



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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Nov-Dec 2025 Edition

# Directory

## District Governor

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## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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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	31st January 2026
4th Cabinet Meeting	Myelstrom	13th June 2026	31st May 2026



## District Governor Narelle Peters 2025-2026

2026 total member 2/1/26 - **1152**

We have had great six months!

127 New Members

Now we're in the final stage of 2025 and 2026 Lions year, we are sitting at approximately 63% of our membership target which sounds great, but we have lost a lot of members as well! Which is sad!

Why do we harp on about Membership? If we don't have members we cannot serve and support our communities. And it makes it hard for a Lions Club to operate!

Remember the logo JUST ASK.

I encourage all clubs to look at their membership. Is there someone that is always there volunteering that may now be interested in becoming a member. Think outside the normal. Gone are the old ways of Lions.

Yes, it would be great to have the dinner meeting but if your members want a lunch time meeting and remember majority rules then change. Even a picnic meeting with a BBQ on the weekend.

### LEHP LCIF Grant

Now the great news 201N1 we were able to obtain a LCIF Community Grant of \$19000USD to purchase 3 Kits for the district. This now give us a total of 4 kits in the District. Two Clubs, Maclean and Port Macquarie Tacking Point have also received ALF matching grants to purchase their own kits.

Now we need to organise a LEHP committee to organise and plan where the district kits will be stored and used. If a member would like to put their hand up to be the district LEHP chair please contact me.

Notification will be sent out to all clubs to come onto a Zoom meeting over the following weeks.

### Club Officer Training

Due to commitments of the GLT and DG Team in April and May, Club officer training will be carried out June - July due with MD Convention, GAT training and Mission 1.5

DGE Joe Pope will be in contact with Club Members looking for Lions to take that extra step and take on a cabinet position.

As you can see both our Foundation LCIF and the Australia Foundation ALF have been supporting us!

It's sad that we as a District do not support them as much as we could. Remember it does not have to be \$1000s just something would be great!

Again that you all for all your hard work in our communities, here's to finishing strong.



Best Wishes DG Narelle

## DG Travels.

One of the most enjoyable jobs of a District Governor is visiting clubs and recognising Lions for their many years of service. Well done and congratulations for serving your clubs and community.

In my own club, Valla two members reached significant milestones

PDG Sharon Bishop and Lion Tim Bishop with 35 year chevrons

Barraba Lions Club

Lion Kenneth Faint - 50 Years

And Lion Chris Jeffrey - 20 years



**HONG KONG 2026**  
108th Lions International Convention

District Governor Narelle Peters and members of District 201N1 welcome all new members, and thank their sponsors for introducing them into the Lions family. We hope you all “Strive for Growth and Happiness”.



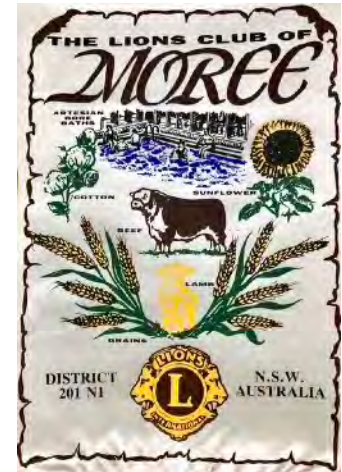
## **THE Lion VOLUNTEERS**

The lions clubs of Australia, are clubs of world renown,  
we are very honoured here, to have them in our town.

Attending every venue to keep the masses fed,  
a community group of angels, by committee they are led.

They've been in town a long time now, seventy years or so  
doing projects to improve our lives, always on the go.

Donating money also, to spread great joy around  
to help other organisations, and to lift them off the ground.



An awesome group of people who never seem to tire  
no matter what event is held, the lions, they are on fire.

Tireless men and women make up this noted team  
they come from every walk of life, of the crop they are the cream.

They never ask for anything, but if help you'd like to do  
you will find a place, a smiling face keen to welcome you.

You'll eat the best steak sandwiches ever to be sold  
sausages, eggs and bacon too, with beverages hot and cold.

The money made is channelled, into projects round Moree  
drive around our quaint old town, Lions structures you will see.  
So if you're looking for excitement, or if you're feeling down  
why not join the lions club here, they brighten up our town.

Lions club members, they all stand out, in their shirts of blue  
walk right up and talk to them and they will welcome you.

The Moree lions are special, and each one I'd love to name  
the projects they've accomplished, has already brought them fame.

To the Lions clubs of Australia, I'd like to give a shout  
and to our Moree members, who we just can't do without.  
You're the backbone of our shire, and all such awesome friends  
may the lions go on to greater deeds, and pray it never ends.

Poem by Moree local, Daryl Brady.

## PEACE POSTER WINNER 2025

Lion Heather Battle

Thank you to the clubs that submitted entries into the 2025 Peace Poster competition.

The Theme “Together as One”.

The winning entry for this year is: - Zoey Liu

Submitted by Rochedale Springwood Lions Club in Q1.



∅ The stats for Multi District for the year:

- Number of Districts entered - 18
- Number of students entered – 2,817
- Number of Clubs entered - 89

∅ The stats for District 201n1

- Number of Schools entered – 4
- Number of students entered – 90
- Number of Clubs entered – 3

I will be in contact in 2026 once I am advised of the 2026 theme.

## A Journey of Service and Specialisation: From AIN to ED Clinical Nurse Educator

The Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation is delighted to share the inspiring career journey of Aaron J from the Illawarra area, who recently achieved the long-term goal of becoming a Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE) in the Emergency Department (ED). His story is a powerful testament to the value of continuous learning, resilience, and clinical commitment, spanning over a decade of service.

The journey began in 2012 right after high school, with a foundational role as an Assistant in Nursing (AIN). This experience quickly paved the way for a transition into an Enrolled Endorsed Nurse (EEN) role the following year, marking the beginning of an eight-year tenure across diverse clinical settings, including surgical, medical, geriatrics, and critical COVID-19 wards.

"Those early years as an AIN and EEN gave me a rock-solid, broad foundation," he explained. "Working across so many different wards taught me how to adapt quickly and understand the bigger picture of patient flow and care needs."

During this busy period, he also completed his Bachelor of Nursing, opening the door to the next major chapter: specialisation.

### The Leap into Emergency and Academic Excellence

Upon graduating, our CNE candidate took on the intense challenge of a graduate year in Emergency Nursing. The shift coincided with a major personal milestone—the arrival of their first daughter.

"Balancing a new baby, a new graduate year, and the sheer unpredictability of the ED was tough," he recalls. "It was a true test of resilience, but it highlighted the importance of strong support systems both at home and within the hospital team."

The dedication to excellence continued, culminating in 2024 with a significant academic achievement:

the completion of a Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing with an impressive Distinction average. This accomplishment was made possible through the support of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation.



### Realising a Long-Term Goal

Following paternity leave after the birth of their second daughter, early 2025 saw the realisation of a key career ambition: becoming a Clinical Nurse Educator in the Emergency Department.

"It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding journey since that first shift as an AIN in 2012," he reflected. "Moving into this CNE role feels like the perfect way to bring all those years of experience—from the basics of care to advanced emergency skills—into one place, helping to mentor and equip our current and future ED nurses."

The Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation congratulates Aaron, our new CNE, on his exceptional career progression and look forward to the expertise and leadership he will bring to nursing education!



# LIONS ASSISTANCE DOGS

At the Multiple Districts Convention in Traralgon, Victoria in May 2025, the Lions Hearing Dogs changed its name to the Lions Assistance Dogs.



We had a successful Convention in Armidale, where the Lions Assistance Dogs was awarded Best Overall Stall. We also had a stall at the Lions Club of Hallidays Point Car Boot sale in December.

I was advised by the Lions Assistance Dogs that an application was received for a Hearing Dog, from a gentleman that lives in Coffs Harbour. Another application for a Lions Assistance Dog, was received from a person living in Taree. Both these cases are being accessed, to see if they are eligible, to receive a Hearing/Assistance Dog.

The Lions Assistance Dogs have during 2025 delivered 41 Assistance Dogs across Australia, 24 Hearing, 6 Diabetic Alert and 11 Psychiatric Assistance Dogs. These dogs bring confidence, independence, and safety to their recipients. Twenty-eight puppies were welcomed into the Puppy Program.

As you can see by supporting the Lions Assistance Dogs, it benefits many people across Australia.

PDG Kevin Thornton





**On behalf of everyone here at Lions Assistance Dogs, we thank you for your support over a very prosperous year!**

2025 has been a historic year for us here at Lions Assistance Dogs, breaking records through our continuous growth. By the end of December, we will have overseen the delivery of **41** Assistance Dogs around Australia, the most we have ever done in a calendar year throughout our history. This momentous achievement is credited to the support of Lions clubs and individuals around the country, we cannot thank you enough.

As the year comes to an end we reflect and look towards the future. The foundations of our redevelopment campaign have begun, meaning next year will be an exciting year full of some very big changes. It will be the biggest change in our history since our rebrand this year from **Australian Lions Hearing Dogs** to **Lions Assistance Dogs**, and the implementation of our Medical Assistance and Psychiatric Assistance Programs. With the new National Training Centre coming, the future knows no bounds, we will be able to triple the amount of Assistance Dogs we provide. Again, this is thanks to your continuous support.

Whilst the year is not completely done we do still have some stock left of our Christmas stockings, toys and cards if you are in need of a last minute gift. Be sure to check out our website here, <https://lionsassistancedogs.com.au/shop/>, to see what's available.

We wish you all a very happy and restful holiday period and cannot wait for what 2026 brings for everyone, Enjoy!

As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs, please contact us at, [development@lionsassistancedogs.com.au](mailto:development@lionsassistancedogs.com.au)

## TACKING POINT LIONS CLUB ANSWER'S THE CALL

Resident of Lord Howe Island, Neil de Grasse has again this year, asked Tacking Point Lions to supply him with famous Lions Cakes and Puddings. The request was made by email and Lions delivered the cakes to Birdon's *Island Trader* wharf on the Hastings River.

The *Island Trader* makes a fortnightly round trip to Lord Howe Island bringing vital supplies and goods to the remote, beautiful island off the NSW coast.



Lions President Max Carrick said the request and the supply was a rather poignant reminder of the days of South Pacific islands relying heavily on a regular supply ship to look after their residents. At the 2021 Census, only 445 people called the island home and tourist numbers are restricted to a maximum of 400 at any one time.



Cakes and Puddings are easier to obtain in Port Macquarie.

Lions Dee Watkinson and Karen Carrick at Bunnings Port Macquarie

# Lions Christmas Parties



Left:  
Tamworth City Lions

Coffs Harbour Lions



Bonville Sawtell Lions



Narrabri Lions

## Lions Club of Dorrigo Plateau

Our Dorrigo Lions Club December meeting was held at the Dorrigo RSL with a dinner celebration and festive theme. The last meeting of the year was a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship and reflect on the many projects and youth initiatives which were accomplished in 2025.

President John Carey was delighted to host PDG Global Membership Team Co-Ordinator Malcolm Peters and Zone 2/3 Chairperson Joseph (Joe)Pope who were in attendance to share a zone update from the DG.

We also formally welcomed two new Lions members, Mr Bruce Parfett and Mr Robert (Rob) Capps into Lions International. Bruce is a valued member of the Dorrigo Golf Club and Rob recently hosted the R U OK?

Awareness Day which was a national day of action for mental health/suicide prevention, held annually on the second Thursday of September (September 11 in 2025), encouraging everyone to ask friends or family- "Are you OK?" to start meaningful conversations about their well-being, fostering connections and discussion.

Our news Lions members will be under the mentorship of Lion John Carey but the entire Club will support them to understand and explore the Lions organisation, the culture and goals, ensuring they feel valued, confident, and can contribute in a meaningful way.

The Dorrigo Club has a Trivia Night planned in March 2026; to be held at the Dorrigo Golf Club, so we look forward to inviting everyone to join the Trivia fun. Date TBA asap.

Merry Christmas Lions, thanks for your service, may your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, goodwill and more service!

**God Bless from Matthew and Mandy Hansen on behalf of Dorrigo Plateau Lions Inc.**



Photo Left to Right of Bruce Parfett, Joe Pope and Rob Capps



Photo of John Carey as the sponsor with Joe Pope.



The two new Lions with Joe Pope and John Carey



Group photo of festive dress code for dinner Matthew Hansen, Angela Ditrich, John Carey, Joe Pope

## Bellingen Lions Club – Inaugural Christmas Carols Concert a huge success!

This year, we launched a new project inspired by the creativity of Jo Barr, one of our female members. At the beginning of the year, Jo brought her idea to a meeting. She proposed hosting an evening event that would showcase community talent, celebrate the Christmas theme, and give local families a chance to enjoy a relaxed program of entertainment at this special time. Our committee quickly approved her suggestion, and Jo began organising a variety of acts to create a lively program.

Once the program, venue (Football Oval), date (21/12/2025), and support teams were set, we promoted the event via local newspapers, shop window posters and social media - Facebook and Instagram.

Many groups supported the event, including school choirs, children's dance troupes, musicians of all ages, and Santa Claus, who arrived on a local fire truck in typical NSW country style.



Our concert featured 25 songs by 7 acts over 2.5 hours, plus a 30-minute "photos with Santa" break. The program ran from 5pm to 8pm.

Despite forecasts of high 30s temperatures, we went ahead with the event. Over 300 visitors

attended. Thanks to a shaded area in front of the stage and a mild breeze, the evening conditions were manageable.

Our Club volunteers catered for the event despite the hot conditions, serving sausage and steak sandwiches, hot chips, cold drinks, and ice creams. Sausage sandwiches sold out early due to high demand, and ice creams were popular with children.

It was agreed by all that the concert was a huge success, and our aim now is to improve on our efforts next year.

For more information contact Peter (President) on 0416 179 213



## Nambucca Heads & Macksville Lions Club

In a wonderful display of community spirit, members of the Lions Club of Nambucca Heads joined forces with the Macksville Lions Club and Action Care to assemble Christmas food hampers. Working together, the groups prepared and packed 100 hampers, each filled with essential food items to help brighten the festive season for families and individuals doing it tough.

The Lions Club of Nambucca Heads has been actively involved in spreading festive cheer in the lead up to Christmas with the purchase of 40 food parcels to be distributed through Action Care plus the generosity of the community through the 'wishing tree' initiative, which was organised by Alliance Pharmacy at Nambucca Plaza. Several boxes brimming with presents for both young and old were gathered, ready to brighten the

holidays for those in need in our local communities.

These hampers plus food parcels with presents were distributed across the region, reaching households from Southwest Rocks in the south, through Bowraville in the west, and extending north to Coffs Harbour. The collaboration between these organisations ensured that support and joy were shared widely throughout the local communities during the Christmas period.

