and I were at the Mansfield Bush Market. With the membership trailer on site, we had a very good day in promoting Lions and speaking to many locals. From the market we received a lot of interest. As a result, we have again booked the Bush Market site for Saturday January 27th. We also plan to hold a meeting in Mansfield - ideally in the afternoon following the January market.

Regarding Multiple District and bearing in mind our "Big Audacious Mission" (BAM), as of December 1st fourteen of the nineteen districts are in positive growth. There are now four new clubs and Multiple District is sitting at net +327 members. According to 201 GMT National Coordinator PDG Ann Eldridge in terms of the BAM goals there is some catch up work to do with new clubs and new members, however Ann is sure with the dedication that she is seeing that it will happen.

A reminder that the V6 District Membership trailer is available to book. The link is: <https://calendly.com/v6trailer>.

IPDG Neil Stuart
V6 GMT Coordinator

"Building a Better Future" / "Changing the World"

Official Club Visit by District Governor John and Jennefer Houghton on the 7th December - The visit by DG John was very well attended by the Benalla Lions Club members, and Zone Chairperson Alison and PDG Stephen Kazenwadel were also in attendance. After his presentation DG John was asked how he and Jennefer feed the homeless in Wangaratta, as our Benalla Lions Club will be supporting our Waminda Community House, as they have asked for our assistance when they become established, and we receive our "Food Truck" back from repairs, he and Jennefer were very helpful and our club members were very impressed how and what they do for their community. During the evening DG John Inducted one of our former members Peter Brown back into our Lions Club, and he was Sponsored by Bruce Walker. Peter is a very experienced Lion as he was President of our Benalla Lions Club in 1990-1991 and 1991-1992. Another duty that DG John performed was to present a 40 year Monarch to Bruce Walker and a 35 Year Monarch to PDG David Lowing, who is pictured on the right hand side of the photo. During the evening Bannerettes were also exchanged.



The P12 College end of year presentations on the 13th December - our Benalla Lions Club has been supporting the P12 College year 12 Graduation Presentations, which this year was held at the "Glass House" in the Benalla Show Grounds where a sit-down meal was also provided. Our Lions Club donated \$300.00 towards this year's presentations, which was split into three sections by the College, they were for Lions Club Community and Kindness Awards. In previous years the College provided \$1,000.00 towards the "Weary Dunlop Award" however due to the ceasing of sponsorship towards this major award, the Benalla Lions Club offered to take it over and has been presenting the recipient of this award with a cheque for \$500.00 for several years with the recipient this year being Charlyze Thomson, and her name was placed on the Colleges perpetual shield.



The next evening 14th December, our Benalla Lions Club also presented the Lachie Howle award to Viola Duryea, this presentation was held in the P12 colleges "Sports Centre". This award was established six years ago in memory of a former student, Viola's name was placed on the Colleges perpetual shield, and she was also presented with a small plaque for her to keep.

The Benalla Lions Club/ Rotary Club Market on the 16th December - The December Market was held a week earlier than in previous years, and although there were other Markets in surrounding communities on that day, our Market was well attended by site holders and the community residents. The Market is a fairly long day as we set up at 6.00 am and then we close at 1.00 pm, but they are very profitable for both of our volunteer service clubs. As usual our Santa (Lion Lester Watt) visited the Benalla Market again this year, and he was well received by the children, and also by some of the "Senior Citizens" who also accepted the bag of lollies he was handing out. One of the photos shows Santas helper (Gail Watt) who looks after him 365 days during the year, he also visits the "Aged Care Villages" in Benalla, unless restricted by Covid.



The Benalla Lions Club Held their annual Carols by Candlelight on the 17th December - This was the 61st year that our Benalla Lions Club has conducted this event for the community, and thankfully it was a great night, with favourable weather. There was a good crowd in attendance, however this year they were spread out in the location where it is held, because they were under the shade of the trees. We set up our lights and chairs from 10.00am in the morning and the Lions Ladies set up the Tennis Club facilities for the "light meal" that they provide for the participants at 6.00pm. The Albury light and Sound provided their equipment again this year, and Ross Shulz provided a sound check for the Benalla Brass Band and the Benalla Theatre Group singers at 5.00pm, who also provide the MC for the night. We had Father VIJAY who is the Priest from the Catholic Church present his Christmas blessing, and the Mayor Danny Claridge representing the Benalla Rose City Council also passed on his best wishes to the community. Club president Peter Poels also thanked every one for their support to the Benalla Lions Club this year, and wished them a safe and happy festive season. Santa (Lester Watt) arrived at 7.15pm in the SES truck and sits in his Santa Chair, where he gives a small bag of lollies to all the children that come and tell him what they want for Christmas. For some reason we finished at about 8.30pm when all of the songs in the program were sung, next year we may have to increase the program so that we finish at 9.00pm.



The Benalla Lions Club held their Christmas party on the 21st December - This year's Christmas party was again held at the home of Lion Lester and Lions Lady Gail Watt, where a very nice meal was available which was enjoyed by all in attendance, which was 23 members Lions Ladies and family members. As can be seen by the photos everyone was having a good night.

The "kris-kringle" being a popular activity again, unfortunately no one was aware that it was also the 38th Wedding Anniversary of Lion Bruce and Lions Lady Jan Walker, so that was why they were enjoying the night even more, however a photo of them has not arrived as yet. The footy tipping competition this year was won by Maddie Roffs Grandmother Merle, so Lester Watt had to hand over



the perpetual trophy to her "reluctantly" as their rivalry which started many years ago when competing against another playing tennis is still alive.

Lion Peter Poels, Benalla Lions

Wangaratta Lions Club

Wangaratta Carols by Candlelight - On December 9, Wangaratta once again hosted the Carols by Candlelight at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Wangaratta.

After a week of forecasts of terrible weather for the day, instead we were blessed with perfect weather and a capacity crowd turned out to witness a wonderful event. The Wangaratta Concert Band was in its usual fine form, ably supported by Sing Australia and a host of individual performers who all did an outstanding job.

The Lions Club of Wangaratta organised the event and also provided a wide variety of food and drinks to keep everyone happy.

Towards the end of the evening, Santa arrived and handed out candy canes to the many children

present, who enthusiastically accepted them. As the sun set, the church was lit up with a glorious light show. Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the club thanks all the members and businesses that made this such a success.



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Did anyone else see DG John riding off on his Harley?



Our Cabinet Secretary, Clinton, enjoying the Cricket. Rumour has it that IPDG Neil was there somewhere too!



VDG Julie dropped in to see Santa in Cohuna.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Over the last 9 months the LCIF Flood recovery fund has assisted 60 applicants in the Rochester area. Grants of up to \$1000 have been provided to the approved families and individuals, primarily for white goods, but also for other essential household items. This amounts to around \$60,000, which is one of the larger amounts V6 has received from LCIF.

The purchases were all made with retailers in Echuca or Rochester.

The National flood recovery committee is most appreciative of the work of the Anglicare case workers in the Rochester area. They have worked with applicants to provide the required documents, including quotes. The program could not have run without their assistance.

At this stage the demand has eased right off, with only one more application to submit in the new year.

We are not the only ones to benefit, Seymour and Shepparton in V5 have been recipients and areas of North Central NSW in N4. Some applications have come from SA in 201C2 and north QLD in 201Q2.

These grants are only possible because of the generous donations of Clubs and individuals and I invite all clubs to consider a donation to LCIF in their disbursements.

Yarrawonga Lions Club

Yarrawonga Lions Done and Dusted for 2023

December has been spent selling Christmas Cakes in many locations. We have had the support of some of our retail stores who have sold them on our behalf. We have sold them to businesses as gifts for their staff, at our weekly BBQ at K Hub, the Rotary Market and out at Bunnings. So, over all a very successful project for our Club. A huge thankyou to our Cakes Chairperson Denis Griffith who did the ordering, delivered, and kept account of all our stock. Well done, Denis.

We helped Bunning with their annual Christmas event where we gave away sausages and in turn promoted our Club. Our wonderful clubrooms were once again used by Yarrawonga Health to compile and distribute Christmas Hampers to those in need in our community through their Pay It Forward event. We disbursed funds to some of our local groups who are always in need and very grateful for our support. President Jock attended end of year presentations at our schools presenting awards on behalf of our Club.

Then it was time for us all to relax with our Christmas Party. This year we had a million-dollar view as it was held at our local Yacht Club on the banks of Lake Mulwala. (We were fortunate that one of our Lions was on the Yacht Club Committee – thanks Di – you helped make this event very easy to organise) The wonderful platters, grilled chicken wraps and a few drinks were enjoyed by our members as we sat and watched the sun set over the lake, with music provided by the Yacht Club. Life in Yarrawonga is sweet.

With 2023 over we will all be back to do it again in 2024 because this is what we all do – what we can when we can. Happy New Year to everyone – keep safe.



The Crew

Lions Denis and Gus



Lions Sharlene and Debbie, Heather, Lions Kathy and Ollie



Ollie, Diane, Nora and Peter at Bunning

Henty Lions Club

Henty Happenings - With the Christmas season upon us again the Henty Lions conducted their annual Jumbo Christmas Stocking raffle. The stocking was full to overflowing with an amazing array of items containing something for everybody. There were enough things left to create a substantial second prize! The contents were kindly

Henty Lions Club continued...

donated by the business houses of Henty, generous citizens and Lions members. The club is very grateful for the support of all these people. Along with the Christmas Stocking Raffle we were selling Lions Christmas Cakes. The raffle was drawn on the Friday before Christmas!

Carols in the Henty Park was a great community event on the weekend before Christmas. It was preceded by some children's activities: face painting, lucky dip, water bombs and jumping castle. There was a coffee van present serving coffee, milkshakes and sundaes! Once again the Lions Club was there providing a sausage sizzle and cold drinks before carols started. It was a perfect night weather wise and we did a roaring trade. We even had to send out for extra sausages and bread to keep up with the demand.

Our final activity for the year was a Christmas bbq at Lion Garry's home for Lions members and our loyal supporters! A great night of celebrating and conversations. A time to relax and contemplate the Lions achievements this year.

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★ KATAMATITE ★
RODEO

January 6th 2024

GATES OPEN 3.30pm
RODEO START 6pm
FINISH 10pm

LIVE MUSIC from 5pm
KIDS AMUSMENTS*
Camping Available

Food & Drink Available
NO BYO
NO Glass
NO Dogs

Proudly presented by

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NATHALIA & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

CHARITY DANCE
FEATURING BOOKMAN & DJ ROCKET

NUMURKAH TOWN HALL
SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY 2024
7.30PM - 11.30PM
BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES
TEA/COFFEE & SUPPER SUPPLIED

Join us for an evening of
Rock n Roll, Line & Partner Dancing

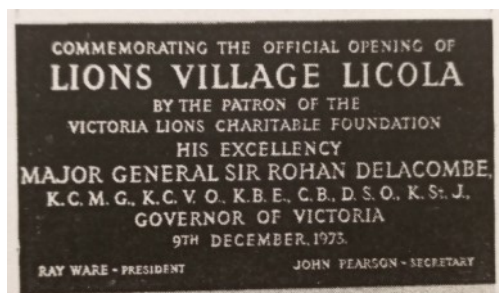
\$20 PER PERSON
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
PHONE STUART:
0408 535 610

Proceeds go to Australian Lions
Childhood Cancer Research
Foundation.

Licola

December saw the 50th Anniversary of the official opening of Licola, which took place on December 9, 1973. The Lions Village Youth camp, as it was called then, was formally opened by the Governor of Victoria and Patron of the Victorian Lions Charitable Foundation, which had maintained overall supervision of the rebuilding project. The first full-scale Lions camp was held over Xmas 1973.

Below is an article written by Lion Lou Whitefield in 1973.



Lion Lou Whitefield, of the King's Cross club, the only Sydney member of the Foundation which runs the Lions Licola Village project in Gippsland, Victoria, went to Licola for the opening of the village by the State Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe. He wrote this story:

I reckon Licola is one of Lions' finest Australian projects. By Lou Whitefield

Several weeks ago, I received a gilt-edged invitation to attend the official opening of Licola Village by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe. It said that this would occur on Sunday December 9th, 1973, and I noted that luncheon would be provided. As I write this story I have already arrived at Licola Village, but on the Saturday, which is obviously before the Sunday

I was greeted by P.D.G.'s Ray Ware and John Pearson, respectively president and secretary of the Licola foundation, and found that unless I was quick off the mark, there would be plenty for me to do before the opening next day.

I evaded their kind press gang tactics and changed the subject by mentioning that I carried a cheque for \$100 from my club which would thereby make the club a life member of the foundation.

I was surprised to hear that although Licola in my reckoning comes into

the realm of one of the finest projects in Australian Lionism, Kings Cross was the only club in NSW to support Licola financially, and I myself was the only NSW lion to do so. May this situation change for the better. Then I threw a very curly one and said that although I was present in a personal capacity, I was also opening a temporary editorial office for the Lion Magazine, and accordingly myself in one of the Camp Houses, where I discovered a suitable table complete with chair.

Relying on memory, I had found the Licola turnoff on the Princes Highway and now the trip was along mountain road for most of the way. What a magnificent approach it is to the Lions project – some 30 miles of winding road, in some cases steep, but safe – tarmac all the way.

Passed the Glenmaggie Weir on my right in the first few miles. An ideal area for those tired-of-the-rat-race-holiday makers. Actually, it's more a lake than a weir, fed by the Macalister River, which flows unpolluted from the Snowy Mountains.

The river follows the road and is easily seen on some of the long stretchers to Licola. How I longed to get down to that refreshing magnificence of swift running water with its occasional burst of rapids gurgling along shady tree lined banks.

To the merry cheeps of countless birds and the incessant chatter of myriads of cicadas, I arrived!

In the several hours since I have been trying to see the picture of Licola peopled by hundreds of boys and girls between the ages of eight to twelve, and just what will be provided for them in the way of amenities.

In the meantime, I also notice the tremendous activity under way for the official opening.

The Army's 21 Construction Squadron who have done such a wonderful jog for the Camp are carrying out parade drill in readiness to act as Guard of Honor for the Governor.

The generator which supplies the electricity is being rechecked. P.D.G. Neville Gibson is concerning himself with power problems affecting water and sewerage, P.D.G. Ray Ware is painting up a donated caravan, quick touches are being added to the tiling of the swimming pool surrounds; there is garbage collection, sweeping, ladies hanging curtains, shampooing carpets, a hundred and one items are receiving last minute attention.

Some little time ago I wandered into the assembly hall. It is complete with quite a large stage, public address system and an elevated projection box for spotlights or films.

It is comfortable and commodious with new chairs and I noticed it even had a pool table. The kitchen would do credit to the best hotel in the land. It is spacious and contains the very best in equipment.

The entire concept is a credit to the designers and builders. The houses are almost self-contained and are now being equipped with new double decker beds. Some have two or more toilets and separate bathrooms- all with hot and cold water.

Cars and caravans (all here for an overnight stay) are dwarfed by P.D.G. Merv Pentreath's huge motorized home on wheels. Enjoyed a late barbecue dinner round 9.30pm. Have found a comfy place to sleep.

Lots of energetic souls are still cleaning windows and looking for more jobs to do, but I'm going to sound my goodnight whistle and continue this story tomorrow prior to and during the official opening.

For a boy from the big city, it was remarkable to wake up on this lovely sunny Sunday morn at about six o'clock and, believe it or not, feel the sounds of nature's quiet.

As a blasé old organiser from way back I didn't think I would ever again experience a sense of excitement for an impending event, But I've caught the local spirit and have recaptured that old feeling.

Before I knew where I was, I was busily engaged in watering the area where the opening will take place, and now I'm wondering how I can polish up my shoes in readiness for the big event.

At this stage it's about two hours off, and already convoys of vehicles are entering the grounds. Expectations are for an attendance of over 600 and on this fine day I believe this number will be exceeded.

Before I sign off for a couple of hours, I recollect that late last night I inspected the village's four bed Sick Bay. All equipment is not yet in place but could be out of its storage and on display right on time. Maybe we will be told today but I heard an aside by a prominent Lion that Licola Lions Village is now valued somewhere in the vicinity of \$350,000. Two hours later and the opening is over and while it progressed the cars kept rolling with yet more and more Lions, their ladies and families.

A military band played for about half an hour during which the Guard of Honor took up position, later to be inspected by the Governor. P.D.G. Ray Ware welcomed the guests. "What a wonderfully exciting day this is for the Lions of Victoria, the Riverina and Tasmania, and all the wonderful people who have helped in building all these camp facilities," he said. "They will give so much joy to the thousands of children who will enjoy never-to-be-forgotten holidays in this lovely valley over the years ahead.

"The fact that so many of you have travelled a great many miles to help make this a memorable day in the annals of Lionism in this area, is in itself a tribute to your interest and sense of what the important things in life really are. This is one of the greatest Lions projects of its type in Australia, and it ranks with the greatest of similar projects anywhere in the world of Lionism. "Today you must all share with the Board of Management the great pride they feel in the realisation that after four years of hard work and great endeavour by many people and the tremendous dedication of some, we have reached the first milestone of our long-term plan, the completion of Stage 1, with accommodation for 160 children and 30 supervisors at each of our camps."

P.D.G. Ray Ware paid tribute to the many people and organisations that helped bring the Licola project to fruition, including "a very practical Lion who has done more to implement this idea than any other single person – P.D.G. Neville Gibson." Neville, he said, had given practically all of his time over the past four years to the project. He paid a special tribute to the work done by the Army's 21 Construction Squadron. The "magnificent entrance gates" would be a memorial to their work.

Licola, said P.D.G. Ray Ware, had been "a great team effort, bringing together commercial organisations, the public, the Government, the Services and of course our own Lions Members, not forgetting the work of the Lions Ladies (God bless them), and I believe this great combination is the manner in which Lionism can be effective.

His Excellency (who is Patron of the Licola Lions Foundation) recollected that when he was last at Licola some two years ago it was bitterly cold, whereas today the weather was the direct opposite.

He said the Licola project was perhaps the biggest project undertaken by any community service organisation in Australia. The original owners of Licola Village had not only placed a low

price on the property and asked for an initial deposit of \$4000 with the balance free of interest over two years, and within that period the Board had not only paid the money off, but also produced an overall plan for further progress in December, 1973.

Sir Rohan referred to the first major camps over the coming Christmas and New Year period when more than 160 children and 40 leaders would move into Licola.

Declaring the camp officially opened, Sir Rohan then unveiled a plaque indicating the event and the date.

P.D.G. Ian Stockdale responded. He declared that this was a great day for Lionism. "I hope there will be more Licola's in Australia," he said, "If Lions don't do it who will"

"Today is the end of the beginning. Some people have said we should hand this property over to some other organisation to run. We are holding Licola in trust for the underprivileged and handicapped children of now and the future, that's why we must remain in control."

Thanking His Excellency, he pointed out that Sir Rohan was wearing a small badge in his button hole. "It's a Lions badge," he said, "And His Excellency is entitled to wear it because he is a Lion,"



● The State Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, arrives at Licola for the opening ceremony, and (below) he inspects the Guard of Honor provided by the 21 Construction Squadron while the Army band plays in the background.



The Lion, Australian Edition 3



RUTHERGLEN LIONS CLUB 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

TO ALL DISTRICT MEMBERS

RUTHERGLEN LIONS CLUB WILL BE CELEBRATING
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY 16TH
NOVEMBER 2024

IF YOU HAVE HAD SOME INTEREST IN RUTHERGLEN
LIONS CLUB AND WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, COULD YOU
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST **ASAP**, SO WE CAN
START ORGANISING VENUES, TIMES ETC NOW.

PRESIDENT: Betty Potter Email b.potter@westnet.com.au OR Phone:
0448 715 357

SECRETARY: Kerry Younger Email: kerryyounger08@gmail.com
OR Phone: 0472 723 168

TREASURER: Julie Simpson Email: juledon@bigpond.com OR Phone
0419 426 139



On **Saturday March 2**, thousands of Australia's
most dedicated and hard-working volunteers are
taking the opportunity to tell our story for
Lions Awareness Day 2024.

After 75 years of helping others in Australia, we know our role as a
service club organisation is becoming increasingly important.

We want the rest of Australia to know more about what we do and
the causes we support.

And Bunnings want to help!

They have offered their support and their stores to host local Lions
Awareness Day events around the country.

So if your Lions Club is interested in promoting the wonderful work
that we do at a Bunnings near you, **contact your local store to book
a space in their foyer on Saturday 2 March**.

Note:

- Lions volunteers can set up an awareness table, sell their merchandise, or run a BBQ at their local Bunnings store only if dates are available.
- Lions to provide Public Liability certificate.

BUNNINGS & LIONS; LIKE SAUCE ON A SAUSAGE .

District Noticeboard



Cobram Lions Market Dates Federation Park, Punt Road, Cobram

NEXT MARKET - 27th January

27th January	24th February
30th March (Easter Market)	27th April
25th May	29th June





**Are YOU
following us....**

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Instagram

[@lionsdistrictv6](https://www.instagram.com/lionsdistrictv6)

Twitter

[@201_v6](https://twitter.com/201_v6)



Links, Contacts & Useful contacts...

District Governor

John Houghton (Jennefer) (Wangaratta)
(M) 0407 303 691
dg.v6@lions.org.au

1st Vice District Governor

Geoff Turnbull (Janice) (Wangaratta)
(M) 0427 229 322
geoff@chisholm1.com.au

2nd Vice District Governor

Julie Ballard (Katamatite)
(M) 0422 415 294
2vdg.v6@lions.org.au

Immediate Past District Governor

Neil Stuart (Pauline) (Numurkah)
(M) 0460 868 088
neilstuart1953@gmail.com

Cabinet Secretary

Clinton Cathro (Wangaratta)
(M) 0427 102 541
cabsec.v6@lions.org.au

Cabinet Treasurer

Ollie Tufvesson (Yarrowonga)
(M) 0477 143 336
cabtreas.v6@lions.org.au

Constitution & By-Laws Chairman

PCC David Skinner OAM (Culcairn)
(H) 02 6058 0000
d.skinner@skinner.com.au

Membership

Neil Stuart (Pauline) (Numurkah)
(M) 0460 868 088
neilstuart1953@gmail.com

Service / Retention

PDG Carol Kennedy (Tocumwal)
(M) 0417 868 498
carolk1810@gmail.com

Disaster Recovery Support Team / Historian / EMIB

Paul Shortis (Wodonga)
(M) 0407 854 829
pshortis52@gmail.com

Safety Officer

John Walker (Wangaratta)
(M) 0417 391 044
rivinstaus@gmail.com

ALF

PDG Peter Poels (Benalla)
(M) 0448 399 227
peter.puddles@yahoo.com.au

LCIF

Stephen Kazenwadel (Wangaratta)
(M) 0418 629 797
skaz_216631@hotmail.com

DISTRICT WEBSITE - www.201v6.lions.org.au

MEMBERSHIP TRAILER BOOKINGS - [https://calendly.com/
v6trailer](https://calendly.com/v6trailer)

Promoting Clubs through the District Newsletter - the ROAR

- Do you have an UPCOMING EVENT? Have you had an event you'd like to tell us about?
- Best place to promote it is through the Roar!
- **Cut off date is the 28th of each month** (items arriving after that date may not make it in but will be held over till the next one).
- Please send articles in a Word file (not a PDF)

EMAIL - v6roar@gmail.com

didn't see
YOUR
club in the
latest edition
of....

**THE
ROAR**
V6 District Newsletter

deadline is 28th of each month