



From Sweeping Plains to Jewel Seas

"Lions Share" District Newsletter



201N1 District Governor

Joe Pope

Take that extra step to serve



ONE PURPOSE. ONE TEAM. ENDLESS IMPACT.

www.facebook.com/lionsdistrict201n1

www.201n1.lions.org.au

May-June 2026 Edition

Directory

District Governor

Joe Pope
Bellingen Lions Club
Mobile 0434 020 537
Joe.pope@lions202n1.au

CABINET SECRETARY

Lorraine Hemsworth
Macksville Lions Club
Mobile: 0409 681 922
Lorraine.hemsworth@lions201n1.au

CABINET TREASURER

Tim Bishop
Valla Lions Club
Mobile: 0429 770 727
tim.bishop@lions201n1.au

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Warren Sydenham
Bonville Sawtell Lions Club
Mobile: 0403 120 490
newsletter@lion201n1.au

Executive Cabinet Structure. 2026-2027.

District Governor: **Joe Pope**
1st Vice District Governor: **Stuart Ritchie**
2nd Vice District Governor: Vacant
IPDG: **Narelle Peters:**
Cabinet Treasurer: **Tim Bishop**
Cabinet Secretary: **Lorraine Hemsworth**

Constitution & By-Laws (CBL) Chairman:
Peter Mercer

Global Membership Team Co-ordinator:
Louise Evans

Global Leadership Team Leader:
Malcolm Peters

Global Service Team Co-ordinator:
Lee Rodger

Cabinet Meetings	Where	Dates	Reports Due
1st Cabinet Meeting	Armidale	25th July	12th July
2nd Cabinet Meeting & Convention	Taree Convention	16th October	27th Sept
3rd Cabinet Meeting	Armidale	6th Feb 2027	24th Jan 2027
4th Cabinet Meeting	Kootingal	12th June 2027	31st May 2027



Relieving
Disaster



Ending
Hunger



Protecting our
Environment



Helping
Humanity



Defeating
Diabetes



Battling
Paediatric
Cancer



Serving
Youth



Saving
Vision

IPDG Narelle Peters

As you read this newsletter my year as District Governor has come to a close and I wish DG Joe and the new N1 cabinet all the best for 2026-27.

There is a few special thank you, Lion Lloyd Levinston from Walcha Lions, a lion for 34 years and the Zone Chairman for Zone 7 over 17 years. Is stepping down as Zone Chair he will be missed but I am sure that he will always be there for advice. Thank you

Lion Jim Brear – our IT Guru. As technology has increased significantly in Lions, Lion Jim has been there ensuring that you all get email and information from the District. Thank you for helping us out ensuring that our computers are all working. I apologise for my frantic phone call when I have thought I have killed my laptop.

To all the fantastic Lions in the 201N1 District – thank you for allowing me to be your District Governor. I have made a lot of friends over the past 3 years. And also renewed old friendships.

To all of Cabinet. Thank you

Whilst my family is currently in San Diego, their support via Facetime each week has been great. And I remind all Lions that you must remember family comes first.

To DG Joe, I wish you a successful year.

The District is still looking for a SVDG – (second vice district governor). And interested Lions can discuss this with the current or past executive and or GLT – PCC Malcolm Peters.

My last thank you is to Malcolm.

From your new District Governor Joe Pope

Another year is about to begin and first and foremost I wish to thank Immediate Past District Governor Narelle Peters for all her work and efforts. Her theme **“Strive for Growth and Happiness”** has worked wonders on the district as we move forward with my theme **“Take that Extra Step to Serve”** which challenges each of us to step forward and make a difference – not waiting for someone else, no assuming the job is too big – but recognising that true change starts with one person taking that extra step.

Our new cabinet has many new faces allowing change to continue. Enthusiasm is the key and starting the year off with new thoughts, new ideas and encouragement to work together as a team will allow the district to grow even more continuing on from 2025-2026.

Each year the District Governor’s cabinet progresses forward with the aims and messages of the International President and each year their message is progressively different. This year’s International President Mark S Lyon’s is **“Rooted in Service”**.

“Service is the foundation of Lions. It’s who we are and what we do. Our roots run deep stretching far and wide to build lasting connections and strengthen our world”.

His words ring true for 201N1 and I trust that our district will take up his message.

So let us **“Take that Extra Step to Serve Together:”**.

District Governor Joe Pope.



From the Cabinet Secretary's desk



Welcome to the 2026/2027 Lions year!

Thank you to members who have attended the Club Development Days. Also, a big thank you to the Clubs hosting these days. The Club manuals have been provided to Clubs and if you are wishing a hard copy please contact me. The manuals are also available on the N1 District Website <https://lions201n1.au> under Resources, Manuals.

The **Lion Portal** is the official, all-in-one online platform for [Lions Clubs International](https://lions201n1.au) members. It combines members records, service reporting, training, and meeting management into a single centralised system.

There are helpful training and tutorial videos, quick guides, frequently asked questions and other training materials.

The **MD Directory** is currently being printed and is expected to be available within the next few weeks.

Clubs wishing to secure copies can pre-purchase the directory through the National Lions Shop in Newcastle. Pre-ordering is encouraged to ensure your Club receives its copies as soon as they become available. Cost \$9.00.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself. I will be pleased to assist you and provide any support or guidance you may need throughout the Lions year.

Kindest regards

Lion Lorraine Hemsworth

Cabinet Secretary 2026/2027

PO Box 213, MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

E: cabsec.N1@lions.org.au

M: 0409 681 922

lions australia
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.



Upcoming Lions Conventions

Innovation • Inclusion • Impact

In August 2026 ... Auckland Roars!

The countdown is on for
the biggest Lions gathering in our region

*Mark your calendars
- 21-23 August 2026 -*

Registrations Now Open.



ANZI PACIFIC FORUM

TĀMAKI MAKĀURUA AUCKLAND • NEW ZEALAND

ANZI 2026 Marketing

Photos from the District Cabinet Changeover



Left: Hall of Fame Award presented to Peter Mercer



Right: Joe receiving the Bell from Narelle



Sheryl Keppler, Lloyd Livingston, Warren Sydenham and Sandra Armstrong receiving awards from Narelle.

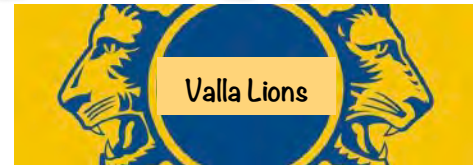


We were all extremely well fed at the Cabinet Meeting thanks to Macksville Lions and helpers.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT

As Zone chair I delightfully coordinated the purchase of a Ride on Mower for Nambucca Valley Phoenix foundation based in Bowraville to replace the worn-out mower used by their mowing crew. Phoenix is a community-owned, not-for-profit organisation offering initiatives like a lawn mowing crew, café, art gallery, gardening team, food hub, after-school support, paper shredding, and homecare services that provide meaningful opportunities to people living with disabilities or facing disadvantage in the area enabling them to develop valuable skills and enhance their engagement with the community.

Valla, Macksville and Nambucca Heads Lions Club had no hesitation in supporting this program as they have seen the success of the work done by the Phoenix foundation group. The clubs each contributed funding and with an



ALF grant enabled the purchase of the Ride on Lawn Mower.

The handover to Phoenix, of the Ride on Mower was a great success with members from the three clubs who contributed funding in attendance. The ride on mower will be a big boost to the Lawn mowing team.

Beatton Zone 4 Chairman



Woolgoolga Lions Club

Donation of 4 AEDs to Community Transport

The Lions Club of Woolgoolga will be celebrating serving the community for 50 years in October of this year, and recently made their latest donation to help keep locals safe while enjoying the outings organised by the Community Transport Company.

Woolgoolga Lions Club inc. proudly presented four defibrillator units (AEDs) to Community Transport Board Chairman, Greg Walcot, and Chief Assets & Safety Officer, Mark Callaghan, who accepted the units from Joginder Garcha, President of the Lions Club of Woolgoolga Inc. These units will be placed in the four 22-seat Fuso Rosa buses, which have the greatest seating capacity of the fleet.

The Community Transport Company drivers are all trained in first aid, and these units will help support them should an emergency arise.

The Community Transport Company is a registered charity that was created over 40 years ago to serve the Coffs Harbour and surrounding areas. They provide flexible

transport options for those in the community who are most vulnerable or needing extra assistance. They are a team of 250 people including many volunteer drivers and support staff.

They are a low-cost alternative with a dedicated team who pride themselves on being able to offer a personalised service to suit individual needs.

They aim to provide a professional, safe and reliable service that supports access to our community and encourage individuals to maintain good health, wellbeing and independence. Their services include:

- Medical and general appointments
- NDIS participants
- Accessible/Assisted travel
- Shopping and social outings
- Aboriginal & culturally sensitive services



From
Gavin Kent
Treasurer & Administrator
Lions Club of Woolgoolga



(Pictured, left to right: Mark Callaghan, Lion Gavin Kent, Community Transport drivers Rex Holloway and Ken Boyle (back), Lions President Joginder Garcha and Greg Walcot.



MARK S. LYON INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Mark S. Lyon, from Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, was elected to serve as International President of Lions Clubs International at the association's 108th international convention held in Hong Kong, China from July 3 through July 7, 2026.

Prior to his retirement in March 2024, International President Lyon has worked in corporate legal administration and financial services with several major corporations and banks for over 40 years.

As a long-time resident of Brookfield and an active volunteer in his community, church and local government, his connection with Lions was already well established before he became a member of the Brookfield Lions Club in 1996. Since then, he has held a number of offices within the association, including international director, multiple district council chairperson and multiple district GLT coordinator.

He was also appointed as a member of the LCI Forward project team, a Global Action Team area leader, a District Governor-Elect Seminar group leader and board liaison to the 2019 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Executive Committee.

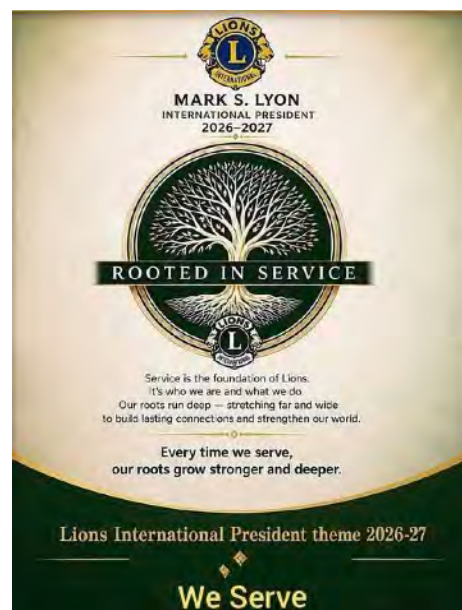
International President Lyon has also served as presenter, faculty and participant at countless training events and leadership forums throughout the years.

In recognition of his service, he has received multiple International President's Awards and International President's Certificates of Appreciation, as well as an International President's Leadership Award. International President Lyon is also a recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest

honour the association bestows upon its members. Additionally, he has been recognised as a Connecticut Knight of the Blind and a Connecticut Ambassador of Sight and is the recipient of a number of project and service-related certificates.

In addition to his Lion activities, International President Lyon has been active in numerous professional and community organisations. He has served on the board of directors for the Silver Lake Conference Center and Wide Horizons for Children. He was an associate member of the American Bar Association and a past member of the Association of Legal Administrators, the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and the Shareholder Services Association.

International President Lyon is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. His wife, Lyn Lyon, is also a long-time Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. They are the proud parents of three incredible daughters.



Quirindi Lions Club

The Lions Club of Quirindi recently rewarded three of its long serving members with Melvin Jones Fellowships at its annual changeover on June 4, 2026



Lion Neville McVicar has been a Lion for 39 years, Ken Aitken 24 years and Sandra Armstrong 17 years. All have been past presidents of the club as well as holding other executive positions and are generous with their time to the club in its service and fund raising efforts.

Quirindi Lions acknowledge the work of Lions Clubs International and annually gives a donation to that cause, hence having enough credits "in kitty" to be able to make the awards.

District Governor Narelle Peters presented the very surprised recipients with their awards and told of the work of LCIF, particularly in the N1 district.

In the 10 years that Narelle and PDG Mal Peters have been involved in Lions Clubs International there have been various grants received.

The most recent was \$19,000USD for a District and Community grant for three additional Lions Eye Health Program Kits which have been used to screen school children for eye problems.

Quirindi Club is hoping to have members trained in their use by the end of the year so that the program

can be initiated within schools in the Liverpool Plains areas.

Other grants received by N1 in recent years include \$20,000USD for drought mental health for farmers, several emergency grants of \$10,000USD in 2019 and \$15,000USD for the Maclean and Taree floods, and disaster grant after the devastating 2019 fires of \$100,000USD for replacement of water tanks on the Mid North Coast.

A Melvin Jones Fellowship is the highest acknowledgement that can be given for service to Lions and can also be given by Clubs to community workers. Clubs obtain Melvin Jones Fellowships credits through donations to LCIF.



Above Neville McVicar, Sandra Armstrong, Ken Aitken and DG Narelle Peters

LIONS NURSES SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Lions Year 2025.2026 Newsletter

www.lionsnursesesscholarships.org.au



A Landmark Year: \$75,000 in Nursing Scholarships

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our Lions Clubs, 2025.2026 has been a successful year. We are proud to announce that the Foundation has awarded a total of **\$75,000 in scholarships** to dedicated nursing professionals across NSW and the ACT.

This investment represents more than just financial aid; it is a direct contribution to the resilience and expertise of our healthcare frontline. By funding advanced clinical education, we are ensuring that our communities receive the highest standard of care.

The Aaron Johnson Story

We continue to see incredible results from recipients like **Aaron Johnson**, who utilized his **\$3000 grant** to gain his Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing. Aaron is now a Clinical Nurse Educator, having started his career as an Assistant in Nursing 12 years ago.

Connection in Action: Kiama Lions Club Visit



Our **Chairperson, David Evans**, recently had the pleasure of visiting the **Kiama Lions Club** for an evening of fellowship and storytelling. Joining him was **Carmen Wood**, a recent scholarship recipient who is already putting her advanced training into practice. Carmen and David with President Susan Hudson

Highlights from the Visit:

- **Carmen Wood's Journey:** Carmen shared how her scholarship enabled her to specialize in surgical nursing, providing a firsthand look at how club donations translate into better healthcare.
- **The "Human Side" of ROI:** Hearing Carmen speak reminded us that the "Return on Investment" for a Lions donation isn't just a figure on a ledger—it is a nurse who stays in the profession, a patient who recovers faster, and a family that feels supported in their darkest hour.

Your Return on Investment (ROI)

Every dollar donated to the Foundation is managed with strict professional accountability. Our scholarship recipients provide detailed budget proposals and adhere to formal Terms of Use, ensuring high-impact results:

Retention: Scholarship recipients are more likely to remain in clinical roles and take on leadership positions.

Specialization: 100% of the 2026 grant funds were directed toward high-need clinical specialties.

Community Health: Better-trained nurses lead to fewer complications and improved patient satisfaction scores in your local hospitals.



Your club's donation of \$500 allows the club to apply for a Ken Lentfer Award.



Get ready to Lap The Map in 2026. Be sure to get in early and mark November in your calendars as the month to support those living with Diabetes.

Last year, together we raised over \$26,000 across 133 participants and 48 teams for those in Australia living with diabetes. Ultimately a successful outcome, but this year in 2026, we aim to increase those numbers with the help of all Lions across Australia. For that to happen, we want to get the word out early and ask the Lions community of Australia to start spreading awareness for this amazing month-long event. This year Lap The Map will be bigger and better than ever! To stay up to date with all news and updates regarding Lap The Map, be sure to follow **lapthemaplions** on Instagram, and **Lap the Map** on Facebook.

We also wanted to take the opportunity to highlight National Diabetes Week 2026, which will be running from July 12th – 18th. This special week is an annual awareness campaign led by Diabetes Australia that focuses on early detection, reducing stigma, and promoting equitable access to life-saving technology and care for Australians living with all types of Diabetes.

As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs, or want to know more about our Lap The Map 2026, Please contact us at:

development@lionsassistedogs.com.au

Bonville Sawtell Lions Club

Two members of Bonville Sawtell Lions Club received Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards at their annual Changeover in June. Lions Joy Dunkerley and Roy Varco have been dedicated members for many years and give tirelessly of their time and efforts to Lions projects within the club.



Roy was previously a member of Armidale Dumaresq Lions Club who transferred to Bonville Sawtell many years ago.

President Warren is holding a long stitch tapestry made by PDG Alan Scolari and was given to incoming DG Joe Pope who installed the new committee for 2026-2027. Joe also inducted new member Sharon Sydenham into the club.



Joe with the new committee members
Warren Sydenham,
Peggy Reehorst
Dave Campbell
Seb Corridore and
Jen Campbell.

Joe inducting Sharon Sydenham into
Bonville Sawtell Lions Club



Bellingen Lions Club



Photo above from Left: Lion John Molloy,
Mayor Steve Allan and Lion Ian Bell.

The first “Thank a First Responder Day Community BBQ” was held by Bellingen Shire Council in June, and supported by Lions Club of Bellingen who cooked up delicious eats for First Responders, and Community.



Congratulations to Lion John Molloy.
On June 9th 2026, DGE Joe Pope proudly presented Lion John with the 20-Year Monarch Chevron Award.
Thank you John, for your incredible two decades of continuous dedication and inspiring community service!



DGE. Joe Pope proudly represented the Lions Club of Bellingen at the Multiple District National Convention held in Adelaide. May 22 to 25th, 2026.

The passing of 3 members of the Lions Club of Bellingen- was recognised at the Multiple District Convention Memorial Service.



BELLINGEN LIONS CLUB PRESENTS



FIREWORKS

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

GATES OPEN 4PM

BELLINGEN SHOWGROUND

FOOD & DRINKS FROM 4.30

FIREWORKS START AT

6.30

**GLOW STICKS FOR SALE,
MONSTER RAFFLE & 2BBB**

**ALL DONATIONS GO
TOWARDS OUR HOSPITAL**



BELLINGEN PROVIDORE

LION FRED HYNES MEMORIAL



Thank you all for coming along this morning to remember Fred. Fred Hynes touched the lives of many people in our community, and it is right and proper that we honour him.

Fred was born in August 1935 and grew up in the Mosman/Manly area of Sydney. He was a member of the area's Sea Scouts. In 1965, he married his wife, Lee.

Fred joined Manly Lions Club in 1992 and then transferred to Tacking Point Lions Club in 2014. In Manly Lions, Fred had been elected to the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, President, and Zone Chairman, some of which he held twice. He received many awards, including the Lions' highest honour, the Melvin Jones Fellowship (twice). Fred had been a member of Lions for over 28 years and was made a Life Member last year.

Fred was a giver, someone who never questioned the idea that he should help

and guide others. He was a gentle man, a gentleman, a lover of music and performance (I'm sure the Glasshouse people will talk on that subject), a keen cyclist, a prolific blood donor and a member of National Seniors PMQ for over 25 years.

Fred was known to the staff of every optometrist from Port Macquarie to Laurieton because he ran our club's Lions Recycle for Sight program which is an international programme that sends our used eyeglasses to people in nations across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. They are cleaned, graded and free to all who need them. In one year alone, Fred packaged up over 197 kilos of glasses (without cases) and travelled over 1300 kilometres to collect them. I know he was not expecting to leave us as his son David gave me a packaged and addressed box of glasses, ready to go to the post office for our recycling centre in Brisbane. It's a measure of the man that at the moment, it is taking five or six of us to do the work of one man.

Valé , Lion Fred Hynes.



Forster Tuncurry Lions Club

Lions Peter Shaw and John Hahn OAM recently received an ALF 50 Year Medallion in recognition of their long period of membership and service. Lion Peter Shaw, a Bank Manager, joined the Leeton Lions Club in October, 1975, and subsequently transferred to the Casino and Narrabri Lions clubs before becoming a member of this club in October 1985.

Lion John Hahn OAM, an Industrial Arts teacher, transferred from the former Wollongong Heights Lions Club to Forster Tuncurry Lions Club in January, 1976..

Both have been very active Lions and have received a Melvin Jones Fellow. They were both made Life Members in June this year.

The Forster Tuncurry Lions Club also reached the 50 year milestone on 23rd May this year. This was celebrated in conjunction with the 65th Annual Changeover in June.



Lion Peter Shaw



DGE Joe Pope presents John Hahn with a 50 Year Medallion



Life Members Peter and John with President Peter Sloan and MP Tanya Thompson



Life Members Peter and John

Urunga Lions Club

Urunga Lions Clubs recently celebrated the installation of the board for 2026-2027. During the evening they celebrated the successes of the past year and it was a great night with Lions visiting from Bellingen & Bonville-Sawtell Lions Clubs.

Three new members were also inducted by DGE Joe Pope.

The highlight of the night was the presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Peter Brotherton for over 30 years of service to his community and Lions.



New members Margaret Newby, Selwyn Newby and Lois Milham

Right: A very happy and proud Lions Peter Brotherton with his Melvin Jones award



Louise Evans and her team being sworn in by DGE Joe.



A proud sponsor Jo Brotherton with new members Lois and Marg. Jo was also very proud of Peter receiving his award.



It is time to start thinking about your order for Lions Christmas Cakes & Puddings!

Orders for this season open 1st July with **new order forms**. Go to **LIONS AUSTRALIA** via lionsclubs.org.au find the “get involved” dropdown box and Click **Fundraising**. Bottom of page “club cake orders form & poster”. **Download**. You will be asked to **verify** with the password which is **westons2020**.

It is important that you fill in **every box** and check carefully for correctness.



Gluten Free Christmas Cakes will be available this year. AND To ensure all orders can be filled, there will be an early gluten free bake followed by an additional bake in August as needed. Clubs are advised to order all that is wanted early and in the first place. If the demand exceeds what is available from the first bake, clubs might not get their full order in the first delivery. Every effort will be made to complete the full order via the August bake and subsequent delivery. This is a first-time full plan to meet an unknown need. Please be patient and considerate!

You should note that Gluten Free Christmas Cakes have a “Best Before Date” of **one year!**



Payment on your order and discounts.

- Once the club approves a Christmas Cake order and it is recorded in club meeting minutes there is no need for a second motion and minute to approve payment.
- Upon the arrival of a delivery that is then check as correct by the nominated cake chair or other club member the Lion Treasurer is advised and payment can be made.
- **To receive the discount for orders** place from **01/07/2026 to 31/12/2026** payment needs to be made before **31/1/2027**. The **discount period is from**

1/07/26 to 31/10/26 only, and applies only if **delivery and payment** are completed within the time frame.

- Outside the time frame no discount applies.
- **For orders** placed from **01/01/2027 to 30/06/2027** payment should be upon invoice ASAP.
- For every order paid on time the District receives a royalty that helps with projects and it can reduce members District fees, **and everyone appreciates that!**



Something wrong when delivered?

If there is damage or other problem, keep the item safe and as it arrived, this includes the packaging, the product, cake, pudding. Do not throw it out. Take a photograph of the problem and include a “bar code” photo from a cake. **Immediately** call Brian (0412034245). If he does not answer call Nora (0488222771).

From our Lions Shop you may like to consider some additional items and see how they add to club funds?

Christmas Cake Gift Bag – **Red** or **Green** @ \$3 **Christmas Cake Pin @ \$2**

To promote your sales location may be a Christmas Cake Banner @ \$100

Your reps - Christmas Cake Chairs: -

Nora Brooks - NSW/ACT

nora.brooks@lions201n1.au

Or

norabrooks2010@gmail.com

Ph: 0488222771

Brian Grieve - N1

brian.grieve@lions201n1.au

Ph: 0412034245



lions district
201N1

ABN 80 872 875 948

www.lions201n1.au

PEACE POSTER

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
M: 0417 843 527
Email: heather.battle@lions201n1.au



- District Judging will be at the District Convention in Taree
16 October 2026
- Posters will be on display at Convention

THEME

“Harmony in Humanity”

What Judges are looking for is:

“When we treat each other with respect and kindness, peace can flourish. Young people are invited 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.”

The required rules are included in the Peace Poste kit.

New for 2026-2027 in Australia the required size is A2

The A2 size is 420mm x 594mm or 42.0cm x 59.4cm

Joe Pope – District Governor 2026-27

Take that extra step to serve