



From Sweeping Plains to Jewel Seas  
District Newsletter



201N1 District Governor  
Narelle Peters  
“Lions Share” Newsletter



*“Strive for growth and happiness”*



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[www.201n1.lions.org.au](http://www.201n1.lions.org.au)

Jan -Feb 2026 Edition

# Directory

## District Governor

Narelle Peters  
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## CABINET SECRETARY

Louise Evans  
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## CABINET TREASURER

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## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Warren Sydenham  
Bonville Sawtell Club  
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# Executive Cabinet Structure. 2025-2026.

District Governor: **Narelle Peters**  
1st Vice District Governor: **Joe Pope**  
2nd Vice District Governor: **Stuart Ritchie**  
IPDG: **Yvie Kearns**  
Treasurer: **Tim Bishop**  
Cab Secretary: **Louise Evans**  
Assit Cab Secretary:  
**Lorraine Hemsworth**  
Constitution & By-Laws (CBL) Chairman:  
**Peter Mercer**  
Global Membership Team Co-ordinator:  
**Mal Peters**  
Global Leadership Team Leader:  
**Narelle Peters**  
Global Service Team Co-ordinator:  
**Lee Rodger**

Cabinet Meetings	Where	Dates	Reports Due
1st Cabinet Meeting	Zoom	23rd August	Completed
2nd Cabinet Meeting & Convention	Armidale	17th-19th October	Completed
3rd Cabinet Meeting	Zoom	14th Feb 2026	Completed
4th Cabinet Meeting	Myelstrom	13th June 2026	31st May 2026



Dear Lions of 201N1

This year you would have seen a different approach to YOTY with areas instead of regions. This was a decision by the YOTY National committee. I thank all the clubs that have participated and hope your candidates have had a great experience.



At the last council meeting in January there was discussion regarding new membership recruiting ideas. One suggestion is that we hold a new membership workshop combined with a guiding lions course in every district. This gets approved at the next Council meeting, I will inform everyone.



Thank you to all the clubs that have gone online and registered to vote for our new international director.



Club officer Training this year

So far we have had only two clubs who have offered and confirmed to host

Yamba on Monday 27th April (public holiday)

Werris Creek on Sunday 28th June



Other Lions Clubs we are waiting to hear back from are Halliday's Point, Narrabri and Inverell.

If none of these venues suit you then please discuss this with GLT Lion Malcolm Peters.

The lions Portal will feature heavy in this years training sessions.

All Lions attending need to have access to the Lions Portal before attending training. You may need assistance from your Club Administrator or District Administrator Lion Lorraine Hemsworth

And bring your laptop to training



Have a safe and fun Easter! Sorry about the fuel prices.  
DG Narelle Peters



District Governor Narelle Peters and members of District 201N1 welcome all new members, and thank their sponsors for introducing them into the Lions family.



## Lions Conventions 2026

**INSPIRE  
SERVICE  
2026 & BEYOND**

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**74TH LIONS MD 201 CONVENTION  
22 - 25 MAY 2026  
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**108<sup>th</sup> Annual Lions  
International  
Convention  
Hong Kong  
3-7 July 2026**

District 201N1 Convention – Taree  
Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October



**LIONS CLUB OF  
TAREE  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
DISTRICT 201  
AUSTRALIA**



## AUSTRALIAN LIONSONOZ KNITTING PROJECT



Keeping the Thread of Kindness Alive.

Since the formation of our club, one of the most meaningful projects was the creation of our very own knitting group. From the start, our members poured love and time into crafting items that brought comfort to people and animals all across Australia.

This project embodies the Lions spirit of service, teamwork, and compassion. It not only provide practical support but also our club members through shared purpose and creativity.

We've sent squares to make rugs for nursing homes, wraps for love to areas around the world. Tiny jump suits for baby kangaroos, delicate garments for premature babies, jumpers for penguins recovering from oil spills. Mittens to wildlife shelters during bushfires to protect koalas from scratching injured bodies. Even hand made dolls found their way into the arms of children who needed extra joy.

Our dolls have even found their way via one of our members to remote outback areas to small aboriginal children.

Each stitch has carried a message of care to our communities, a true reflection of what it means to be a Lion.

We members of Australian Lionsonoz will continue to keep the thread of kindness going - one stitch, one smile, and one act of service at a time as every stitch we make brings warmth somewhere in Australia, and joy right back to us.

*IPDG Yvie Kearns*



## Community Spirit Shines Through Gift Wrapping

As the festive season approached, the spirit of community was alive and thriving in our local shopping centre, where the Quota Club once again led by Lion Nora Brooks, continued gift wrapping service is a project that bring clubs and community members together in the most inspiring way. Over 22 days, volunteers generously gave their time to wrap Christmas gifts for shoppers, all in the name of fundraising for a worthy cause. The proceeds from this year's efforts will go towards supporting Disabled Surfers Association Surfers of Australia, helping to provide opportunities and inclusion for young people in our community. Almost \$7,000 was raised with \$5,500 to the Association and the remaining distributed to other charities within the community.

Numbers tell an incredible story of dedicated teamwork.

Australian Lionsonoz members Kel and Yvie Kearns contributed an outstanding

52 hours of service. Quota ladies collectively volunteered an amazing 374 hours. Macksville Lions added a further 51 hours.

The partnership between Quota, Lions and local volunteers demonstrates that when we work together as a team, great things truly happen.

Lion Nora Brooks congratulated and gave heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to make this initiative such a success. She said this is community service at its best.

**"TYING RIBBONS, CHANGING LIVES"  
IPDG Yvie Kearns**



**Lorraine Hemsworth,  
Emily Struik,  
Barbara Lawson,  
Nora Brooks  
and  
Heather Battle**

## Top service club award.

**“Service” is focused towards our eight Global causes “so why don’t we tell everyone about what we are doing!**

The program will run from individual Lions and Leos Clubs, through District, Multiple District and finally at Constitutional Area level, with the winner being announced at our next ANZI PACIFIC



### To enter .

Choose your innovative and inspiring Club project that has either been completed in this current Lions year or be an on-going project. Note: - this must be a project by an individual Lions and Leos Club, not of combined clubs or a Zone project and must have been reported into Lion Portal for reference.

The project must also be towards one to the eight service pillars. Diabetes, Hunger, Vision, Childhood Cancer, Environment, Youth, Humanitarian, Disaster relief..

One project will be chosen from within the District as the “Top District Service Project”. This project is submitted to the respective Multiple District/Region level Committee for judging.

All club entries must be received by your District Global Service Team (GST) Coordinator by 31st March send it to me and I will advance it from there.

Questions asked on the entry form are :

- Provide details of the Club involvement, the impact your project has had on the Club and the community you serve:
- Has the project been completed, or is it still on-going? (Please provide any detail)
- How many people have been directly served as a result of the project? (Must be quantifiable.
- When was it reported on the portal?
- Include any other supporting material. (videos, press release, letters photos etc

**Now that’s NOT TO HARD to do. Have a look at your years achievements and make an entry .** All club entries must be received by your **District** Global Service Team (GST) Coordinator by **31st March 2026** to allow time for judging at the District level.

[lionsclubs.org.au/tag/top-club-service-project-award/](https://lionsclubs.org.au/tag/top-club-service-project-award/)

About service : Notes from all over.

**Check your entry on your local council service web page and any other web address you can find .  
Make sure it is up to date by editing your entry.**

Ask all your members and friends to leave a review of your page and of District 201n1, on your Facebook page this makes it more visible. This is right at the top under the picture you have as a banner.

## **Service matters- its what we do**

**Service, what is it?** On the portal it begins by saying “donation ,fundraiser, meeting, service project” which clearly shows this is what we do. We make donations after we have fundraised by some means, and of course we must have meetings to keep our club together and to plan our activities.



Pure service projects are not any of the above -they do not have to involve fundraising (although they might) The purpose is to be of service somehow to someone or some thing eg your environmental work would be for something. There can be an element of service in fundraisers and in donations as well – just look at your prime reason for the activity .

**Do you have a service person in your club.** Your club should by now have your nominations for the coming year. The service chair role is to check in with your club members to see that the service they joined your club to do is either being achieved or is being considered as something your club can do. This is a way to see what other service your club could do in your community. Discussions about service projects in a collaborative approach often brings up ways to make things happen. Your service person may report service to the portal or this task can be done by the secretary or club administrator.

**Just ask** is an encouragement to members to ask others who might join Lions. It’s a good strategy for finding out what causes lie close to your own club members’ hearts. If people have joined to make some sort of difference, it’s good that their ideas for how to make that difference are considered-we all like to see our goals being fulfilled. Remember Just ask!

**The international Kindness matters awards** - entries needed soon. Look at what you do and see how this could be appreciated. Keep records of what you are doing, take photos or videos so you have them for the competition ( also for this newsletter- your Facebook page and other publicity ) You may know of a club who’s work is inspirational, let me know so I can suggest they enter. We really need a few entries from our district.

To enter see conditions on the web page. You must have reported the project to the portal by July 31, the individual club nominates themselves. This needs to be with the service chairperson by Sep 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered and selected to put forward to the next level. Have a look at the Past winner here.

[https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_cs6rfbYHna68QGrv.jpg.pdf?v=1](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_cs6rfbYHna68QGrv.jpg.pdf?v=1)

Report your service in the planning stage as well as at the end. It easier. You must have meetings and there is lots of hours in organising an event so put them into the portal.



And finally have not heard from some clubs who are still not reporting service- despite several attempts to contact them or several offers to help. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact me. This is my job to help you so, as I said be before Just Ask!

Ring me 0428603993 or email [lee.rodger@lions201n1.au](mailto:lee.rodger@lions201n1.au)  
To those who have been reporting your service can I just say

**thank you .well done .**

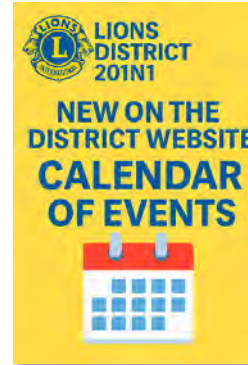
Your club members might like to see the figures at the top of the reporting page about how many hours service etc. It is quite impressive and encouraging to see the bulk figures!

## **New Features on the District Website**

Two important additions have been launched on the Lions District 201N1 website (<https://lions201n1.au>), strengthening how we share information and celebrate the work of Clubs across our region.

### **District Events Calendar**

The website now includes a District-wide Calendar of Events. Clubs are encouraged to submit any upcoming activities that may be of interest to other Clubs. This helps improve coordination, promote attendance, and highlight the breadth of service happening across 201N1.



### **District Blog – Share Your Club’s Story**

A new Blog section is now live.



This space showcases the stories that define who we are as Lions — the service your Club provides, the achievements you celebrate, and the real impact Lions make in our communities. The blog keeps members connected, informs the wider public, and demonstrates the value of volunteering.

Clubs are invited to share their service stories. Please send your story along with **one or two images**, so we can feature the great work your Club is doing.

### **Contact**

District Webmaster

**Lion Bob Forster**

**E:** [bob.forster@lions201n1.au](mailto:bob.forster@lions201n1.au)

**W:** <https://lions201n1.au>

## Kootingal Lions

Our group has weathered the hot days with a few events where the art of keeping cool was well practiced. Before Christmas we had a Bunnings BBQ in searing heat, the ice chest was raided for cooling us down and battery powered fans kept the cooks cool. The heat did not impact on anyone's appetite and sales were good. However on New Year days, it was equally hot and we were all prepared of a bumper day, but sadly the crowds expected did not come. We were all relieved to pack up early and sold the leftovers to members. Both of these events gave us an opportunity to use the facilities of our new trailer. The fridges for the food were appreciated and the convenience of all our equipment close at hand was great.

President Craig and some of the men have put much good planning into completing the trailer to the specifications for today's modern equipment. We even have USB port! Thank you to all concerned.

Australia day is one of our signature events . It was another great day of simple pleasures where breakfast was served, songs sung by Country Music singer Scot Rathman and a most inspiring speech by our Junior Councillor Treasure Nnorom. We feel she will go far.

We also hope to enlist her for Youth of the year.

**Right:  
Treasure with  
the opening  
speech**



The games afterwards left a lot of us laughing at the efforts made with pumpkin rolling, gum boot and rubber thong throwing events. We have unique trophy for the thong event which is a 40 cm high thong made from split rubber and industrial wire weaving straps crafted by one of our past members. The winner of the coveted perpetual thong trophy was Lucy Procter who scored a perfect bulls eye!



**Left:  
The  
winner  
with  
the  
trophy**

Our club decided to try something a little different with a weekend away- just up the road to Uralla for the weekend. Several stayed overnight and some came up for the meeting. The attractions of the town were checked out and the local Dodson's distillery (Kentucky) made an ideal place for a tasting and lunch. The General Consensus was – Lets do it again.

Our next few months are going to be very busy with several community events in the pipeline. We hope the weather will be cooler then.



**PEACE POSTER KITS NOW  
AVAILABLE FROM**



**THE LION'S AUSTRALIA NATIONAL OFFICE**

### **DISTRICT N1 DATES FOR 2026**

- 20 September 2026 – Club judging to be completed**
- 1 October 2026 – Posters to be received by the District Chair**

**Lion Heather Battle  
PO Box 213  
MACKSVILLE NSW 2447**

- District Judging will be at the District Convention in Taree,  
16 October 2026**
- Club winning poster will be on display at Convention**

### **THEME**

**“Harmony in Humanity”**

*What they are looking for is:*

*“When we treat each other with respect and kindness, peace can flourish. They invite young people to imagine a world where people of every culture and background live together peacefully – celebrating differences, finding common ground and creating true harmony in humanity.”*



## Lions Club of Port Macquarie Tacking Point



Led by our fearless Leaders, Lion Gordon Cooper and wife Jen Cooper, over the last two days our members have been involved in a wonderful experience testing eyesight for the littlies in Kindergarten and Year One at Wauchope Public School.

We were made very welcome at the school by the Principal and a number of his teaching staff - we even had scones, jam and cream this morning!

My thanks to all those members and friends who gave their time and effort in this most worthwhile activity. Your enthusiasm and care were evident and as we left, the little kids waved goodbye, just a fabulous farewell.  
Max Carrick



## Moree Lions Club



Congratulations to John Appleby, Colin Arthur, Stephen Long and Brett Farlow on receiving the Melvin Jones Award. These 4 gentlemen have amassed over 100 years of volunteering for the Moree Lions Club.

The Melvin Jones Award is the highest humanitarian recognition of our organisation can bestow .

The Deputy Mayor Wayne Tighe presented the awards.



## Maclean Lions Club

Maclean Lions Roar into 2026 with Energy, Impact and Community Spirit

Maclean Lions Club has launched into 2026 with gusto and vigour, and the results speak for themselves. In just the first two months of the year, the Lions-run Return & Earn project has processed over 298,000 recyclable containers, an extraordinary achievement for a volunteer-powered initiative.

This milestone represents almost \$30,000 returned directly to the local community, rewarding residents who took the time to recycle and helping keep valuable materials out of landfill. What makes this achievement even more impressive is that the Return & Earn depot operates only three days a week, for four hours at a time —proof that commitment, teamwork, and community support can deliver big outcomes in a short window.

The start of the year has not been without its challenges. Volunteers have worked through intense heat and high humidity, yet they continue to show up with dedication, good humour, and smiles on their faces. Their resilience and positive

attitude have been key to keeping the operation running smoothly and welcoming customers through the doors.

Maclean Lions acknowledges that this project simply would not be possible without its volunteers. Their time, effort, and willingness to give back are the backbone of Return & Earn and the reason it continues to thrive. Every container counted reflects not just environmental responsibility, but the power of community working together.

As 2026 continues, Maclean Lions looks forward to building on this strong start—supporting local causes, encouraging recycling, and strengthening the bonds that make the Clarence Valley such a great place to live



## Lions Club of Bellingen

Our club has a Heart for Giving. Providing service for those in need, raising money for our community.



**Bellingen Public School held a Parents & Teachers Day 17/2/2026, the Lions Club of Bellingen cooked BBQ sausages for all.**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, VDG1 Lion Joe Pope presented Lion Debbie Sense with a Lionism Award for introducing 2 new members. New members are always appreciated. Extra hands and new ideas go a long way.



The Lions Club of Bellingen are supporting 'Kindness Kitchen.' The latest donation was \$1,500.00 towards equipment.

### Upcoming events

The Matthew Locke Army Football Game, an annual charity event raising funds for the Grub Club, returns to Bellingen 28/3/2026. Lions Club of Bellingen will be on their toes serving everyone with a smile. All profits' support veterans on the Mid-North Coast and also provides school & education to disadvantaged children in remote Timor Leste.

Senior Citizens week, 12/4/2026, Lions will be providing a luncheon at Bellingen Showground, 12nn. Recognising invaluable contributions to the society, and social interaction with friends and neighbours.



## LET'S GET LOUD for LMRP: Why Lions Are Turning Up the Volume for Medical Research

Every so often, a campaign comes along that captures the spirit of Lions perfectly — bold, fun, community-minded, and driven by a genuine desire to make the world better. “LET'S GET LOUD for LMRP” is exactly that kind of campaign.

If you've heard the phrase floating around Lions circles recently, you might be wondering what all the noise is about. The answer is simple: it's about celebrating and supporting one of the most important Lions initiatives in Australia — the **Lions Medical Research Program**.

The idea is simple: **wear your loudest, brightest shirt**, donate **\$10**, and help spread the word about the incredible research Lions make possible.

Check our Website for more info.



Armidale Dumaresq Lions



Tacking Point Lions

## Bonville Sawtell Lions

What a fantastic evening at the Bonville Sawtell Lions Club Youth of the Year Competition Irecently.

Toormina High School was proudly represented by four of their outstanding students, Year 11 students Jack, Jacinta, Sienna and Year 12 School Captain Amber. Each student showcased incredible confidence, leadership and public speaking skills through impromptu and prepared speeches on a range of thought-provoking topics.

All four students spoke with passion and maturity, doing their school community proud. A special congratulations to Jacinta who was named Public Speaking Winner, and to Amber who was announced as the overall winner and will now represent the club at the Area Final in Maclean next month.

A heartfelt thank you to the Bonville Sawtell Lions Club for your ongoing partnership and generous support of our students, we truly appreciate the opportunities you provide for our young people to shine.



Jacinta, Jack, Amber and Sienna along with Lions Marg, Shirley and Warren



The Students with the Principle and teachers.  
(Amber our winner is 4th from the left)



# Quirindi Lions

55 years of service honoured.

Lion Bob McInnes was issued with a special commendation from District Governor Yvie Kearns acknowledging his 55 years of service to the club and local community. Making the presentation was zoned chairperson Sandra Armstrong.

He has been president twice and is well known for his barbecuing skills and for looking after the clubs property.



From left: Charter member Lion Allan Grant (Bobs sponsor) Lion Bob McInnes with Lions lady Marcia McInnes



Bob and Sandra





LIONS DISTRICT 201N1  
INVITES MEMBERS OF  
MD201 'N' DISTRICTS  
TO ATTEND THE



## LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR 'N1' DISTRICT EVENT 2025/2026

HOSTED BY THE LIONS CLUB OF TAMWORTH

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026
- WHERE:** BROADLANDS VILLAGE – COMMUNITY CENTRE  
(19-51 Warral Road, Tamworth NSW 2340)
- TIME:** PRIVATE JUDGING FROM 8.00AM (Students TBA)  
GUESTS FROM 11.30AM TO FINISH  
(Parking Concierge will assist with visitor parking)
- COST:** \$20.00p/h – Sandwiches, finger foods, fruits  
& refreshments, from 12 midday  
(Catering by Tamworth City Lion's Club)  
**(Please advise of any special dietary requirements)**
- DRESS CODE:** Men & Ladies: Smart Casual  
Or – Club Uniform  
Students – School Uniform
- RSVP:** **BY Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026**  
Lions Club of Tamworth YOTY Co-ordinator  
Lion John Hook  
Email: [johnhook@westnet.com.au](mailto:johnhook@westnet.com.au)  
Mobile: 0407 005 339