

Julie Ballard

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-2025

Respect for our Environment

April is...



Leo Awareness Month



THE ROAR



DISTRICT 201V6

APRIL 2025 ISSUE

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For the latest information on the 2025 Convention visit –

<https://lionsclubs.org.au/members/73rd-md-201-convention-2025/>

Are YOU following us....



Facebook

<http://facebook.com/201V6Lions>

Member's Only Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/676430540448974>

Instagram

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

LIONS SAFETY

For Lions Club members who live in the following Shires, I would encourage them to complete the Online Volunteer Induction Training course.

- Benalla Rural City
- Indigo Shire Council
- Moira Shire
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- City of Wodonga

Note you must have completed this course if you are undertaking any volunteer work for these councils.

It takes about half an hour to complete and covers a multitude of subjects and makes you aware of safety and health issues.

Maybe it might be worth instigating a V6 Lions Club Online Volunteer Induction Training course for all Lions Club members.

GMT Report

As of March 27th, in V6 we have 1,025 members or -29 (last report: 1,020 members or -34), having added 78 members and dropped 107 since July 1st. During the month of March nine new members were added and four were dropped. Congratulations to Barham Koondrook, Bright, Deniliquin and Walwa Jingelic clubs who added one new member, and Wodonga that added five new members during the month – great result!

A good news story - Congratulations to Rutherglen President Betty Potter together with PDG Lynn Fredericks and ZC Stuart Whisson who have been very proactive in seeking new members for Rutherglen. There are two definite new members and a further five potential new members – well done!

The club health assessment for our District through February 2025 reported that nineteen clubs had year to date positive net growth, nineteen clubs had negative growth, and seventeen clubs were status quo. Sixty percent of our clubs have less than twenty members. Twenty-one clubs in our District have less than fifteen members with ten of those clubs below ten members. Regarding membership growth the standouts through February have been Cobram (+4), Wangaratta (+3), Myrtleford (+3), Lockhart (+2), Moama (+2), Rochester (+2), Tungamah (+2), and Wodonga (+2).

Regarding Multiple District and bearing in mind our “Big Audacious Mission” (BAM) to reach 30,000 members by 2030, as of February 28th, the Multiple District has 21,852 or net -185 (my

last report: 21,779 members or net -258) with 1,989 added and 2,174 dropped since July 1st. Seven of the seventeen districts are not in transition. Our MD 201 Big Audacious Mission (BAM) membership challenge is net gain +1150/year, 24 new clubs and 1 member/club/year.

For our V6 District to get out of transition and get to the 1,250 figure we will now need to recruit 225 members or four new members per club net. As stated in my last couple of reports, we continue to head in a downward slide that has been ongoing for nearly a decade. It is pleasing however that our net position has improved slightly since last month. What is of concern is the number of drops that continues to climb. While building on our numbers is important retention is equally important. We need to keep the drops to a minimum particularly in this last three months of DG Julie's term.

I repeat again that there are many great membership resources available. One of the key membership resources found in the Club Membership e-Book is: “Just Ask! – Fostering a culture of recruitment” guide. I again ask that if you have not yet had a look at this guide, please do so! Please feel free to contact me if you would like any more information.

PDG Neil Stuart

V6 GMT Coordinator

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Respect for our Environment



DG Julie Ballard
2024-2025

The club visits have continued with my first visit to Numurkah Lions on 27/01/25. This was followed by visits to Chiltern (05/02/25) & Benalla (06/02/25). Yackandandah was next off the rank on the 12/02/25 followed by Wangaratta Lions on the 13/02/25. I was honoured to join Wangaratta Lions for their memorial service for deceased members prior to the meeting.

I was privileged to attend the 150th celebrations for the establishment of the township of Tungamah. There was a parade through the town including horse drawn wagons & old vehicles. These made their way to the football grounds where the community activities took place. There was plenty of activities for the children & a video presentation for the adults to view. The Tungamah Historical Society opened their doors with plenty of memorabilia for people to view. The Lions were flat out on the BBQ and sold out of food; I was able to grab a delicious hamburger as I joined the queue early.

The 3rd Cabinet meeting was held at Tocumwal & special thanks must go to Tocumwal Lions for hosting the event & providing an excellent morning tea & lunch.

The 19/02/25 was a big day, I joined the members of the Lions Club of Mulwala to pay a visit to the Cobram Foodbank. This is a valuable service that provides food to those in need throughout Moira Shire. I went on to have lunch with the ladies at Burramine Homestead & present a special award for membership satisfaction. From Burramine I headed up to Moyhu to pay a visit to the Lions. Prior to the meeting Zone Chair Stuart, wife Kaye & myself were taken on a special tour of the town by member Max Baker.

The month of February concluded with a return visit to Tocumwal to present a couple of special Chris August Awards. Award presentations are the part of the job that I really enjoy.

The 8th of March was International Women's Day & I was fortunate to be part of video presentation produced by Moira Shire. The Shire hosted guest speakers & a special afternoon tea for the ladies of Moira on the 07/03/25.

I attended the District YOTY final at the new club rooms at Wangaratta on the 09/02/25. Congratulations to both contestants & the winner on the day was Oakley Tarrant from Rochester.

Return visits to club are always special, so I was honoured to return to Corowa on the 17/03/25 to induct a new member, enjoy a great meal & listen to some informative guest speakers from Rotary & Landcare.

The Barooga Lions Deb Ball took place on the 22nd of March. Both myself & Chris Mitchell had the honour of receiving the Debs & their partners. A most enjoyable & fun filled evening.

Last but not least, I gained my Certificate IV in Mental Health at the Graduation Ceremony held by GOTAFE in Shepparton on the 25th of March. You don't realise how busy you have been until you sit down to write a report. As I enter the the last quarter of my term as District Governor, I want to thank everyone who has supported me during this journey.

DG Julie Ballard

Respect for our Environment



1VDG Paul Shortis

March has been a bit quieter than previous months I was invited to attend Wangaratta Lions Club 69th Charter Anniversary Dinner a very enjoyable evening was had by all Lion Ollie & Joan Tufvesson presented a very informative talk on the Turban Angels which is a District project also that evening Lion Frank Darke was presented with Life Membership rewarding many years of loyal service to Wangaratta Lions and Lions International

The Lions Skin Screening Unit was in Wodonga the first weekend in March, I assisted

the club with admin duties on both days. On the 29th & 30th March Tungamah Lions Club will have the Skin Screening Unit and I will be assisting them with the admin duties.

On a positive note I have been informed by the Lions V District Cancer Foundation that we have had six people register to become a Dermoscopist and assist with the unit we can still do with more people applying remember the saying "more hands make light work" the more Dermoscopist we have in V6 the more often the unit will visit clubs in the V6 District.

DGE Paul Shortis



Years 3 & 4
Creative Invention
If you could invent something new, what would it be?
Tell us about it. e.g. what is it made of, who is it for, and how could it be used?

**2025 Topics**

Years 5 & 6
Technology
The impact of fast-moving technology on our lives and the environment is often overlooked, yet it can be far reaching. Is technology moving too fast for humans to keep up? Discuss.

Club Registration due 31st May 2025

Junior Public Speaking Chairpersons....

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For more information -
<https://lionsclubs.org.au/event/2025-anzi-pacific-forum-gold-coast/>



For more information - <https://lionsclubs.org.au/event/2025-lions-international-convention/>

***Did you know...** The longest English word is 189,819 letters long. Technically speaking, the longest word in English is "Methionylthreonylthreonylglutaminylarginyl...isoleucine". That's the scientific name for the largest protein in the human body, scientifically known as 'titin,' made up of over 190,000 letters. Yep, you heard that right! It's so long that if you tried to put it in the English dictionary, it would need more than fifty pages just for the word alone.*

**NO FLIES
ON US!**
*Let's stop Queensland
Fruit Fly*



Forum Raises fruit fly fears

City of Greater Shepparton Mayor Shane Sali has challenged the Victorian treasurer over the lack of funding for a program that protects Goulburn Valley fruit from Queensland fruit fly.

Cr Sali told a forum in Shepparton on Monday, March 17 that he had raised the issue with Treasurer Jaclyn Symes on her visit to Shepparton the week before.

Funding is due to run out in June, and already some aspects of the program will start to run down soon.

"We are not going to give up advocating to protect the horticultural industry within the Goulburn Murray Valley," Cr Sali said.

"There is too much at stake and it continues to concern me that we are still having this conversation," he said at the forum.

"Our region feeds the nation and all we need for our fruit fly program to continue successfully is a \$1 million annual commitment from the Victorian Government."

The region's fruit fly program was funded to the tune of \$323,000 this financial year.

The increasing risk of Queensland fruit fly was highlighted at the forum, delivered by Greater Shepparton City Council in partnership with the Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Program.

More than 50 people including about 25 growers attended the forum, designed to both educate and inform local horticulturalists, businesses, volunteers, community and local government.

Federal Member for Nicholls Sam Birrell said the lack of a firm commitment to fund fruit fly control posed a significant risk to the \$1.6 billion horticulture industry.

"The forum heard that fruit fly numbers, which were largely controlled by a wide area management program, started to balloon again from 2019 when Victorian Government funding was cut by more than 60 per cent," Mr Birrell said.

International fruit fly expert and horticultural entomologist, Andrew Jessup, spoke about his expert analysis commissioned by Greater Shepparton City Council on the effectiveness of the GMV program and the fruit fly number forecasts beyond June 2025.

Macquarie University's Professor Phil Taylor described the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) and how effective this has been, particularly during a

trial undertaken in Moira Shire for three years from 2019.

The Moira Shire trial is the most successful SIT trial that has been undertaken in eastern Australia.

Professor Taylor explained how the trial demonstrated that when coupled with an area wide management program, fruit fly can be controlled and managed very effectively.

The GMV Fruit Fly Management Program saw positive results over many years, with fruit fly numbers reducing by more than 95 per cent in 2017 and then a further 60 per cent in 2018.

These positive results suffered post-2020 however, when funding was reduced by more than 62.5 per cent resulting in a less intensive area wide management program.

After this funding cut, fruit fly numbers have increased by more than 183 per cent since 2021.

During the forum, Mr Jessup explained that forecasts beyond 2026 for fruit fly within the GMV and broader Victoria were of significant concern, without a high input area wide management program needed to sustain fruit fly numbers.

As a best case scenario, Mr Jessup is forecasting an increase of more than 205 per cent and a worst case scenario of more than 600 per cent by 2026, without an effective area wide management program within the GMV.

It is expected that fruit fly numbers would then continue to increase.

Fruit grower Mitchell McNab expressed a fear that the program will be de-funded this year.

He said the fruit industry, a major economic driver for the Goulburn Valley, was under threat from the pest. While there seemed to be an expectation that growers would have to pick up the costs of any future program, part of the problem was the incursion of fruit fly from urban areas.

Mr Jessup said the Victorian Government had a great opportunity to fund a program that is already established within the Goulburn Murray Valley.

"The program has proven that it can effectively manage and control fruit fly numbers when adequately funded by the Victorian Government," he said.

"The Victorian Government seems to be willing to take a big risk by not supporting a management program that will control fruit fly within a region as prolific in growing and exporting fruit such as the GMV.

"Supporting a \$1 million dollar program to protect horticulture valued at over \$1.6 billion is incredibly compelling."

Source: Andrew Jessup, Janren Consulting Pty Ltd

PDG Keith Kennedy

As printed in the Country News

Lions Club of Corowa

Pioneer Cemetery Project

Over the past few years, the Corowa Lions Club have taken on the maintenance of the Corowa Pioneer Cemetery with some amazing results.

Each month a large group of Corowa members congregate at the Cemetery and spend a few hours raking up the fallen leaves from the avenue of Curragong trees.

The Lions try to get there at least once a month and at times they come down twice a month depending on the leaf litter.

Along with the picking up of the leaves the club is also building a new Rotunda in the middle section of the Cemetery to provide shade and a place of solace for those visiting the cemetery to visit past loved ones. The Lions are also replacing the front fence with a more UpToDate fence complete with new gates that will be in keeping with all Cemeteries in the Federation Council area.

All the funding for the project has been provided by Club Corowa through their Club

- Grants and funds have also been provided by Tobin Bros Funeral Services. Other funds have
- been drawn from the Lions Water drinking water project. These funds are all raised from
- local community organisations.

The Lions are also working with the local Historical Society and the Federation Council to incorporate some interactive tutorials and visitor information within the Cemetery to give the visiting public a better understanding of this historic venue.

There are many Local explorers and original Corowa dignitaries buried in the cemetery which is why so many travelling public take the time to drop by to look at our historic venue.

The local council has recently upgraded the

water system in the Cemetery and the Lions will place drinking fountains at various points throughout the area.

With the soon to be completed Rotunda and new seating this will be a great reason to stop off in Corowa. This is another great Corowa Lions project.

New Rotunda for South Corowa Lions Park

The Lions Club of Corowa has been busy rebuilding the Rotunda in the South Corowa Lions Park.

After many years of stalling with grant applications and council regulations that need to be fulfilled, we are now ready for the grand opening of the new Rotunda and BBQ, complete with new seats designed and built by the Corowa Men's Shed.

The whole area has been reimaged with native grasses and a garden bed along two sides. The raised aspect of the new structure gives a commanding view of the local Murray River and the park surrounds.

The Corowa Lions owe a huge debt to the Australian Lions Foundation and the Federation Council for their funding assistance and the many hours of volunteer labor that helped get the project over the line.

The new Rotunda is getting lots of use from local community citizens who use the BBQ and fisherman who use the nearby boat ramp to launch their boats. This facility will be a tremendous asset to Corowa and its residents for many years into the future.

The Corowa Lions are planning a grand opening on March the 29th that will involve all Corowa community and the many local government dignitaries that have been involved.

The Lions club also invites all Lions from the V6 District to come and join us to rededicate the Rotunda to one of our very active deceased Lions Mr. Peter Morrow, who was instrumental in getting the park established many years ago.



Tocumwal Lions Club

District Governor Julie Ballard had the pleasure of presenting two Chris August Memorial Awards to two very dedicated members of the Tocumwal & District Lions Club for outstanding contribution to their club and the community.

Lion Brian Folliard is a silent but outstanding Lion, working solely on the recycling of cans and bottles project, which raises funds to support the community. When not knee-deep in recycling, he spends countless hours at the cemetery, raking under the gumtrees and helping to keep the grounds in pristine condition for visitors.

He is always handy on the BBQ and always ready to put his hand up with any available jobs.

Lion Carol Kennedy is a tireless worker for Lions, having held the position of Secretary for the past four years and Treasurer for the past two years. She spends every Saturday at the Tocumwal Railway Heritage Museum, ensuring that Tocumwal's rail and general history stays alive.

- She also makes preparations for event catering and is currently taking bookings for the upcoming Lions Skin Check Van visit.



Tocumwal President Keith Kennedy and District Governor Julie Ballard with Lion Brian Folliard and Lion Carol Kennedy.

Tocumwal Lions Club hosted the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation Skin Check Unit during March. The response from the community was enormous.

Here are some stats from the two days:

- 111 skin checks - 34 males and 77 females.
- 40% of people referred to see their GP for further checking and attention.
- referral rate down from 65% during the van's last visit three years ago

The Lions Club provided accommodation and meals for the five volunteers during the two days.



The Murray River Rod Run weekend drew hundreds of visitors to Tocumwal. The Lions Club provided BBQ meals during the Saturday Night Cruise which closed the main street for three hours.



What's happening in Yarrawonga

We are pleased to announce the installation of four new seats on Chainman's Island for the benefit of our community. These seats, which are made from recycled materials, replace the benches at Aitchison's Point and Wrights Lookout. This project was made possible with the support of Moira Shire who approved a "Quick Response Grant". We extend our sincere gratitude to Lion Diane Richardson for her efforts in completing the necessary paperwork and follow-up tasks associated with this project. If you are in Yarrawonga, go for a walk around Chainman's Island and try them out for yourself.



Aitchisons Point - Before



Aitchisons Point - Now



Wright's Lookout



Wright's Lookout

Skin Cancer Van Visit

The Yarrawonga Lions Club recently hosted a successful two-day skin cancer check in Yarrawonga. We booked 122 appointments in 12 hours and received more inquiries than we could accommodate, scheduling 153 people by the end of the weekend. About 38% were referred for further assessment, and 79 clients had never been screened before. This was a valuable opportunity for health monitoring, and we are proud to provide this service.

Yarrawonga Lions would like to express their sincere appreciation to Tony and Josie, owners of The Lake View Motel and Shaun from the Yarrawonga Holiday Park, for providing accommodation assistance. We also extend our gratitude to Lauren and Dean from Mulwala Bakery for supplying morning and afternoon tea, as well as lunch for all volunteers over the two days. Additionally, we thank IGA Supermarket for graciously providing space in their carpark for our van.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers, Doctor Conor Larney, Registered Nurse Jit Singh and Paramedic Al Haddon, Administrator Raelene Haddon and Driver Nigel Ponder who generously donated their time and expertise to offer this complimentary service to our community.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our Secretary, Debbie Van Corler, for her diligent efforts in managing bookings and responding to phone calls, texts, and emails

over the past few weeks. Our booking system opened on March 8th, with the first request received at 12:03 am. Deb continued to handle inquiries until the end of the weekend.



Lions Ollie and Joan Tufvesson, Judi Best, John Weinert and Kathy Fisher.



Paramedic Al Haddon, Administrator Raelene Haddon, Registered Nurse Jit Singh.

Doctor Conor Larney, and Driver Nigel Ponder



Van in place in IGA carpark and next to the accommodation.

Henty Happenings

March has been a busy month for the Lions Club of Henty. It culminated in a Bunnings BBQ in Wagga where the Henty Lions Club worked with volunteers from the Henty Lifestyle Centre to provide the much appreciated Bunnings

sausages to the Wagga community. The money raised will be used to assist with ongoing projects by both organisations. While serving at the BBQ we were approached by Lion Dr Nerella Hanmanthu from Nirmal in India. He was very interested in what we were doing and spoke to us about the work of his Lions Club in India. Some of the projects he talked about were conducting outreach medical and health services to the poorer communities and providing food boxes and blankets to those in need. It was a very enlightening conversation.



In March we used the proceeds from our Christmas raffle to provide equipment for the two Early Child Care organisations in Henty. The Greater Hume Shire Children's Service Centre have received a set of large foam building blocks which are used to develop the children's physical and coordination skills. The Henty Preschool received tubs of Mobilo Construction blocks, Kimochis Feeling Cards and a set of magnifying glasses to help the children explore their world.



In mid March a large contingent of bowlers converged on Henty from across the region to compete in the annual Men's Invitation Triple Bowls Competition hosted over two days by the Henty Bowling Club. The Lions Club were co-opted into providing a tasty breakfast of egg & bacon rolls, juice, tea & coffee to the travellers

on both days before they took to the bowling greens to begin the competition. All proceeds from this endeavour went to Lions Prostate Cancer Research.



To round off the month members dusted off their thinking caps and we entered a team in a local trivia night which was being held to fund raise for Avondale Place and the Next Step Trust, Henty. We all had a great social night, but were out classes by the younger generation!

Lions Club of Lavington

At a recent dinner meeting elections were held. Lion Graham Jenkin chaired the election with the following results:

- President Susie Harrington
- 1st VP Kerry Thevar
- 2nd VP Bill Van Noordennen
- Secretary Sandra Rafferty
- Treasurer Michael Machin
- 1 Year Director Wayne Sharrock
- 2 Year Director Robert Gurney
- Membership Margariete Harding
- Catering Manager Ray Parker
- Bulletin Editor Malcolm Scott

It looks as though Lion Susie will be supported by an experienced Board. Interesting to note that this is her third term as President.

Congratulations!

Service hours are going through the roof with Transport to Treatment, 1,2,3, Read2Me Football Gates and catering all experiencing busy times. Many hands DO make light work and its great to see so many volunteers available.

Lion Malcolm Scott presented Sophie Burrell with her award for winning the state round of Junior Public Speaking. Sophie is a student at St Annes School North Albury



Lake Mulwala Lions Club

Members of the Lions Club of Lake Mulwala decided that, during Lions Awareness Month they would promote Lions and their club in particular in the main street. They had a fun morning at the central Lions Kiosk offering Lions mints as an ice breaker then talking to passers-by. It is good to be out there spreading the news about our achievements and the value of being a member. Quite a few were interested and hopefully will join in due course.

Kerang Lions Club

Memorial plaque unveiling for the late Lion Veronica Fletcher wife of the late Life Member Lion Owen Fletcher



was attended by 3 of their children in Cherie, Janene and Joylene in January.

PDG Lion Peter Niall again organised another successful Australia Day ceremony in Atkinson Park Kerang. Local business owners were the flag bearers this year.



Guest speaker Annette Hollingworth talked about Angel Babies, a volunteer sewing group who make clothes for deceased babies/children up to 18 months old. Worthwhile cause.



Clean up Australia looking after the Kerang/ Koondrook rd outside Kerang golf Course up to Sleepy Lane, Kerang.

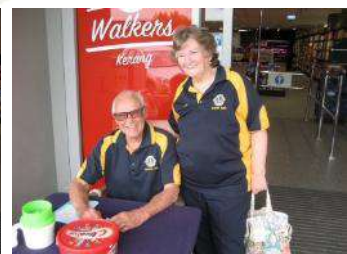


Kerang Lions Den cleaned up over several working bees in preparation for Time Capsule opening on March 30th 2025. Time Capsule was opened on up March 30th 2025 in front of about 60 eager participants/ relatives of who had letters sealed in the capsule in March 2000. Very interesting community Project! Well done to PDG Lion Peter Niall and helpers who conducted the project.



4 Generations of the Niall Family excited about the opening of the Lions Club of Kerang Time Capsule at the Kerang Lions Den on Sunday March 30th 2025.

Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal raffle sellers.



Wangaratta Lions

International Woman's Day - Celebrating Women in Lions on International Women's Day. Lions Club of Wangaratta celebrate all the women in our club, both Lions and Partners, serving together as one amazing group of people. Our Partners Nights are always great nights involving all members where all the women in the club are able to catchup



V6 District Final – Youth Of The Year. Lions Club of Wangaratta hosted the Youth of the Year Australia Final for Lions District 201V6 on Sunday 9 March with YOTY District Chairperson Mark Nordbye.

Oakley Tarrant from Rochester Lions Club and Abigail Brooker from Cobram Lions went through a rigorous interview process assessing their community involvement and achievements followed by a five-minute prepared speech and responses to two impromptu questions.



Congratulations to both students on their inspiring speeches and impressive involvement in their respective communities. After their presentations the V6 District YOTY winner was announced as Oakley Tarrant from Rochester.

Thank you to all the Wangaratta Lions Club members involved in this District Final.. the first event held in the new Wangaratta Lions Club Shed!

Wangaratta Lions Club Charter Dinner - On 13 March the Lions Club of Wangaratta celebrated their 69th charter anniversary with an evening at Wangaratta Turf Club. A great night of fellowship in celebration of the clubs service to the Wangaratta community.

Lion Michael Everard was MC for the night, and President Tom Little welcomed our guests, with Rural City of Wangaratta councillor David Fuller and DGE Paul and Lion Lyn Shortis in attendance.



Life Membership was presented to Frank Darke for his long serving commitment to the Wangaratta Lions Club.

Guest speakers Lion Ollie and Joan Tufuessan gave us an informative and inspiring presentation about the Yarrawonga Turban Angels and their quest to supply headwear to help others through their chemotherapy journey. Such a fantastic project run by the Yarrawonga Lions Club Inc.

A fantastic celebratory cake made by Marjorie Little was cut by longest serving members Lion Ray Dunstan and Lion Geoff Webster.

The night was a wonderful success for all involved. Thank you to John & Jennefer Houghton for arranging this fantastic night and to all our special guests and partners of club members in attendance making this a memorable night. Here's to many more years of making a difference together!

Victorian State Final – Youth Of The Year

- The Victorian State Final of the Lions Youth of the Year was held in Torquay on 29 March.
- Oakley Tarrant from Rochester performed fantastically in the Final as representative for our V6 District.
-

An inspiring group of students from across Victoria underwent an intense interview process during the afternoon before the night's public speaking session where they each presented a prepared speech and 2 impromptu speeches to a crowd of some 80 people!

All 5 contestants were amazing and each did their respective Districts proud! The judges had a tough decision to make but in the end Amelia Hulonce from Portland was declared the public speaking winner and Sebastian Lunn from Melbourne the overall winner.

Sebastian now goes on to the National YOTY Final and will compete against the other State winners at the MD201 Convention in May.

While not placed today, our V6 District representative Oakley Tarrant from Rochester was very impressive and certainly has a very bright future ahead of him!



Numurkah Lions Club

Rex Wellington Memorial Bowls Day - On Sunday March 16th the Lions Club of Numurkah held the annual Rex Wellington Memorial Bowls Day. This special Lions project was initiated by Lion Rex thirty-eight years ago in 1987. Rex was a Charter member and Melvin Jones Fellow. This year twenty-two teams from all parts of the Murray and Goulburn Valley bowls areas participated in the two bowls triples tournament played on the excellent Numurkah Bowls Club greens. Once again, we received great support from local business houses in Numurkah. The catering for this event was again provided by our Numurkah Lions Ladies and other helpers. Rex's grandson Travis Wellington presented the prizes. The winners were the Henderson brothers – Andrew and Ian from the Wunghnu Bowls Club and Ross from the Numurkah Bowls Club. See pictured from left Travis Wellington, Andrew, Ian and Ross Henderson.



Tungamah Lions Club

Tungamah Lions have been flat out again, starting off by cooking over 500 sausages for Sacred Heart School. We are always welcome there and manage to have a great time.

We have met with the Shire to pick out places for the first roll out of benches around the town for people to sit on. So far, we have committed to four, with the Shire donating another two. Plus, they will do the installation.

We spent a full day cooking for the car races out at Wilby once again, and all those who worked had plenty of frivolity. We managed to run out of food, which was great, although I missed out on a hamburger. And we do make the best burgers.

Another Bunnings was successful, with the money going towards the costs of the cancer van.

We are preparing for the Skin Cancer Van which is already in position for the week. Make no bones about it, we are already to look after the professionals and make sure they are comfortable. They are staying at the pub, and lunches are being done at the shop. The appointments have been booked out, which is great.

Recently we held our elections for 2025-2026 with Helen Williams to come in as the new president. Victor has done a wonderful job again. Secretary will be McKayla Peterson while the treasurer is Aydan Stark-Beswick. Looks like another year with no Harrisons on the honour board, but for Helen, it's a first!!!!!!

- We are also preparing for the footy gates with our first game coming up on the 5th April. Rosters have been filled, prizes donated and thermos flasks prepared.
- For Aydan and McKayla their training weekend in Queensland was postponed. Word has just come through that they are now going on the last weekend in June.
- That's it for now. See you all next month.

ROARER.

Tungamah Leos

Sunday the 23rd March saw the much awaited Carp Muster, run by the Leos. Starting at 11 a.m., there were several fisherpeople champing at the bit to get started as rumours abounded that the carp were on the bite.

At the sound of the big brass bell, lines were flung into the Weir Pool down at the Lions Park, and we waited.....and waited.....and waited. Someone obviously forgot to let the fish know about the day. After a couple of hours, we had two nice carp, but then the tide turned. With hands full of cooked sausages and snowcones, the fish came on the bite. Amazing how hard it is to place a sausage in bread and a snow cone on the ground while your rod is disappearing into the water. All up, there were 14 carp landed among 40 contestants, not bad with so much happening in the district.

Sponsorship was great with Jason Haebich's "Emu Spirit" being the major sponsor, alongside Mulwala Fishing and Camping, who are always so generous. Our local store through Jason and Donna and also the local pub were once again fully supportive, with Lex Haebich and Thawn Waters donating a lot of equipment.

Everyone was able to come away with a prize, with Jay Grigg from Cobram winning \$50 for catching the biggest fish, a 1.146kg carp.

Many thanks to all the sponsors, helpers and cooks and especially those who helped pack up and clean up at the end of the day.

Best of all, we also signed up some new Leos, so important to keeping these days happening in our small town.



Leo Member, Demi Einsporn, is taking part in a major fundraiser to raise money for Variety Bash which supports so many young people in need. Demi has been a member of Tungamah and District Leos for three years.

Demi takes off on the 6th April on a two week tour which ends up in Alice Springs after starting in Renmark. It will be a full on trip, with 20 "Bash Brats" joining the adults to raise funds. She is part of Team Basse, which has supported our local Lions in so many ways. Paul Basse is a larger than life man with a huge heart. Her mother, Amanda is also travelling on the tour. Amanda is a past Lion. Demi's grandmother was one of the first female members of Tungamah Lions and remained a member until her death. Leos and Lions will be promoted throughout the tour. Demi's aim is to raise \$750.



Demi has said, "I'm so excited to take part in the Variety Rally Around Victoria and interstate raising funds for kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have additional needs! We need you help to make sure ALL kids reach their full potential! Click here to support our fundraising today! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please drop PDG Les Harrison an email letting me know details of donations. The link is <https://fundraise.variety.org.au/s/4567/6001/s>

Please promote our Leos as they are getting out of their comfort zone. These kids are our future. Inquiries to Les on 0417 301 797 or les.harrison29@gmail.com

District Leo of the Year

The District Leo of the Year for V6 was a little disappointing, with only one contestant taking part, but we made it a very special day. Cooper Belfall from the Cobram on the Murray Club won his club's final. Cooper is pretty new to Leos and gave a great talk on the gay riots at Stonewall in Britain. There were many others who performed well and entertained the large audience. As always, the staff at the school spent many hours preparing the students for the task ahead. For some, getting up in front of an audience is an achievement in itself.

The District Final featured Cooper as the star attraction and after talks with Cooper's parents, they were very accepting of the limitations as to how far he could proceed. The judging panel of PDG Les Harrison, Lion Michelle Wild and Leo-Lion Aydan Stark-Beswick put Cooper through a 45 minute interview and received some amazing responses.

A crowd of 40 were in possession of the chairs as word of Cooper's powerful address had spread and he amazed everyone with his talk. A huge round of applause greeted Cooper at the end of a subject which would once have been considered controversial.

Lunch followed and the large catering effort by Tungamah and others was soon devoured. Our thanks to all those who prepared the food and cleaned up afterwards.

Cooper is looking forward to using his experience to prepare for next year. He now has his sights set on the State Final, but beware, there are a number of contestants already getting ready for next year.



April is..
LEO
Leo Awareness Month



National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and will be next held on 19-25 May 2025.

We here at Australian Lions Hearing Dogs (ALHD) commemorate this special week as one of the most important weeks in our calendar year. It is an annual celebration of the individuals who go above and beyond to help a cause in which they believe in. For us here at ALHD we cannot do what we do without the help of those who so selfishly lend their time and commitment towards us.

Our organisation and Assistance Dog programs operate on the trust and help from volunteers of the community, and our appreciation of our volunteer community is underpinned by our work with Lions. Our volunteers are involved in many aspects of ALHD, from our Kennel Enrichment Program to individuals who provide low and high level BGL saliva samples to help train our Medical Alert Dogs. We also have volunteers who are involved in our Puppy Program, caring for 8-week-old pups for up to ten months, and people involved in the Guardian Program, caring for dogs in our Breeding Program between litters and into retirement. We value each and every Lions member who commit their time and energy to the many community initiatives that can only succeed with the support of volunteers.

As always, we invite all Lions Clubs and their members anywhere across Australia to join us in celebrating this important week in any way you can.



CYBER THEFT WARNING

Dear Lions,

Unfortunately, we have an incidence of a Lions Club having been hit with a cyber theft, which has cleaned out most, if not, all of their two accounts. Apparently, the Treasurer's PC locked up and when a notification came on screen purporting to be from Microsoft, the instructions were followed and the money disappeared. This scenario is likely to become more prevalent in the future, as more and more Clubs are using electronic banking. Scammers are known to be using logos and emblems of well-known companies, government departments and similar to carry out their schemes.

Currently, this loss is not covered under any of the Lions Insurance Program policies, so there is no prospect of the Club recovering their loss from insurance. I have raised the matter with our Brokers with a view to obtaining a suitable policy to protect Clubs, and we are in the process of seeking a policy to suit the risk that all our Clubs, Districts and Foundations are facing. Once we have something from the Brokers, it will enable a recommendation to be made to the Council of Governors for adoption of the policy.

In the meantime, I seek your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of your Clubs, and to reinforce to Clubs that they be aware of the proliferation of scams in the community and the necessity to follow all normal security measures - especially the requirement of two signatures/authorisations on ALL Club financial transactions, whether they be paper or electronic.

Thank you for your assistance.

Lion Garry Galvin

Chairperson

Lions Insurance, Risk Management & Child

Safe Committee

(E) insurance@lions.org.au



We are looking for Lions Clubs in V6 who are willing to have some photos taken of their members in action - wearing their Lions shirts, doing what they love to do.

These images would be use for District Promotional materials including social media & print publications. If your club is interested, please contact Jo Guthrie on 0428 366 220 or via email - v6roar@gmail.com

Awareness Days & Upcoming Events

APRIL

Leo Awareness Month

- 7th - World Health Day
- 18th 21st - Easter Weekend
- 22nd - World Earth Day
- 23rd - World Book Day
- 24-30th - World Immunisation Week
- 25th - Anzac Day
- 26th - Lions Int'l Worldwide Induction Day
- 28th - Pay it Forward Day

MAY

- 4th - May the Fourth -International Star Wars Day
- 8th - World Ovarian Cancer Day
- 11th - Mother's Day
- 20th - World Autoimmune Arthritis Day (Lions Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation)
- 19-25th - National Volunteer Week
- 28th - World Hunger Day
- 29th - National Coffee Day

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

THE ROAR
V6 District Newsletter

deadline is 28th of each month



District WEBSITE
lions201v6.org.au

Special "Members Only Area"

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

Promotional Trailer Bookings -
<https://calendly.com/v6trailer>



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THE UNMISSABLE EVENT OF THE LION'S CONVENTION MD 201 LEO CONFERENCE 2025

Leos are the future of Lions, and the **MD 201 Leo Conference** in **Traralgon** on **3rd and 4th May 2025** is set to be a **transformative experience** for both Leos and Lions.

Running alongside the Lions Convention at the same venue, this conference delivers an **unparalleled opportunity** for emerging leaders to learn, grow, and connect with the wider Lions family while shaping the future of service in Australia.

WHY THIS EVENT STANDS OUT

More than just a conference, this is a **dynamic, hands-on experience** that showcases the passion, innovation, and leadership of Leos. The program is designed to **inspire, educate, and empower** young leaders while providing unique opportunities for collaboration with Lions attending the convention. This ensures that Leos walk away with not only new skills but also a **stronger connection to the broader Lions movement**, fostering long-term engagement and leadership within the organisation.

This year's conference brings fresh approaches to youth leadership, with interactive sessions focused on **innovation, impact, and service evolution**. Leos will not only explore their potential but also develop strategies to enhance their clubs and communities, ensuring sustainable growth and relevance for years to come.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **National Leo of the Year Speeches** – Be inspired by the brightest young leaders as they share their visions for service and leadership.
- **Lions Hearing Dogs Training Demonstration** – Gain insight into the incredible work behind training these life-changing service animals.
- **Hands-On Service Project** – A meaningful opportunity to give back and reinforce the core purpose of our movement.
- **Project Development Workshop** – Collaborate with Leos from across Australia to design innovative, impactful service initiatives.
- **Wheelchair Basketball with Paralympian Lincoln Budge** – Experience an engaging session on resilience, teamwork, and inclusion.
- **Integrated Experiences with the Lions Convention** – Engage in joint sessions, networking opportunities, and collaborative discussions that bridge the Leo and Lions worlds, ensuring a **unified vision for the future**.
- **Strategic Planning for Leos' Future** – Participate in discussions that challenge traditional models and introduce **new ways to enhance Leo impact within the Lions organisation**.
- **And so much more!**



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we serve



A SEAMLESS BLEND OF LEARNING AND CONNECTION

By hosting the **MD 201 Leo Conference within the Lions Convention**, this event fosters a **stronger relationship between Leos and Lions**. Through shared sessions, informal discussions, and mutual learning experiences, attendees will gain valuable insights into **how young leaders are shaping the future of Lions**.

This integrated approach allows Leos to connect with influential Lions, ensuring their voices contribute to the organisation's strategic direction.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This conference isn't just about participation—it's about **driving real change, building lifelong connections, and taking action**.

With a program designed to **challenge, inspire, and equip Leos for success**, the **MD 201 Leo Conference 2025 is set to redefine the Leo experience in Australia**.

The future of Leos is evolving, and this conference is where that evolution begins.

Traralgon 2025 – A new era for Leos and Lions.
Register today to be part of it!

*Lions is also
for young
people...*



Multiple District 201 Youth Exchange Project

Dear Lions

The Multiple District Council has convened a number of reviews into the operation of the Youth Exchange program within Australia, initially through its Long-Range Development Committee and subsequently under the leadership of PID Tim Irvine. Following consideration of these reviews, the Multiple District Council has resolved to disband the Multiple District Youth Exchange Committee and cease Multiple District involvement in the Youth Exchange Project. The Youth Exchange levy, paid by each club, will be cancelled.

The Multiple District Youth Exchange Committee should be congratulated for the efforts they have put into trying to rebuild and grow the program, particularly in the light of the COVID pandemic, however the reviews identified other factors other than those short-term issues affecting the program.

Although the Youth Exchange program has provided many positive and rich experiences to our participating clubs and members over the years, projects do end as circumstances and aspirations change. The Multiple District Council is very focussed on developing and supporting new, safe initiatives that are attractive to young Australians, and reflective of our focus on great community service and positive citizenship.

Please note that this simply ends the Multiple District involvement. ***There is no impediment to any club or District continuing to participate in this international program of their own volition.***

Why end MD involvement in the program

The recent reviews have demonstrated the following:

1. **Declining participation by clubs and young people:** The program has declined over the years, particularly the outbound element. Young people have access to many more opportunities and the Youth Exchange program has suffered. There is now only a small percentage of Lions Clubs that participate in the program, despite the fact that all Lions pay a levy towards its operation.
2. **Safety and care of our participants:** Although Clubs and Districts have been active in improving local operations to provide a safe and well-managed experience for inbound participants, there are fundamental and unresolvable issues to manage our duty of care to outbound participants.

Other countries have different legal systems, different values with respect to managing youth programs and different approaches to the Youth Exchange program. Although we can expect Lions in other countries to do their best to operate the program, it is very difficult to independently verify that the approach they take is equivalent or better than that in Australia.

The Council places high value on considering whether the project can be operated safely overseas given the inherent risks of travel, a more volatile international environment and adherence to its own, child safe policy.

3. **Cost:** The cost of participation is high, both in terms of the financial costs to participants, the cost of administration, and the increasing volunteer time required to manage a small number of participants.
4. **Capacity:** With the ageing of our membership, there is less capacity and interest to support key elements of the program; that being home-hosting and arranging local activities. The expectations of inbound participants are also increasing, challenging clubs and members to meet the cost of those activities.

The way forward

The Multiple District Council is definitely committed to extending and building innovative programs that engage with young people in Australia and sharing with them the importance of contributing to our communities through service. We need to build and support the Leo program and assist Leos to grow their membership. We need to reach out to young people to learn about Leos and Lions.

There are currently reserved funds that have been acquired through the Youth Exchange levy. As part of its decision, Council has resolved to:

- a) Amend the By-laws to remove the Youth Exchange levy effective immediately.
- b) Reserve any collected funds strictly for the provision of future youth programs, including the promotion and development of Leos. The Council will work with the Leo Advisory Panel and Districts to develop new programs and report this to the membership in due course. This will take some time to develop in a robust and effective way but a report into the matter has been requested by September 2025.

We know the Multiple District Youth Exchange Committee and supporters of the program will be saddened by the closure of this program at the Multiple District level. On behalf of the Multiple District Council, I would like to thank the current Committee and those that have previously served for their contributions to the program.

Finally, as previously stated, the Youth Exchange program is an international program in which any club or District may participate. The current level of involvement throughout Australia is not uniform. Some Districts participate more than others, and it may be that those Districts choose to continue their own program, independent of the Multiple District.

Yours in service



David Horne
MD201 Council Chairperson 2024-25

On behalf of the Multiple District Council

March 2025

LIONS GREEN CANOPY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2

The key to any successful program is planning. As we approach the Autumn/Winter seasons, now is the time to make preparations for your plantings. Any project, especially our own Lions Green Canopy, must be prepared in advance and be ready to go.



HAVE WE DEVELOPED PARTNERSHIPS TO TAKE BEST ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT?

If not already, your club should be forming a mutually beneficial relationship with other clubs, schools, councils, Catchment Management Authorities etc. Your club may not have manpower whereas a school, council or Landcare group may have the supporters, especially together with your own members. Funding partnerships are also important.

HAS THE GROUND AND SURROUNDING AREA BEEN PREPARED FOR PLANTINGS?

To ensure your best chance of success it is essential that the soil is prepared appropriately ready for plantings. In heavy clay soils it may entail a deep ripping of the area early in the season to provide deep aeration of the land to allow for the easy penetration of water and help the young plant roots to penetrate deep into the soil to secure a sound foundation for future tree growth. In our drier Australian climate this could be a “make or break” in securing a strong start for establishing our trees. Landholders, local government and Landcare groups can assist with this preparation.

WHAT TYPE OF PLANTING ARE WE PREPARING FOR?

During your planning stages with your designated partners, a plan may be necessary for the layout. For instance, your planting area may be as simple as a few trees around an oval or could be as large as developing a wildlife corridor of trees for the benefit of birds and other fauna. It might be as a sound barrier between a major roadway and a residential area. Our reasoning for the planting must be clearly defined and the necessary requirements catered for. It could be as simple as digging a small hole or it could be an extended corridor of three to five rows of trees.



Naturally rows of trees would almost certainly require deep disturbance of the soil to provide the best opportunity for the trees to grow.

HOW CLOSE TOGETHER SHOULD WE PLANT SEEDLINGS?

This will depend on the trees planted and the purpose of the planting. A wind or sound barrier planting will likely require closer plantings. Of course, these seedlings will need to be “condition suitable” and appropriate to the soil structure, just as a taller and bushy plant may be required for a shade tree on an oval etc. We recommend you liaise with professionals in selecting suitable plants.



WHEN DO WE PLANT?

There are many professionals in our communities who can assist and guide you as this varies across the country. The early preparation of soil expands the opportunities and timing of planting. In many areas, timing can be critical to ensure success so please work closely with your local communities.

HOW TO PLANT SEEDLINGS

You may say that's simple - get the tree auger, dig a round hole in the ground, drop in the plant and fill in around the plant - **WRONG**.

Remember, it's all in the preparations. The worst way to plant seedlings, particularly into clay-type soil is to drop them into a hole. Over time, the roots will grow down but due to the tight texture of the soil will grow around the hole which will result in being "root bound" and unable to source the nutrients in the soil. This leaves the plant without the normal root structure and restricts the normal tree growth. It is fine to dig the original hole with a tree auger however prior to the planting it is essential to chip it out into a square configuration which forces roots, as they grow, to seek options by forcing through the corners.



This offers up the most natural environment to provide a strong and healthy tree.

PURCHASING OR GETTING DONATIONS OF TREES?

Never be afraid to ask people for financial assistance or donations, it's for your community. On one occasion this year a group had \$7,000 left over from a grant for a similar project and were only too happy to assist. When ordering for plantings, ensure sufficient plants are ordered. A minimum 20% to 30% increase on expected requirements is essential to allow for losses. Plants don't seem to require an excuse to succumb to the environment or bugs generally, so extras are essential.

I hope this has been helpful in your preparations. Keep up the good work as results so far from clubs are extremely positive.

Until next time.

Tim Moore
Chairperson
Lions Australia Green Canopy Program

Welcome to our 3rd Newsletter for the ANZI Pacific Forum 2025 to be held on the Gold Coast.

Mark your calendars as you don't want to miss this unique opportunity to connect with like minded Lions, Industry Experts, Leaders, Innovators from various fields in Lions International. It is less than 6 months until the forum, so it is time to plan your travel, register for ANZI and book your accommodation.

We are working behind the scenes on organising the forum, entertainment, meals, service projects and the ongoing program. The forum serves as a platform for exchanging ideas, fostering collaborations, engaging in workshops, discussions and connecting with old and new friends. Hope to see you on the Gold Coast for ANZI.

ANZI Draft Program

We are delighted to share with you our first draft program for the event, please note that this is just a draft and future updates will be published in the newsletter and also online.

For all Forum enquiries please
contact PDG Lesley Lyons
llyo5865@bigpond.net.au



Friday 5th September 2025

10.00 am	Tree Planting
12.00 pm	Official Opening
1.00 pm	President AP Singh
1.30 pm – 2.45 pm	1 st Session – 1 Room
2.50 pm – 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea Break
3.50 pm – 5.00pm	2 nd Session – 5 Rooms
5.00 pm	Close
6.00 pm – 8.00pm (TBA)	Meet & Greet Event

Saturday 6th September 2025

7.00 am	Walk for Diabetes
9.00 am – 10.00 am	3 rd Session - 5 Rooms
10.15 am – 11.15 am	Morning Tea Break
11.25 am – 12.25 pm	4 th Session – 5 Rooms
12.30pm – 2.30 pm	Lunch
2.45 pm – 3.45 pm	5 th Session – 5 Rooms
4.00 pm	Close for Room Preparation
6.30 pm – Late	Presidents Dinner

Sunday 7th September 2025

9.00 am – 10.00 am	6 th Session – 5 Rooms
10.00 am – 11.35 am	Morning Tea Break
11.40 am – 12.40 pm	7 th Session – 1 Room
12.40 pm	Closing – President AP Singh

ANZI PACIFIC FORUM GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA

5-7 SEPTEMBER 2025

Waves for Change



NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3



The Mantra on View

The ANZI Pacific Forum is being held at the Mantra on View which is ideally situated right in Surfers Paradise and close to everything including the famous Surfers Paradise Beach.

Accommodation is readily available and we have secured a very special discount to enable you to stay at the venue.

Hotel rooms are \$175 (AUD) per night and that includes one breakfast.

To obtain the special discount, quote ANZI2025

All bookings must be made direct with the hotel to get the special price

Tel (+61 7 5579 1084) or email the hotel direct view.res2@mantra.com.au

The discounted rate is not available online or through any third party.



How to Register Online:

To register go to www.lionsanzipacificforum.com/registration



ANZI Gold Coast Committee are going to Traralgon

Are you going to the MD201 Convention in Traralgon in May? Make sure you come and visit us in the Lions Expo Hall for all the up to date information on ANZI. Check out their program as we have a slot to present ANZI and showcase the beautiful Gold Coast.



Follow us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/lionsANZIPacificForum2025



Sponsorship Opportunities

If you are interested in sponsoring ANZI Pacific Forum Gold Coast, please email
PDG John Muller
jsrellum@yahoo.com.au

Gold Coast Committee

Chair - PCC David McKenzie OAM
Vice Chair - PDG Savva Argyrou
LCI Rep - ID Graeme Wilson
Secretary - PDG Lorraine McKenzie
Treasurer - PDG Bruce Unwin
Functions/Entertainment - 2VDGE Sophia Argyrou

Forums/Speakers - PDG Lesley Lyons
Sponsorship - PDG John Muller
Registration/Wesbite - PDG Peter Ho AM
VIP/Transport - PDG Ian Bruning
Publicity - Lion Christine Cufflin

ANZI Forum Standing Committee

MD201 PDG Englebert Krampf
MD202 PDG Alice McDonald
MD307 PDG Sari Pitaloka