



From Sweeping Plains to Jewel Seas
District Newsletter



201N1 District Governor
Narelle Peters
“Lions Share” Newsletter



“Strive for growth and happiness”



www.facebook.com/lionsdistrict201n1

www.201n1.lions.org.au

March- April 2026

Directory

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



Relieving
Disaster



Ending
Hunger



Protecting our
Environment



Helping
Humanity



Defeating
Diabetes



Battling
Paediatric
Cancer



Serving
Youth



Saving
Vision

Hi from the road to the Adelaide convention

This year is winding down and DGE Joe is gearing up.

Whilst there have not been any floods we are heading for drought in areas of N1. With that in mind and as we get to the end of the year, I am asking all clubs to consider looking at donating to Lions Clubs International (LCIF) foundation.

There are some facts that clubs may not know -

Since 2019 our district 201N1 has received a number of disaster grants. I am guessing here but I believe over \$150000 AUD. Just last year N1 received for one for flood victims around the Clarence and Taree area. \$15000 US approx. \$23000 AUD.

This year we have also obtained a community grant of \$17000 USD (\$27000AUD) that enable 201N1 to purchase 3 additional LEHP kits.

And what a great project, not only does it benefit the school children in our district. We are also gaining additional members.

So what are we asking for is not \$1000 of dollars but what your club can afford. Everything help. But we really need Club to donate late May early June to that it will show up in this years budget.

Another couple of interesting facts - Money donated in Australia stays in



Australia. Why so that when we can act fast in an emergency!

We have clubs that donate every year to LCIF, which is fantastic. We also have a lot of clubs that have not donated for a very long long time! This is sad and I know these clubs that have not donated are financial. I remind all Lions that we are part of an International Club, and this is our foundation. And as you have seen we have been supported over the last years.

Don't forget the club officer training - emails are being sent out to your clubs with dates and. Our training this year is heavily on the use of the Portal as well! Bring your laptops along!

District Changeover is in Urunga this year. On the weekend of the 12-14 June. Cabinet officers should have received notification.

Any Lions interested can attend these meetings.

District Webpage.

Lion Bob Forster has included a calendar on our webpage. If your club has an event coming up send him an email and we will be able to include it. Also don't forget our Facebook page we currently have 683 followers.

Thank you to all the hard working Lions in 201N1 –

remember have fun, and celebrate your successes!



Lions Conventions 2026

The 74th Lions MD201 Convention in Adelaide from May 22nd to May 25th. Will be a great event. It is a marvellous opportunity to see your club as part of the greater whole Lions organisation. Make a longer trip out of the conference. Adelaide is easy to get around and of course surrounded by great things to see and do.

You might like to visit the botanic gardens of Adelaide to see how they have used plants and scarce water to best effect. After the convention try a trip up the Adelaide hills to Handorf or check out the winery's of the area.



lionsaustralia 
we serve

201N1 District Convention Taree NSW



The Clubs of Zone 6 are proud to extend an invitation to all 201N1 Clubs & friends to attend our District Convention to be held at Club Taree

**121 Wingham Road, Taree NSW
on 16, 17, 18 October 2026**

*A live band will provide the night's entertainment.
The evening theme will be the style, glamour & tough guy
"hits of 26" (1926)...a time when Al Capone & Prohibition reigned supreme.*

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

Yamba Lions Club



Lions Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Yamba Lions Club hosted the second level of Lions Youth of the Year Competition at Simplicity Maclean on the 14th March. Students had previously won their local Lions Club Final. They then submitted their application, engaged in an interview, presented responses to two impromptu questions and presented a prepared five minute speech on their choice of topic. Judges were Jennifer McPherson, Judith Little and John Allan. Students were excellent ambassadors of their schools, Maclean High, Pacific Valley Christian School and Toormina High. The Overall Winner was Eve and she will progress to the Lions District Final in Tamworth.



Left: Photo shows Amber Morley, Grace Burke, Eve McCarthy, YOTY Chairman Lion Deyann McDonnell and MC Bob Little .



Bellingen Lions Club

On Wednesday 1/4/2026, Michael Kemp MP- Member of Oxley, awarded Lions Club of Bellingen the 2026 Seniors Local Achievement Award which was proudly accepted by Lion Deb Sense. It is a Recognition of 70 years of dedicated Service in Bellingen District, as well as supporting Bellingen River District Hospital by raising more than \$123,000 for vital medical equipment.



See how big the remembrance tree has grown.

At the Lions convention 2023, remembrance ceremony, I collected a tree for Pat O'Keeffe, wife of Lion Ray O'Keeffe, member of the Lions Club of Woolgoolga. What began as a small tiny seedling in a small pot, now stands over a metre tall - growing quietly, just like the love and memories of Ray O'Keeffe it carries. It is now reaching for the sky, with every leaf it carries a memory. Each morning, Pat says a quiet "hello" keeps a lifetime of love alive, and keeps him close. IPDG Yvie



Urunga Lions

Community Champion Peter Brotherton from Urunga was named as Male Senior of the year for Oxley as part of the 2026 NSW Seniors Festival.

Peter Brotherton scored the Male Senior of the Year Award for being the driving force behind the continued success of the Lions Club of Urunga.

After helping rebuild the club in 2014, he went on to serve as President across multiple terms. Peter is a dedicated volunteer, contributing to the club's fundraising efforts which return around \$7,000 annually to the community. One of his most impactful initiatives has been supporting the Urunga Primary School P&C to fund the school canteen, a contribution that has allowed the canteen to expand its operation from three to five days a week.

Michael Kemp MP- Member of Oxley said "Across the four valleys of Oxley, it is our seniors who have helped build the strong, connected communities we have today," Mr Kemp said.

"They're the ones fundraising for hospitals, backing local sporting clubs and giving their time because they genuinely care about their community."

"To be recognised by your peers is something truly special, and each of the nominees and award recipients should be incredibly proud of the difference they have made."



Michael Kemp MP- Member of Oxley, presenting the award to Peter Brotherton.



Jo and Peter Brotherton



Moree Lions Club

Moree Lions recently commenced free eye and vision screening after training from the Lions Australia Eye Health Program. Students from Moree Public School and Moree Christian School were checked.

Four assessments are attended in accordance with the program, including visual acuity using a line symbol chart, colour perception using a basic colour screening book and depth perception using a stereo screening tool. A state-of-the-art portable camera is also used to screen for near-sightedness, far-sightedness, blurred vision, unequal refractive error, eye misalignment and unequal pupil size. Moree Lions Club is now equipped to conduct future screenings at local and district schools.



Lions Club of Bellingen

In April the Lions Club of Bellingen hosted a fabulous Senior Citizen's Luncheon celebrating the dedication of our volunteers that have served across the many organisations in our community.

Guests came from across the Shire.

Bellingen, Mylestom, Urunga, Gleniffer and Darkwood.

A delicious lunch was had by all.

Everybody had a great time, enjoyed the company of others, and communication to share the meal with.

Nostalgic Sing-a-long music was provided by Eddie & His Band as senior's joined in -with glee on their faces.

Lions Club of Bellingen had the joy of giving back to the community, and the happiness of seeing smiles on everyone's face.



Lions Club of Bellingen

SGT Matthew Locke MG Army
Football Charity Match, Sat
28/3/2026.

A Lions Club of Bellingen annual
charity event raising funds for the
Grub Club. All profits support
school & education for
disadvantaged children in remote
Timor Leste.



Helping Humanity



Your District, One Click Away

The official online hub for Lions District 201N1 — serving 60 clubs across northern NSW



The District 201N1 website at lions201n1.au — accessible on desktop and mobile

The Lions District 201N1 website at lions201n1.au is the central hub for everything happening across our 60 clubs in northern NSW — and if you are not using it regularly, you are missing out.

Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Whether you are a club officer chasing a deadline, a member looking for the next district event, or a member of the public wanting to find their nearest Lions Club, the website puts accurate, up-to-date information at your fingertips. The interactive club map lets anyone locate a club by name or region in seconds — no phone calls, no guesswork.

Your Gateway to District Resources

The site brings together newsletters, cabinet directories, health programme statistics, foundation updates, and membership resources in one place. Everything a secretary, president, or zone chairperson needs to stay on top of district business is accessible from any device, at any time.

Events at a Glance

The district calendar keeps members across all 60 clubs informed about conventions, training days, and fellowship events. No more relying on word of mouth or waiting for the next cabinet meeting to learn what is coming up.

A Platform That Works for You

The site is built to be mobile-friendly and fast, so whether you are checking the schedule on your phone between shifts or downloading a resource at your desk, the experience is smooth and straightforward.

Visit us at lions201n1.au — bookmark it, share it, and make it your first stop.

Want to see your club's information updated or have content to contribute? Contact the District Webmaster.

The Lions Club of Tamworth



Lions
youth
of the year

Pictured: DG Narelle Peters
Eve McCarthy sponsored by Yamba Lions Club
Ashton Angus, sponsored by Lions Club of Nambucca Heads
Rudi Walker-Sangster, sponsored by Lions Club of Quirindi
Molly Chard, sponsored by Armidale Dumaresq Lions

A great day was had at the District YOTY event at Tamworth with contestants from Yamba, Nambucca Heads, Quirindi and Armidale Dumaresq.

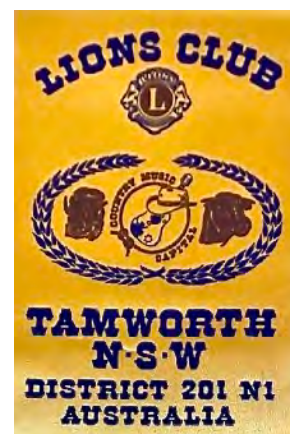
Each student impressed the judges through a panel interview, impromptu questions and a prepared speech. Their confidence, insight and leadership made for an inspiring event, and it's clear all four have very bright futures ahead

All of the contestants were great and had already won their Club and Area finals.

Rudi Walker-Sangster was the winner of both Public Speaking and Overall Winner. He will be travelling to Canberra to contest the State Finals.

This was quite a busy day and I must thank the 6 Judges, the Parents, the Club Representatives, supporters and all who helped the Contestants to attend. I also thank the Tamworth City Lions for catering, who did a wonderful job.

Regards John Hook.



Great service- don't forget to report it!



Christmas was way back then... **No doubt you have been busy with projects since Christmas, but have you reported them?** Some clubs still have no service reported for the whole fiscal year!. Reporting service supports your applications for grants from Lions. Reporting service helps you to see just how valuable we all are as Lions to our various communities.

Don't forget to have a look at the Lions learning centre while on the Lions Portal. Lots of interesting easy to use learning options are provided here. A "must do" if you miss the training for your executive position.

Current fuel shortages may see some of our meetings being done by zoom, it will be reminiscent of Covid days, we all coped then and we will cope again, we are Lions after all!. Perhaps a good service project would be to organise car pools, it's been done in the past and will work again now, only easier because we all have mobile phones and some electric cars.



Clean up Australia and Lions environment week were good opportunities for very worthwhile service projects . Remember that you can do this at any time that suits your club- or do it on a regular basis if required. The clubs doing the return and earn are doing a marvellous job of assisting the picking up and collecting from people and returning the earnings to their local community.

For the record aluminium can be endless recycled, glass mostly recycled back into glass or added to other products, but plastic needs sorting to type and cannot be endlessly recycled so buy in glass or aluminium and avoid the plastic where possible.

Autumn is a good time to plant trees; many do better if planted in this cooler time before frosts hit. It is also a good time to look over what has survived, what areas need more trees or shrubs and make the selection of plants .Preparing your planting holes well in advance is worthwhile.

Need help with reporting:

Please remember that I am here to help you as best I can. I have made numerous phone calls and emails with this offer to clubs who may need to take the offer up. Phone 0428603993 Email lee.rodger@lions201n1.au keep up the good work.

A few suggestions for "in meeting" service projects

As a lion, you already know any place where our members gather is a great place to serve. Here are a few ideas for service projects that work well with meetings:

- Hold a food or clothing drive – ask members to bring items for donation
- Make fleece blankets or wigs for children with cancer
- Assemble backpacks for school children or care packages for foster children
- Host a fun activity, like a race, game show or talent contest, and donate the funds raised

Another option is to bring your group to a local food pantry, homeless shelter or wildlife area to serve the community directly.

The Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club

Our Community Continues to WOW!!

Since 2022, The Glen Innes Highlands Lioness-Lions Club have coordinated 'Hellies Christmas Drive' – named in honour of a well-loved and valued community member, Helen Jennings.

For 15 years Helen had coordinated a similar drive for under privileged children in the Glen Innes area. The proceeds from this drive were always and will continue to be dispersed through the office of Glen Innes Youth and Family Support Service.

Promotion began in September 2025 with support from Squadron Energy Sapphire Wind Farm. Collection points were set up at local schools and businesses – Carelle's, Glen Innes High School, Glen Innes Public School, and the Glen Innes Bowlo. Glen Innes

Items donated by the ever generous Glen Innes community or purchased using funds donated by Squadron Energy Sapphire Windfarm were collected, organised into bundles by local school staff and then wrapped by Glen Innes Highlands Lioness-Lions Club members. Any remaining monetary donations were then used to purchase grocery cards and vouchers from local stores to ensure families would have a family dinner at Christmas time.

The gifts were then ready for dispersal by Glen Innes Youth and Family Support officers before Christmas.

The members of the Glen Innes Highlands Lioness-Lions Club would like to extend their sincere appreciation to;

- Hellie's family and friends for their support and encouragement
- Squadron Energy Sapphire Windfarm for their sponsorship in 2025
- the ever generous community of Glen Innes
- local school staff and families for promoting and supporting this initiative
- staff and management of Carelle's for their advice and generosity
- local clubs/organisations/individuals who contributed to ensure this drive can continue into the future

This project provides many children with a sense of family and community at Christmas. The support of businesses in the Glen Innes LGA and the staff of the Glen Innes Youth and Family Support Service in providing for under privileged families, has allowed the members of the Glen Innes Highlands Lioness-Lions Club to work collaboratively on this project and promote the ethos of Lions Australia, and of course ensured recognition and honour of a long standing community member – Mrs Helen Jennings.

Our Club members look forward to continuing this project well into the future and hope that 'Hellie' would be pleased with our work.

Project Coordinator Lion Leonie Lee



GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS LIONESSE LIONS CLUB

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

The club was very happy to announce that three students have been awarded scholarships.

In 2025 the club received applications from three worthy students whom we are pleased to assist in their future studies. After an application and interviewing process with the Scholarship Project Committee, we were very happy to award Chelsea McIntyre, Phoebe Vimpany and Rory Husband our Post Secondary Scholarship for 2025. Following the official presentation at the Glen Innes High School's Presentation Day, the students and their mothers joined the club at the December meeting where the students informed all the members of their plans and dreams of their futures.

The Highlands Lioness Lions Club aims to help young people from our community in as many ways as possible. In 2023 a student who was moving onto university was assisted and this proved to be the motivating factor in establishing a scholarship fund as an annual project for the club. Over the last two years grants have been applied for and there have been fundraising activities to acquire funds

to distribute to students moving on to university and TAFE. In 2025 a special thanks goes to the Glen Innes Opportunity Shop for their generous grant

Scholarships will again be offered to the students of 2026 at both Glen Innes High and Emmaville Central and the club has commenced their fundraising with a raffle for Coles Vouchers during January.



Pictured: Phoebe Vimpany, Chelsea McIntyre and Rory Husband



Grafton Lions Club

“ Lions Lending a Helping Hand”

In late September 2025 Grafton Lions Club was approached with a request to assist with the purchase of a Riptin Terrier Trike for a local 6 year old boy with disabilities. Members of the Grafton Lions Club decided to take the request up as a project.

Contact was made with the National Registrar of the Australian Lions Children Mobility Foundations for a possible grant or assistance. A general application form was granted and cost of the trike was \$7537.00.

Grafton Lions contacted our Zone Chairperson Deyann McDonnell with a proposal to make this a Zone Project. Clubs were invited to make donations towards the cost of the trike with responses from Yamba Lions, Maclean Lions and Kempsey Lions.

In January 2026 Grafton Lions Club received notification from the Registrar of the Australian Lions Children Mobility

Foundation that the trike had arrived and plans were arranged for the physiotherapist to hand over the trike to young Nibras, his mother and other family members on the 20th January 2026 Present also on the day were Grafton Lions Secretary Kevin King, Zone Chairperson Deyann McDonnell representing the other Lions Clubs and a representative from ILS Kids





Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health Foundation Winners all the way!



The draw for the 2026 Lions NSW-Act Sight & Health Foundation raffle took place on Sunday 29th March at Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following winners:

- 1st Prize – Lions Club of Castle Hill (N5) – Chery Tiggo 4 Auto Saloon (valued at \$24,500)**
2nd Prize – Lions Club of Queanbeyan (N2) -- \$1,000 Gift Voucher
3rd Prize – Lions Club of Toukley (N3) – Jaycar Voucher \$500

Thank you to all those Clubs who supported the Foundation by either buying their allocated tickets or selling them to the Public.

Don't forget – you have to be in it to win it!

All Lions Clubs in New South Wales or Australian Capital Territory can join the Foundation as members, and joining is absolutely free of charge. Contact Company Secretary, Rosemary, email: Rosemary@jaslegal.com.au

The Foundation provides ongoing financial support to:

1. The NSW Tissue Bank incorporating the *Lions NSW Eye Bank*
2. The Save Sight Institute
3. The Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation
4. Lions Foundation Member Clubs with Grants for Eye and Health equipment for Hospitals and Individuals within NSW/ACT.

Member Clubs can apply for 'dollar for dollar' grants (up to \$25,000) to fund sight and health projects in their local community.



Recently a \$15,000 Grant was approved to support the **Hunter Business Lions** with the purchase of a Scalp Cooling Machine for the **Mater Hospital** at Waratah. The machine has the capacity to deal with two patients simultaneously. The recognised benefit in cooling the head during treatment is that it reduces hair loss which many patients greatly appreciate. This also boosts the patient's self-esteem thereby assisting their successful recovery from the medical treatments.

Image is a sample only.

At a recent Foundation meeting, Grants were also approved for two Lions Clubs to purchase vision screening equipment to further work with the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP). The Foundation is always seeking to work with Lions Clubs to help fund projects within the remit of sight and health. Several other projects are in development connected to grants for health-related initiatives.

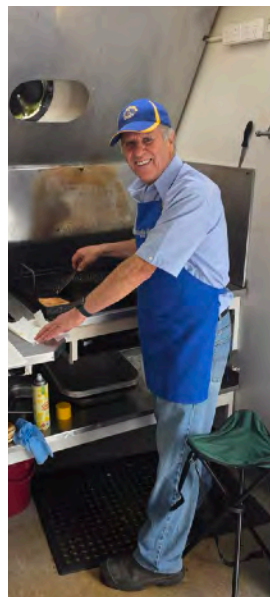
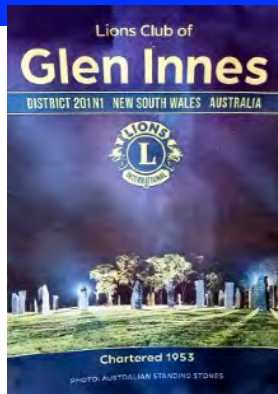
Glen Innes Lions

The township of Glen Innes NSW recently hosted its annual Celtic Festival.

Renowned as the premier Celtic event of New South Wales, it is the only festival in Australia to recognise the 5 main Celtic nations each year and has the unique atmosphere of being located at the Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument in Glen Innes. The festival itself rotates through the Celtic nations allowing each specific heraldry and representation within the cycle period. In 2026, the festival celebrated its 34th year and highlighted Scotland and all things Scottish alongside the rich traditions of Ireland, Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall & Brittany.

This event is the Glen Innes Lions club's major fundraiser for the year.

Massive thanks to the services team of David Dadley, Harold Pettit and Bob Pendergast for all the behind the scenes preparations and time spent to get the club ready for the festival.



Members plus some of their wives spent the weekend providing steak sandwiches, egg and bacon sandwiches and sausage sandwiches as well as hot chips to both residents and visitors alike. With many compliments of the best chips on site. I am sure many of the volunteers were very tired after the weekend's wonderful effort, I know I was!

It was a pleasure to hear customers comment that they buy our food because of all the great work that the LIONS do for the community, apart from the great value for money in such a tight economy.







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.”

