



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

Sept-Oct 2025 Edition

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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



From your DG

District Governor Narelle Peters 2025-2026

Lions of District 201N1 -

Lead to Serve , Serve to Lead

November 2025

We are almost at the halfway point of this Lions year.

And it has been a fantastic 5 months.

I thank the Lion's members that attended the new format Convention in Armidale.

It was great to see several first Conventioneers and members from our clubs out west to the coast attend.

A huge thank you to the Lions of Armidale Dumaresq for all your hard work and keeping the convention on time and well organised.

Our Candidates for District Governor and First Vice district Governor were elected.

DGE Joe Pope from Bellingen Lions is my successor for 2027-28

FVDGE Stuart Ritchie will his lieutenant for 2027-28

I wish them every success



Your leaders Stuart, Narelle & Joe

Sadly, the position of Second Vice District Governor Elect (SVDGE) was not filled and there will be a letter sent to all clubs calling for a member to step up.

The last couple of months I have visited 19 of clubs and attended Five (5) Club officer Training session. N4 District Convention, ANZI, 201 Council Meeting, and by the time this comes out the N5 convention.

These meetings are an excellent way to see how our clubs are growing and networking. These meetings enable the executive to gain new ideas, which we can pass on to other clubs. The sharing of ideas is one of the most important parts of Zone Meetings. And why we need every Zone with a Zone Chairperson. Sadly that is not the case this year.

The Clubs we have met have all been motived and serving their communities. I have encouraged them to think outside the normal.

LION AI ✨

There is on the Lions International website AI –Ellie to assist us with documents such as reports, flyers, brochures, even Fridge magnets.



DG N5 Mohan, PCC Mal, PDG Saava, Sophia and DG Narelle at the Armidale Convention

DG'S REPORT continued

I have also been encouraging Lions clubs to follow our Lions District 201N1 Facebook page,



we now have **443** followers.

If clubs click "Follow" on Lions District 201N1 Facebook page and when sharing a post, please tag this page, and make sure it is public so it will be able to be seen on the Lions District 201N1 page. Remember its free advertising.

By the way Facebook is now only for people 60 and above!

Membership – OK, I know that's not what you want to hear about.

But the great news is that we have gain since 1st July 2025

100 new members

well done.

Two clubs that have exceed.

Halliday's Point - **13 new members**

Manilla - **11 New members**

Total number of members as of 1st November - **1170** - we only need to get another 101 to meet our target this year and you know what, I think we can do it.

Yes, we are still in transition but at least we are now going in the right direction

Remember New Members allow us to serve more in our community. Just Ask!

I thank all the Lions in 201N1 for dedication in serving your community. And I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year Remember to be kind to each other and also don't overdo it!

Regards DG Narelle

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".



Always.

lionsaustralia

75 years and counting



Social Day for Lions Zones 2,3 & 4.

On Sunday 21st September, 38 Lions, partners and friends gathered at the Old Butter Factory in Bellingen.

A lovely social day, with Lions clubs from Bellingen, Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour, Bonville-Sawtell, Urunga, Macksville, Nambucca Heads, Dorrigo and Valla all represented.

of laughs and memories shared, a great day of fellowship topped off with a wonderful venue and food. A memorable day had by all.



**2VDG Stuart Ritchie Grahame Beatton
(President Nambucca Heads)**



**Left: Spot Swales (Bellingen) Kel Kearns
IPDG Yvie Kearns (Lionsonoz)**



**2VDG Stuart Ritchie (Lionsonoz)
Nambucca Heads & Macksville Lions Members**



**Peter O'Neil (Nambucca Heads),
PDG Brian Grieve (Coffs Harbour)
Barbara Lawson Woolgoolga**



**Left: President Joe
Garcha (Woolgoolga)
Gurdev Garcha**

**Right: IPDG Yvie Kearns,
Kel Kearns,
President Nora Brooks
2VDG Stuart Ritchie
Lionsonoz.**



At the Armidale Convention



Lions Mal Peters, Jim Brear, Savva Argyrou, Mohan Nanayakkara and Joe Pope.



DG Narelle presented Lion and Convention Chair Jim Brear with a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship for his service to District 201N1. Jim was surrounded by Convention Committee members.



Eric O'Keefe from Walcha Lions was presented with his 50 Years service medallion by DG Narelle. Zone Chair Lloyd Levingston also from Walcha supported Eric.



DG Narelle with ADLC Lions Sue Semple, President Kate Hind and Julie Willcocks



DG Narelle with ADLC Lions Sue Semple, President Kate Hind and Julie Willcocks

Convention 2025 was made extra special as we welcomed Lions from far afield.



Lion Denise Pesti and her husband Gene spend half the year in Armidale and the rest of their time at their home in Athens, Atlanta, Georgia where Denise is an active member. When in Armidale Denise serves with ADLC and was honoured to carry the American flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Convention.



Lion Peter Hatton transferred from ADLC to the Lions Club of Kerang in V6 and caught up with old friends when a trip north coincided with the DG's Dinner. Peter is pictured with Lion Marlene Wissink (ADLC) and his wife



Lions Deb and Stu Bartholomew are no strangers to District 201N1 and timed their travels to coincide with the 2025 Convention. They caught up with old friends Kerry and Vince Haire from Narrabri as well Armidale Dumaesq Lions. Stu and Deb are members of the Valentine Club in N3.



Dust your boots off!
201N1 Convention
Armidale



17 - 19 October 2025

THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S DINNER



Lion Wayne Upton (ADLC) enticed Lions and partners onto the dance floor for some singing and dancing at the DG's Dinner. Wayne is pictured with his wife Christine and Lee Rodger from Kootingal and District Club.



ADLC Lions Robin Parker, Sally O'Shea and Georgie Allan. Lion Georgie was responsible for making the hundreds of denim and lace flowers which she used in table arrangements for the dinner.



"Spruiker" for the Convention Lion Anne Sullivan with ADLC President Kate Hind.



Lion Robin Parker donated one of her lovely artworks as first prize in the Convention Raffle and was delighted to present it to the winner Bernie

The Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club

The Glen Inness Highlands Lioness Lions Club is getting ready for their busiest time of Year.

The scholarship committee has been reviewing applications for this year's Year 12 students who are moving on to further education in 2026. The 3 winners will be announced at our December meeting and each will receive \$1000 towards their educational journey. Cash is not given to the students, rather they are provided with items to help them on their journey eg text books, computer items, accommodation bonds etc. Funds for the scholarship were raised by selling hundreds clubs, raffles and grants from the Glen Innes Op Shop. We thanks the community and this organisation for their support.

Hellies Toy drive is again up and running with collection boxes placed around Glen Innes for donations of toys and books. We have already received requests to support 32 children in need this Christmas and anticipate supporting at least double that amount. Parents are able to nominate the interests of their child and club members choose gifts from the donations to match these requests. A group of busy helpers then wrap the gifts and a local community support group distributes them to

the families. Grocery vouchers are also included to ensure that no-one goes hungry over Christmas.

This year at the Christmas in the Highlands Illuminations event we will be running a chocolate wheel. This will be a first for us as we are eager to try out something new. We will also be holding a "Jumble Sale" stall at the Christmas Markets at a local school.

On behalf of the Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club, I wish all Lions and their loved ones a safe, happy and healthy Christmas.

Lynn Starkey President



Member, Jan Lemon OAM, checking how many numbers have been sold.

Lions Christmas Cakes

Lions Christmas cakes have raised more than \$60 million dollars for worthy causes. The Lions Christmas Cake and Pudding program has been a major fund-raising project of Lions Australia since 1965 and raised more than \$70million. The proceeds from this project are donated back into the community with great causes including Blindness Prevention and Vision improvement projects, Medical Research, Children's Mobility Foundation, Eye Health Program, Hearing Dogs, Disaster Relief, Aged Care, Drug Awareness and Youth Programs.

You can rest assured that should you purchase a product from this program the proceeds generated will be put to good use in the community.

An icon for generations of Australians. Savoured by our troops in Afghanistan and other war zones. For hundreds of thousands, it's a festive must. It is the Lions Traditional Christmas Cake. Biting into a luscious, moist slice is an occasion to be savoured. Yet despite its phenomenal fundraising records, the cake might never have been but for some early Australian Lions who played a hunch. Its all part of the cake's colourful history. First released in 1965, clubs are annually flooded with requests for deliveries of the cake, and some of those requests are far from ordinary. Overseas emails regularly ask that cakes be delivered to loved ones around Australia, and many Australians send cakes to friends and family overseas.

Saving sight While the cake largely sells itself, in its half century-plus history Lions have excelled at promoting the project in many inventive ways. In 1992 a TV advert queried, "Did you know that eating a Christmas cake can prevent blindness", a clever reference to Lions'



Jenny Body selling cakes for Glen Innes Lions

SAVE SIGHT initiative.

There have been Lions Christmas Cake decorating contests and cakes are regularly served to dignitaries at official functions, making it as synonymous with Lions as the Bunnings sausage sizzle.

Biggest bake names in Australia While the cake's traditional recipe has barely changed over the years, it has been produced by the biggest names in Australian baking history, brands such as Big Sister, Arnott's and Top Taste. Traditional Foods as the new custodian of the cake. Already Traditional Foods-produced Lions cakes are being shipped Australia-wide. The products include the familiar 1kg and 1.5kg cakes plus an 80-gram slice, along with the 900-gram and 400-gram puddings. From 2024 we introduced a Gluten Free 400g cake.



Lions Christmas Cakes continued.

The maker For Traditional Foods, established in 1993 by Stephen Heath's (Stephen is CEO) father, it has brought a hefty lift in production at its state-of-the-art, HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) accredited Dandenong South facility. Now the company's biggest bake job, it's roughly double that of the next biggest product. The initial bake took just over two months and will be followed by a top-up bake in October-November to satisfy late customers. "It's the cooking that takes the most time," explains Stephen. "The larger cakes take two to three hours to bake, so that limits how many we can do in a day."

"The recipe for puddings is unchanged," says Stephen, "but the cake recipe has been modified to our recipes with a slightly greater percentage of Australian ingredients, 49%, than the previous one." Ideally, Stephen would like to see them containing 100% Australian fruit, but supply shortages and/or excessive costs prevent this. Although he modestly declines to compare his company's Lions cakes to what went before, he admits it was pleasing to receive feedback when he joined with Lions in offering samples at the May MD201 Convention in Canberra.

"The taste buds are in the eye of the beholder but the feedback there was all positive, and what I'm hearing is that some thought it was moister than the previous cake." Likewise, he is thrilled that what his company is producing is of such huge community worth Australia-wide.

"Hats off to Lions for getting this project up and running in the first place, and for sticking with it for all these years," he says. "It's a great project to be involved in."

"A special Thank you to Lions District Cake & Mint Coordinator Nora Brooks for providing the information and story. Nora has provided written permission for Glen Innes Lions Publicity Officer to publish and share this."





Registrations for Lap The Map 2025 are now open to the public!

As of October, Registrations for the public will be open through our website. Already having 20 teams, 42 total participants and over \$3,000 raised, we are well underway to our goal. However, with more Lions members, clubs and individuals from the public, we can all work closely together to reach that target goal of \$80,000. This year Lap the Map is bigger, better and more ambitious, with better incentives for individuals (and their dogs) and rewards for clubs who participate and raise funds for Lions Assistance Dogs.

Each Lions Club who participates in the event is eligible for a banner patch to represent their support in Lap The Map 2025. To go with this, we have tiered banner patches for Clubs to receive based on their donation amount to Lions Assistance Dogs.



As we enter the later half of the year, we are getting closer to Christmas time, which means new stock will be available to purchase through our store on our website <https://lionsassistancedogs.com.au/shop/>.

We will have new toys, some Christmas themed, Dog Christmas stockings and more!



As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs, Lap The Map 2025, or any items in our store, please contact us at, development@lionsassistancedogs.com.au

**PRIDE IN OUR PRIDE.
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR
BOB AND LEE**



We are delighted to announce that two of our dedicated Lions have been recognised by our past Lions Clubs International President, Fabricio Oliveira, with his Presidents award for their excellence in leadership and service.

***LION BOB FORSTER —
recognised for his outstanding contribution and excellence as Global
Leadership Team (GLT)
Coordinator.***

***LION LEE RODGER —
recognised for her excellence as Global Service (GLT) Coordinator.***

***Well done Lions Bob and Lee, these honours reflect ongoing dedication,
commitment, and contribution to the ideals of Lions International.
We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for your inspiring
service.
Outstanding Lions making our District proud.
IPDG Yvie.***

Glen Innes Lions

Glenn Innes Lions hosted Lions Youth of the Year, With Lions Youth of the Year Chairperson Lion Terry te Velde.

Each Contestant underwent interviews with the panel of judges. Followed by responding to two impromptu questions, and a five-minute prepared speech on their chosen topics.

We were captivated by the confidence and capabilities of each of the four talented contestants attending. They were four student representing Glen Innes High School. The students Azalea, Ilyssa, Jayden and William, interacted impressively with each other, Judges and honoured guests from Glen Innes Lions, Glen Innes Highland Lioness Lions, Glen Innes High School and special guests' entertainers Jacaranda Highlander Celtic Dancers.

The judges, Matthew Velchic, John Chappell, and Robyn Stewart, had an exceptionally challenging task choosing a winner due to the contestants' remarkable presentations on the day.

Congratulations to all contestants. Thanks for taking part in Lions Youth of the Year!

The winner of the evening was William Lynn, who will now head on to the Zone level to compete against other Lions Club winners for the honour of representing NSW Zone 8. Good luck, William!

Wishing William all the best as he participates in the Youth of the Year Finals.

A special mention to Jayden McIntyre who took home the Public Speaking Award. Also, to Azalea Singh and Ilyssa Newbury for Participation Awards.

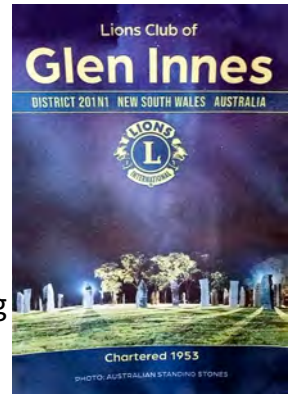
Our future looks in good stead with the knowledge that these students have shown!

[Youth of the Year Australia](#)

[#LionsYouthoftheYear](#) [#YOTY2025](#)

[@LoinsDistrict201N1](#) [@LionsAustralia](#)

We wish the other Lions in Zone 8 Youth of the Year Club winners an enjoyable time when they gather for the Zone Final.



**Contestants from Glen Innes High School
Azalea Singh, Alyssa Newby, William Lynn and Jayden McIntyre**

**Lions Nora Brooks and
IPDG Yvie Kearns with
Santa displaying Christmas
cakes,puddings and Lion
mints to Lions and visitors
at our recent District 201N1
Convention in Armidale.
For orders please contact
Nora. Phone 0488 222 771**



Email nora.brooks@lions201n1.au



Inter club bowls challenge

Coffs Harbour Lions Club and Bonville Sawtell Lions Club recently enjoyed a bowls challenge followed by some fellowship with lunch at Park Beach Bowls club. Lenny Frail again gave great instructions to the amateurs. In the end Coffs Harbour won the day with Bonville Sawtell vowing to get revenge next year.



Kerrie Wilson was great for Coffs Harbour Lions



Lenny giving the award to the winners in the floppy hats.



Service and all that

District service hours for the year to date from the Portal.as at 14.11..2025

Total people served	Total Volunteers	Total volunteer hours	Total funds donated	Total funds raised
208,335	6,920	42,908.05	\$119,035.49	\$298,528.87

Our Lions year is almost half over! And look at the numbers above to see what you have done collectively as a district.

You can find the same line of figures for your club at the top of the reporting service section. Be sure to let your club members know how your club is going. They deserve to know.



Funds donated as compared to funds raised

Funds raised in a fundraising activity are important and have become a enmeshed in community support in so many ways , however, they are often not donated or used until later;

If you wish to give a donation during the year or at the end of the year by all means do so. If you use the funds raised on a project after the fundraiser , this is to be expected. Then your project will have the funds you used to carry it out, r listed as funds donated , and applied to a cause.

If you are doing a fundraiser with a specific cause in mind how about advertising that to the public at the time. This can than be reported next to the fundraiser as being attributed to that cause.

This sort of activity may well resonate with your community members to encourage people to join your club. You should always be looking for suggestions for service and people who might align themselves to a cause your Lions club could be part of with their added energy and input if they join the club.

Your Facebook page Have a look at your Facebook page to see if it tells people about your club, about your activities (before as well as after they happen). Would look to join or partner with your club on the basis of your Facebook entry. Remember people are looking! So i8mpress them.

Have you appointed a service coordinator to your club yet? The service chairs across Australia would like to see a service Chairperson in each club. We could then send them material of interest and help relieve the pressure on the secretary and spread the knowledge of the greater Lions circle around the world.

From A.P. Singh- our International President

The Lion journey is different for each of us, but one thing is the same: being a Lion changes you. As you serve, you're not only improving the lives of others, you're discovering your own potential.

Every act of service shows you the power you have to make a difference. Every role, every project, every effort teaches you leadership, compassion and growth. Each of us has something valuable to offer — and Lions help bring that out.

Lions are inclusive, so invite someone to join you on your Lion journey today. We want as many people as possible to be part of what we build and the good that we do. Together, we will strengthen our organization, the communities we serve and ourselves.

Together in service. Remember if in difficulties ring me on 0428603993 or email lee.rodger@lions201n1.au





Head to www.lapthemap.com.au or scan the QR code today to register to Lap The Map in 2025!

We are well underway into Lap The Map 2025, with over 73 participants so far, and 30 teams / Lions Clubs registered. Together we have travelled around 5000km of our 25,760km goal. In this we have raised almost \$5,000 of our \$80,000 goal. Completing the journey takes time and effort from all those involved, and although we have made a steadfast start, we encourage everyone and anyone to get involved and register to be part of Lap The Map today.

As we come closer to December time, we start to fill out our store with more Christmas themed goods. This year we have five different refreshed Christmas cards on offer. With different price and pack ranges available on the website, be sure to check out the new stock we have on offer and keep updated to see what new stock will become available over the next month. Check out the store here,



<https://lionsassistancedogs.com.au/shop/>

As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs or Lap The Map 2025, please contact us at, development@lionsassistancedogs.com.au



This year the Peace Posters were judged at the District Convention in Armidale. This gave all attendees the opportunity to view them.

Overall, there were 90 students from 4 schools. The Clubs were Harrington, Maclean and Nambucca Heads.

The judges were DG Narelle Peters, PDG Robin Parker and Lion Lee Rodgers, the later 2 being artist themselves.

District N1 winner was a student from Harrington Public School, (Lions Club of Harrington). This poster has been forward on for Multi District judging.

District N1 Honourably Mention for Outstanding Effort International Peace Poster contest was from Maclean Public School, (Lions Club of Maclean).

The theme for this year was “Together as One”.

What inspired the winner’s poster design?

“My peace poster was inspired by the one I created last year, where I first imagined the world as a giant puzzle. This year, that idea has grown into a vision of unity and hope: people of every shape, size, and colour coming together to piece the world back into harmony. In my artwork, you’ll see hands carefully fitting puzzle pieces into place—some building the vibrant globe itself, while others gently connect the pieces of a dove, the timeless symbol of peace. All of this happens on a warm wooden table, a space that invites collaboration and shared dreams. Through this image, I hope to show that when we come together with kindness and understanding, we can create a world that’s whole, peaceful and full of promise.”



**District 201n1 winner
2025**

The LIONS CLUB of KOOTINGAL INC.

Club Progress and Key Projects

As we approach the halfway mark of this Lions year, the Kootingal Lions Club is proud to report significant progress on several long-term projects. The club's primary focus for the coming year is the development of the Kootingal skate park. Our aim is to enhance this facility to a higher standard, creating a safe and supportive environment for young skateboarders to refine their skills. The existing area includes a basketball hoop and a graffiti wall. Meetings have taken place between the council, the Lions Club president, and members to advance this project to the stage where we can apply for funding.



Kooty Art Show Report

The 9th Annual Kooty Art Show was a resounding success, drawing a record number of entries. The hall was vibrant with beautiful artworks, and many pieces found new owners by the end of the event. Congratulations go to all the winners and, in particular, to the first-time entrants who bravely shared their work with the public. The Junior section received excellent support, featuring a variety of interesting pieces created by young artists. This year's expanded digital section, open to participants aged 7 to 17, showcased innovative work that captured the interest of older adults, curious about the potential of this new artistic medium. For the past nine years, the event has been held in a small community hall, which has become increasingly crowded. Thanks to ongoing renovations by Job Link Plus volunteers, the venue will soon be even more user-friendly for future events.

Youth of the Year Quest

Preparations for the Youth of the Year Quest are well underway. The club strives to keep this valuable program accessible, though the busy end-of-year period can make finding judges challenging. Last year, the quest generated membership enquiries, which the club is actively pursuing.

Facebook Promotion and Community Involvement

For this year's art show, the club enlisted support from the local high school's Big Picture Academy. The students created Facebook posters and assisted with hanging the artwork, making the day enjoyable for everyone involved. Their teacher demonstrated the effectiveness of a well-conducted Facebook campaign, and there are plans to hold lessons during the upcoming school holidays.

Armidale Convention: Denim and Lace

The Armidale convention, themed "Denim and Lace," was a fantastic event organised by our Armidale colleagues. Guest speakers covered a range of topics relevant to both local citizens and Lions Club members committed to strengthening their communities. Every aspect of the convention—from the venue and weather to the food—was well managed. The Saturday night social event saw many attendees up and dancing and singing to lively music, ensuring a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Season's Greetings

The Kootingal Lions Club extends heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with special joys. Members express sincere gratitude to the community for its ongoing support of club activities and offer season's greetings to everyone.