



47th 201V6 DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT

On the weekend of 18th-20th October 2024, the Lions District 201V6 convention was held at the Wangaratta Turf Club.

Hosted by the Lions Club of Wangaratta, the weekend was a huge success and enjoyed by Lions from far away as Sydney, Colac, Melbourne and Adelaide.

On the Friday evening, a civic reception was held at the Performing Arts Centre where invited guests were welcomed to Wangaratta by Mayor Dean Rees. Following this, the formal opening was held at the OAKS function centre for all conventioners. The flag raising ceremony was superbly done by the Wangaratta Army Cadets and music choreographed by Lion Jo Howell.

A welcome to country was delivered by Roland Atkinson accompanied by his young nephew. Everyone was impressed by Roland's impressive didgeridoo playing. Following a formal opening by Mayor Dean and welcoming comments from President Tom Little; a musical set was performed by Miss Madi Colville-Walker.

On the Saturday morning, a generous breakfast was provided by the function centre and Lion Keith Fleet gave a very well- presented talk about the Wangaratta Road Safety School.

Before morning tea break, the district treasurers report was presented for approval and PCC David Skinner presented the nominations for district positions. As there was no nomination for 2nd Vice District Governor; a call was made for nominations from the floor.

Nomination speeches for District Governor and 1st Vice District Governor were made by Lions Paul Shortis from Wodonga Lions, and Alison Kazenwadel from Wangaratta Lions respectively.

Lion Nick Liemandt from the Australian Lions Hearing Dog program in South Australia was the first of our key note speakers; and as the National training Manager of the program, he was able to give a fascinating insight into how the dogs are trained and then placed. His little travelling companion Ziva was introduced to the conventioners; she was to be placed with her forever Mum/Dad on the following Monday on the Mornington Peninsula.

Our 3rd guest speaker for the morning was Lions Lady Jennefer Houghton who gave a passionate speech about the Wangaratta Care Van, that provides much needed meals and company to many people in Wangaratta and has done so for many years.

Prior to lunch, Mr Ross Abberfield, representing the Goulburn- Murray Fruit Fly project gave a much-needed update on where the project is currently at.

This was important as fruit fly eradication has been a district project for many years and affects us all and continuation of the project is vital.

All delegates were invited to vote, for all vacant positions during the lunch break.

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, the partners tour to Glenrowan and the Winton wetlands had to be cancelled.

PCC Phillip Johnson spoke to conventioners about the importance of Leadership and learning for the survival of Lions Clubs; not only in our district but globally.

District Governor Julie gave an address about the Wangaratta Night Shelter that provides a warm place to sleep, company, and a meal for people that don't have any place to call home. The shelter operates during the cold winter months.

The Business Session was then conducted by District Governor Julie Ballard with all business matters voted on and passed by delegates present. This was followed by a brief address and video presentation about next years Multiple District Convention in Traralgon delivered by PDG Neil Stuart.

IPDG John Houghton presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to a very shocked Victor Smith from the Lions Club of Tungamah. Prior to afternoon tea, IPDG John Houghton conducted the AGM of the District 201V6 foundation.

The Travelling Travel Gavel was formally handed back to Kerang Lions and a general discussion was had about the purpose of the gavel project.

Just to add a bit of fun to the day and because we were at the racecourse-

A novelty horse race was run on the straight adjacent to the main track. A field of 12 hobby horses and 1 donkey took part over 2 heats and then a final dash

over 50m. There were a lot of laughs had by all, and the final was won by Lion Greg Gin from the Lions Club of Kerang who also won the inaugural, and maybe one and only "LIONS CUP".

Many thanks to Bunnings of Wangaratta for donating supplies and the Wangaratta Woodworkers for constructing the horses. The horses were painted and decorated by Lion Alison Kazenwadel.

When the horses are sold, all monies raised will be divided between the Australian Lions Assistance Dogs program and the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Program (ALCCRF)

The Saturday evening Dinner Dance was a hit , with a lovely meal served by the OAKS catering team and fantastic entertainment provided by Mr Brendan Scott.

On Sunday morning (20th October), a hearty breakfast was served by members of the Lions Club of Wangaratta at the shed at the Wangaratta Showgrounds.

Conventioners were then able to go for a walk through the "new", and not quite finished Lions Shed and marvel at the sheer size of it.

Back to the Turf Club and conventioners gathered to pay their respects to Lions and Lions Partners who had passed away over the previous 12 months.

The memorial service is a very important part of the Convention and it was beautifully organised by Lions Tom Little, Keith Martin and Jo Howell, with others also taking part in the service.

Following a sumptuous morning tea, the gathered Lions and guests were privileged to listen to past Wangaratta Lion, Mr Graeme Plumridge, who enthralled the audience with a talk about his involvement with Legacy and the history of the Shrine of Remembrance and how it was created as a State Memorial to the Fallen and those who served.

Following Graeme's fascinating talk, it was time for the announcement of election results. Lion Paul Shortis was endorsed as District Governor elect for 2025-2026 and Lion Alison Kazenwadel was endorsed as 1st Vice District Governor elect for the same period. Lion PDG Les Harrison was elected to serve on The Victorian Lions Foundation.

Lion PDG Neil Campbell and Lion PDG Malcolm Evans were elected to serve on the 201V6 Foundation, and Lion Mark Nordby was endorsed to serve on the board of the Lions Wilderness Village at Licola.

Following election results, everyone was treated to a presentation by 2 very talented young primary school students from Albury who had both competed in this years Junior Public Speaking Competition. If their speeches were anything to go by; their futures will be very bright indeed and this highlights what a wonderful program JPS is.

Next year our district Convention will be hosted by the Lions Club of Corowa and PDG Lynn Fredericks and Club President Stuart Whisson gave a brief outline about what we can look forward to in Corowa.

CBL Chairman, PCC Lion David Skinner gave a formal resolution .

PDG Lion Stephen Kazenwadel read the Lions Ethics

The raffles were drawn, with proceeds being donated to the V6 foundation.

Following the closing remarks by DG Julie Ballard; she presented certificates of appreciation to members of the organising committee.

The official handing over of the flag to Corowa then signalled the end of a very successful District Convention for 2024.

I would like to thank all of the Lions who helped in any way to contribute to the success of the weekend and especially the hard- working committee members.

The convention committee consisted of DG Julie Ballard, Lions Tom Little, sec Steve Kazenwadel, Clinton Cathro, MC Doug Kneen, Jo Howell, Keith Martin, treasurer Frank Darke and Alison Kazenwadel.

Lion Alison Kazenwadel

201V6 Convention Chairperson

2024