



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

July-Aug 2026 Edition

Directory

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

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Mobile 0434 020 537
Joe.pope@lions202n1.au

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Lorraine.hemsworth@lions201n1.au

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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Bonville Sawtell Lions Club
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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**

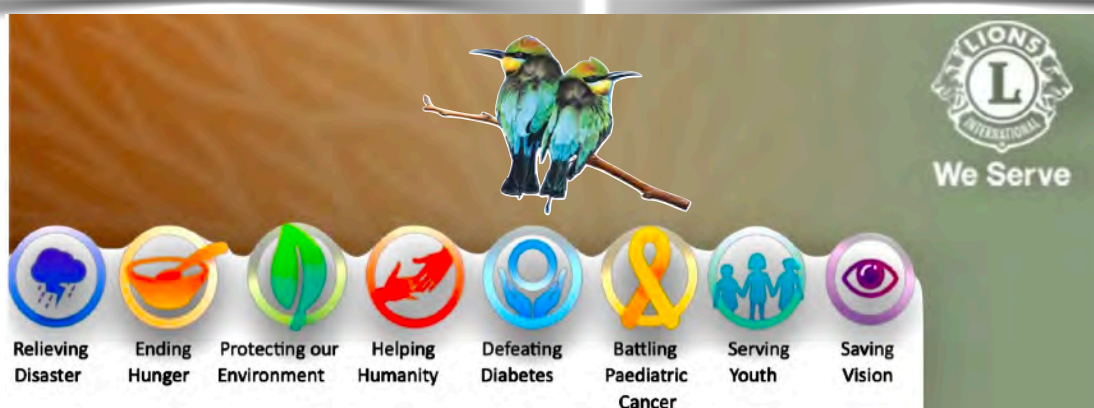
Constitution & By-Laws (CBL) Chairman:
Peter Mercer

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		Completed
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





Governor Happenings

Two months have gone so fast! I have officiated at change overs, done inductions and have been warmly welcomed as District Governor at all the clubs I've visited.

I've been to Sydney and experienced a truly inspiring group of dedicated people who manage NSW& ACT Sight & Health meetings. Attended a District Governors Council Meeting – a great group of people who are fun to catch up with.

I attended the funeral and read the eulogy for Lion Bob Percival of Narrabri Lions from the 201N1 District.

Online I have been on zoom meetings with Leos, GET Team and District Governors. I've visited Glenn Innes Highlanders, Inverell, Inverell Macintyre, Warialda and Bundarra clubs, took a left turn and visited Ashford. Then the following week Tamworth and Tamworth Peel Valley. The month is not over with more visits up over the mountain for me. I have found all clubs friendly and doing great things within their communities.

Preparation for the convention in Taree is progressing well. I hope that you will all take the opportunity to visit Taree and enjoy what the convention will hold.

One of the new opportunities we have in the district is a workshop for developing new clubs, it will be held in Coffs Harbour at the beginning of October. An opportunity to learn how to recruit new members and inspire people to grow our future.

Please don't hesitate to ring me or send an email, if I don't know the answer to your enquiry I will do my utmost to find the necessary answer.

Each club in the district is unique and important to their community, please don't forget to take that extra step to serve but remember to enjoy yourselves and don't burn yourselves out.

Cheers Joe Pope DG



Members of Tamworth receiving their Chevrons



District Governor Joe Pope met up with N1 directors of Lions NSW/ACT Sight & Health Foundation - Sharon Bishop, Jo Brotherton and Bob Gnezdiloff of N4

Upcoming

Lions

Conventions



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.

**75th MD 201
Convention
2027
Perth
Australia**



7th - 10th May 2027



Washington DC

July 2-6, 2027

109TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Zone 6 Lions Clubs Lions Club of Taree

Invitation to the N1 District Convention 2026

Welcome to Taree

On behalf of District Governor Joe Pope and Lion Louise you are warmly invited to attend the N1 District Convention 2026, to be held from 16-18 October 2026 at Club Taree.

Join fellow members for a memorable weekend of friendship, fellowship, reflection, and celebration as we come together in the beautiful Manning Valley.

Registrations

Registration is available online or by completing a hard copy registration form. We encourage you to register early to assist with planning and catering.

Accommodation

Taree offers a wide range of comfortable accommodation, including numerous motels and other lodging options to suit a variety of budgets and preferences. We recommend booking your accommodation early, as October is a popular time to visit the region.

Sue and Ray have checked and the cheapest options is to go onto Trivago and Booking.com.

Convention Program

Friday, 16 October 2026

Club Taree - Meet and Greet - order meals by 6.00pm. You will be given a buzzer and dine in the Auditorium.

The Convention begins with a warm welcome, followed by our **Remembrance Ceremony**, where we will honour and remember those who have gone before us.

Saturday, 17 October 2026

Our full day of activities includes the morning Business Session and a program of afternoon Guest Speakers, providing valuable information, inspiration, and opportunities to share ideas.

Partners' Outing Invitation - Morning Tea

While delegates are attending the Business Session on Saturday, 17 October 2026, partners and guests are warmly invited to join us some of the Manning Valley's local treasures.

Our bus outing will depart from Club Taree at 9.30 am. Cost: \$10.00 per person, which includes morning tea and transport.

Enjoy morning tea at Hand Made on the Manning, where you can relax with refreshments while browsing an inspiring collection of handcrafted gifts, local artwork, and unique creations by talented regional artisans.

We will then visit the Cundletown Museum, where you can discover the rich history of the Manning Valley through fascinating exhibits, photographs, memorabilia, and stories of the region's past.

This outing provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good company, make new friends, and experience some of the charm and heritage of the local area.

On Saturday evening, step back in time and celebrate the spirit of "Celebrating 100 Years of 1926" at our Convention Dinner. We encourage everyone to come dressed in their 1926-inspired outfits as we commemorate the era with an evening of fun, fellowship, and entertainment.

Sunday, 18 October 2026

Before heading home, join us for a relaxed Farewell Breakfast, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the weekend, catch up with friends, and say goodbye until we meet again.

We look forward to welcoming you to Club Taree for what promises to be an enjoyable and memorable N1 District Convention 2026.

See you in Taree from 16-18 October 2026!

Ray Barrie, Convention Chair

E: ray.barrie@lions201n1.au | 0408 654 128





Lions International
201N1 District Convention
16-18 October 2026

Convention Registration Form

Post to: Convention 2026 PO Box 55, TAREE NSW 2430

Or email to: taree@lions201n1.au



Complete form

Name and Address

Office Use Only

Date	

Home Phone	
Mobile	

Email Address	
---------------	--

Complete a form for each Attendee

Name	
Dietary Needs	
Allergies	
Club	

Tick as appropriate

Lion	
Leo	
First Convention	
Guest	
Key Member	
Partner	

Event Attendance

Fri Meet and Greet Own Cost			
Sat Breakfast Own Cost			
Partners Outing - Morning Tea	@ \$10.00		
Sat Morning Tea	@ \$10.00		
Sat Lunch	@ \$15.50		
Sat DG Dinner	@ \$48.00		
Sun Big Breakfast	@ \$20.00		
Raffle Tickets per 3 tickets	@ \$5.00		
Per 7 Tickets	@ \$10.00		
Convention Badge	@ \$5.00		

Payment: Preferred Payment is by Direct Deposit to:

Account Name: Lions Clubs of Taree Inc **BSB:** 032 587 **Account:** 483414

Include your **surname and initials as a reference.**

Please also email payment advice to: taree@lions201n1.au

Subject: Convention 2026 Payment

Payment **MUST** be received into the **Convention 2026** Westpac bank Account for your registration booking to be valid.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received prior to 2 October 2026, 14 days before the Convention 100% refunded.

Cancellations received after 2 October 2026 cannot be refunded.

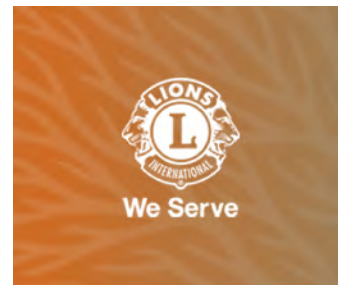
Cancellations can be received by email to the taree@lions201n1.au email address.

It is compulsory to wear the Registration Lanyards at all Convention events and booked meals.

First Cabinet Meeting



Armidale hosted the first cabinet meeting for DG Joe Pope. Mal Peters took over Jeff Mott's role and gave out the Licence to Drive to Joe and a P plate to Stuart. There was a good role up of Cabinet Members who enjoyed the beautiful Armidale weather and meeting venue at the Armidale Bowling Club.



DG visits Dorrigo Plateau Lions Club



DG Joe Pope attended Dorrigo Plateau Lions Club to install the new board. From Left Secretary Bruce Parfett, Treasurer Loren Schwartz, Dg Joe Pope and a happy President Alan Jarrett

Tacking Point Lions Lend a Hand to Make a Difference

Members of the Lions Club of Tacking Point have accepted an invitation to help staff the Port United Soccer canteens at Tuffins Lane, a Saturday commitment that Make a Difference PMQ (MAD) runs for three months each year as a revenue source. The offer of assistance followed an address to the Club by MAD founders Erin and Rob Denham, who set out the growth of the charity they established ten years ago to support disadvantaged and marginalised people across the Mid North Coast.

From modest beginnings with four committee members and twenty volunteers, MAD now draws on nine committee members and more than 300 volunteers, around 150 of whom are active, along with two paid staff engaged this year. The charity runs eight shifts each week and feeds more than 150 people locally. Its 2025 figures record more than 7,000 adults and close to 1,000 children fed across the region.

At the heart of MAD is a deliberate philosophy of dignity. The charity is non-judgemental, keeps no client records, and regards connection, conversation and the restoration of self-worth as being every bit as important as the meals it provides. A short video featuring Dale, one of the charity's long-term friends, brought this home to members.

Erin outlined the assets the charity has built. These include the Orange Sky laundry van, for which the community raised \$110,000 within nine months; the mobile food van; a food trailer used at events; a commercial coffee van purchased in 2025 as a revenue stream; and a relocatable two-

bay shed built in 2024 at a cost of \$90,000 on NSW Land and Housing land off Granite Street, shared discreetly and at no lease cost with the YP Space youth refuge.

MAD has also stepped forward during natural disasters, providing emergency assistance during the Willawarrin blackout and the floods of 2022 and 2025. On the latter occasion, the charity partnered with Council, the NSW Government and St Agnes Parish to refurbish flood-damaged cabins at North Haven for some 400 displaced residents, redirecting \$70,000 originally earmarked for its shed project.

The Lions Club of Tacking Point looks forward to supporting MAD in the season ahead, beginning with a willing pair of hands at the Tuffins Lane canteens.



Maclean Lions Club

There's something rather special about seeing a little community project being genuinely loved and used. Our free book library opposite Gulmarrad Primary School has become just that — a place where books are shared, children discover new stories and families can enjoy a quiet moment together.



After many years of faithful service, Maclean Lions decided our original little library was ready for retirement. We thought the community deserved something bigger and better, with plenty more room for children's books!

The new library has now been built and installed, and it gives our Lions members a real warm and fuzzy feeling whenever we drive past and see how much it is being used. We've even spotted people sitting on the nearby red bench, enjoying a quiet read while waiting to pick up their children from school.

It's wonderful to see books being shared, enjoyed, and given a new life — and perhaps a few parents getting a peaceful five minutes while the kids choose their next book!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the Men's Shed for making and installing our wonderful new library. We truly appreciate the time, skill and effort that went into creating something that will be enjoyed by the community for years to come.

The success of the Gulmarrad library has inspired Maclean Lions to pass a motion to build and install more free libraries in the future, wherever suitable sites can be identified.

Who knows... this little bookcase may just be the first chapter of something much bigger!

Tracy Smith
Maclean Lions Treasurer



LIONS NURSES
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION



Lions Club of Tacking Point

Rise and Shine Café opens at Westport Campus

WESTPORT Campus of Port Macquarie Secondary College officially opened its Rise and Shine Café on Wednesday 29 July.

It takes a village to raise a child, and this project, supported by the State and Federal governments, as well as individuals and organisations in the local community, aims to make sure that students have a place to start the day with nutritious food and a genuine sense of connection and belonging.

In September 2025, the Lions Club of Tacking Point secured a NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant of \$21,460. Those funds were later applied to the total cost of the finished project.

Max Carrick, Tacking Point Lions President, said, "From the beginning, we could not stand by and see our young people starting their school days hungry.

"For us it has always been about the kids, and this café makes it all worthwhile.

"We have been involved since early 2024, and we have seen this group of an underfunded College grow from teachers and support staff to what we see today."

Relieving Principal Kristen Miller said, "This will make a massive difference to the kids' ability to learn once they have a decent breakfast.

"This gives them the opportunity to grab breakfast, settle down and be able to get on with the day."

The Lion Club has contributed to the food costs at both Hastings Secondary College breakfast clubs, while Westport Campus' P & C has also contributed \$5000.

Steven Mansfield and Susan Harris from the P&C said, "It means the world to us that this can be sustained.

"Kids are welcomed by friendly faces and have support as soon as they arrive on campus and can have food in their bellies."



A happy Lions President Max Carrick, Bathi Malik, Kristen Miller, Pat Conahan MP and Rob Dwyer MP



Yamba Lions Club

Lions Caring for Community

Lions attended an official handover of patient care chairs for the Emergency Department of Maclean Hospital.

Yamba Lions Club make many donations to the community throughout the year and Maclean Hospital Auxiliary was the recipient of one of our donations. President Peter recognised this donation as something that the whole community can benefit from. He said “We are always happy we can meet the needs of our own hospital through the Auxiliary.”

Deyann McDonnell
Vice President,
Yamba Lions Club



Vice District Governor Stuart Ritchie attended the handover with Vice President Deyann McDonnell and Membership Chairman David Kelvin.

1st VP Stuart Ritchie visits Urunga Lions Club

Stuart giving Lion Rex Brockbank an award and President Louise giving a thank you present for visiting Urunga Lions.



Kootingal Lions club

A new year has begun in our Lions calendar. Kootingal Lions have just celebrated our incoming executives in best of fashion, with considerable humour bought to us by unique presentation of the event by Michelle Brown. Michelle took us all on a bus trip with all of us assigned tasks on the trip eerily similar to our Lions roles! Our continuing president Craig and wife Pen welcomed us to a BBQ lunch at their lovely home. The July weather cooperated to make a lovely day of it all.

President Craig was presented with some **more** BBQ tools and given the heads up that our BBQ store was not shutting down! There was a rumour that he was a good customer of theirs. President Craig and the men folk of the Kootingal Lions Club, have been busy this past year procuring a BBQ trailer and refitting it to our needs. It now sports a solar panel on the roof with battery, USB ports and two fridges and well as the BBQ, excellent lights, and fold-out tables. They have all done a great job! It has seen a few outings, and we have many more planned.

A NEW PROJECT In the past few days, we have begun what will be our new signature service project. It will be a Green Canopy project named the Kootingal Parklands Project. A short history for you. A lot of new housing developments have been built around Kootingal in what was farmlands. These have little regard for green space, trees or other items to enhance community living. On the downhill side of these developments, is a storm water catchment, adjacent to an intermittent creek with a scattering of mature trees.

Our project will involve working with land care, community groups, and individuals as well as the Tamworth Regional Council to plant this extensive area with trees and understory. We have met with a council representative on site and walked over the area. Possibility of bike paths and picnic areas are in the mix too.

It is quite possible that no trees will not be planted for some months yet, in the interim, we will build interest in our local area through Facebook pages and through our interaction with the public at our Art Show etc. The council have agreed to help us with the planting itself and tree stock, we will provide interface to the community and some more labour -not to mention using the a fore said BBQ trailer, to feed the assembled gatherings.

THE TIME IT TOOK! It may help other Lions to know it's just taken almost two years to reach this stage. This is because of changes of people within the council and the feeling that none of the letters and efforts to get in touch with them counted. It was certainly a great feeling to know that we have got it off the ground at last, even though we may not see trees for a while yet.



Kootingal Art Show

11th - 13th Sept 2026

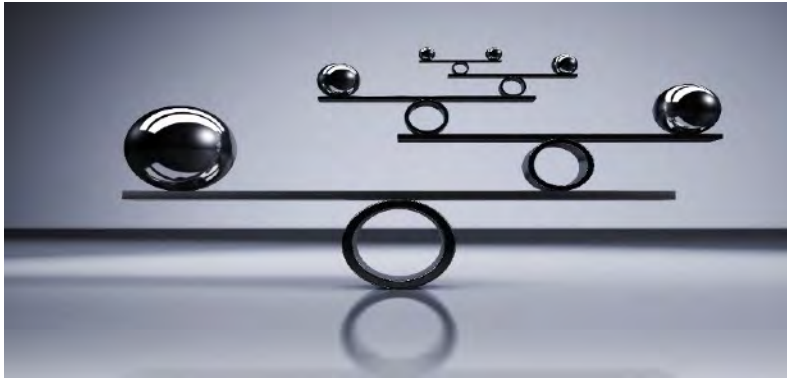
Logos at the bottom: TRANSWEST FUELS, JOBLINKplus, Northern Inland, PURSEHOUSE RURAL.

the **KOOTY ART SHOW** in its 10th year. As I type the show is being put up and is looking really good. We have a lot more entries and also some great help from some community volunteers.

We have asked the help of AI with the advertising for this show, this has proven wonderful! may I suggest you give it a try.

Of course we have been busy with Bunnings BBQ 's which are a good way of meeting people.

We have not done any other school eye testing but hope the art show gives us more time to spread the word about eye testing to more small schools in our area who support our art show each year.



Balance in all things

Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation <https://alwf.org.au/>

The Foundation's mission is to develop, promote and educate the community through health and wellbeing initiatives to create happier, healthier and safer communities.

For over 30 years we had been known as the Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation, but in 2021 in order to reflect the diverse topics areas we now covered to help build happy, healthy resilient communities, our name was changed **to Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation.**

We are working to create a happier, healthier and safer community.

I would strongly recommend all clubs to appoint at least one member of their club who's job it is to go through each Lions club website . There is a wealth of information in each of them. They are all good. Maybe one club member per web page.

In this website of the Lions Wellness, you will find all manner of aids to address community and club issues for individuals and communities. L

Look at the short you tube flicks of "Tune in not out." Or as its called TITO ,best suited to youth issues. Then there are the aspects more suited to your club called" Roar for wellbeing." Check it out.

You could base a weekly radio interview around this! Not to mention become better informed yourself

Bellingen Lions Club



On Wednesday 22/7/2026, Bellingen Lions cooked 300 BBQ Sausages for Naidoc Week at Bellingen Public School for lunch.

Kangaroo Patties were also cooked for students to try.

Bellingen public School proudly awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the Lions Club of Bellingen as a Thank You for our support.



Debbie Sense and John Molloy have a big job to do.



Above John Molloy and a happy President Peter Kemp



Maclean Lions

The Maclean Lions Club would like to say a huge thank you to our incredible volunteers and the wonderful Clarence Valley community for making another outstanding year possible.

Over the past 12 months, the club has proudly donated more than \$51,000 to charities, community organisations and local projects across the Clarence Valley. Every donation has been made possible through the hard work of our dedicated volunteers at the Maclean Lions Return and Earn depot, the ongoing support of our loyal customers who recycle with us, and proceeds from our weekly meat raffle.

A small sample of the organisations and projects we have supported includes Ashby RFS, BlazeAid, Cane growers Office, Cane Harvest Festival, Deaf Camp, Farm Angels, Gulmarrad Library and community sign, Harwood ANZAC Breakfast, Maclean Hospital Auxiliary, local sports students, Maclean Football Club, Maclean Men's Shed, Maclean Museum, Orchid Society, Taree Flood Appeal, Maclean Pipe Band, Lions Recycle for Sight, Lions Save Sight, the RSL, Salvation Army, Scottish Dancers, Story Dogs, Team Aiden, Wesley Group, Our House, Dragon Boats, Yamba Yacht Club, numerous local schools and a range of food relief organisations.

Beyond fundraising, Maclean Lions continues to care for many important

community assets, including maintaining the Maclean Town Clock, the public-access defibrillator in Maclean, the Cowper Bus Crash Memorial Site and the Maclean Lookout. We also work closely with the Maclean District Business Chamber to support a variety of community events throughout the year.

Looking ahead, we are excited to relaunch our Lions Eye Health Program, which will provide free vision screening for local school students. This important initiative aims to detect vision problems early, giving children the best opportunity to succeed both at school and in everyday life.

Every container returned through our Return and Earn depot helps create a cleaner environment while providing funds that are reinvested directly back into our community. Together, we are building a cleaner, stronger and more caring Clarence Valley.

Together, we can continue making a real difference in our community.

Tracy Smith
Maclean Lions
Treasurer





The busy first half of 2026 has continued into the second half of the year, with Lions Assistance Dogs planning to attend multiple District Conventions across Australia.

As District Convention season approaches, our team is looking forward to attending several conventions where we can share the impact of our programs, reconnect with familiar faces and introduce Lions Assistance Dogs to members who may be learning about our organisation for the first time. This year, we will be attending the **Q1 Convention** (6–8 November) at the Logan Entertainment Centre, the **C2 Convention** (23–25 October) at The Civic & Arts Theatre, the **V5 Convention** (16–18 October) at the Dorset Gardens Hotel, and the **V2 Convention** (6–8 November) at Norlane ARC.

In addition to attending these events, we will be working with Lions Assistance Dogs District Chairpersons to coordinate speaking opportunities throughout the conventions. We are also exploring online information sessions with our team, providing another opportunity for Lions members to learn more about our organisation, our programs and the life-changing difference Assistance Dogs make every day.

Following our rebrand to Lions Assistance Dogs mid last year, we still have a limited range of merchandise featuring our previous logo and branding available at heavily discounted prices. If you've been thinking about picking up a keepsake, now is the perfect opportunity before these items are gone. Visit our online shop to browse the remaining range: <https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/shop/>

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of Lions Assistance Dogs. If you have any questions about our organisation or would like to learn more about our involvement at your District Convention, please visit our website or contact our Development Team at development@lionsassistedogs.com.au.

Lions Club of Belling

August 8th 2026. The Lions Club of Belling presented another spectacular evening of fireworks at Belling Showground.

Bigger and better than last year with a massive crowd. Everyone was on their toes throughout the evening serving food, drink and selling raffle tickets. We could not have put this together without the help of Lions from Bonville-Sawtell, Urunga, Valla, Macksville, Lionsonoz, local Volunteers, Scouts & local businesses.

Thank You Lions Club of Belling for supporting another magnificent community event. All profits go toward the Belling & District Hospital.



Above, Narelle Peters, Lorraine & Brian Hemsworth



Nora Brooks and Spot

Right: Emily, Debbie Sense and Nora



Right:
Emily Struik,
Jo Brotherton
and a happy
President
Peter Kemp



Above: Mal Peters & John Sowter ready to serve



Bellingham Fireworks cont:



A small part of the crowd



John Molloy & Warren Sydenham



Calling out the raffles



Ticket sellers Sharon Sydenham, Sebastian Corridore and Dave Campbell



Lions busy all shift serving food

Lions Clubs Service reporting 20/27

Another new year

Do you have a new secretary or service chairperson or administrator for your club?

Do they know how to report service?



The steps to reporting

1. 1 make sure the person responsible for reporting service has access to the portal
2. Go into the 2nd square labeled My Club
3. Click on service-
4. Go to "create service activity" in blue rectangle on right hand side.
5. Select your club click NEXT
6. Put the name of your service activity into the line provided
7. Select from the drop down menu something close to what you may be doing (not much selection here) press NEXT
8. Now follow all the prompts along the system. It will then go to the bottom and click. It will tell you if you are missing something.
9. Click the REPORT COMPLETE button on the top line
10. Click SAVE on at the bottom of the page
11. Go to top right and click REPORT TO LCI
12. A green flash will come up saying SUCCESS! And your report will be done.
13. HOWEVER! If nothing works for you then ring me and I will help you, one way or another.
14. Put your first entry in as soon as you can so you have the process underway.

Start making little videos of your activities, keep photos and a history of your activity so you can enter in the kindness matters and Top club awards that will ask for these sorts of proof of your activity.

Regards Lee Rodger

Lions Club of Old Bar

Old Bar Lions recently celebrated 50 years of service to the Old Bar Community and being a member club of Lions Australia District 201N1- Zone 6 and Lions International.

A special function was held at Club Old Bar who have been great supporters of the club since being chartered in 1976.

One of our Charter Members, John Pryor, was the only founding member who could make it on the night, and he really enjoyed the celebration reliving past projects and memories of the members he was involved with.

The night also incorporated the 2026-27 Changeover of the Board Members.



John Pryor- Charter Member



All the members of Old Bar Lions Club plus one helper



Donated raffle prizes from Local Businesses



Left: Special Edition Cooler & Book



Old Bar Lions Charter Banner



The Big Lift at Werris Creek

The Werris Creek Lions Club successfully applied for funding through Tamworth Regional Landcare Associations 2026 Small Grants Funding for their project to repair and replant a section of Werris Creek on Silo Road, purchasing 600 plants from TRLA Nursery.

This would have been a big project for the Werris Creek Lions. But there was a secret weapon – the University of Technology Sydney volunteer student organisation – “The Big Lift”. This brought 40 students to Werris Creek as part of their annual weeklong winter program to support regional communities.

The “Big Lift” organisation commenced in 2010 based on a “pay it forward” philosophy, connecting the students with regional communities through acts of service, storytelling and shared experience.

Prior to the planting day, a Creekside meeting was held with Liverpool Plains Shire Weeds Officer, the Local Landcare Coordinator, Werris Creek Lions President, Mark Mork and Secretary/Treasurer, Maritta Heiler. As a result, an eroded and unstable section of the bank was “sculpted” by a local earthworks contractor, and noxious

weeds were sprayed and removed.

The planting day started early, with a bus load of students given a detailed briefing from Maritta and Mark, and divided into teams to plant. All done in about 4 hours, with a creek bank celebration dance of “Nut Bush City Limits” – quite a sight!



A visit to the Australian Railway Monument was followed by lunch at the Werris Creek Golf Club, and a visit to meet a local echidna. The Lions presentation of “thank you” bags ended a very enjoyable and productive day.



Who is Lion Sheryl Keppler?

Proud Lion | Diabetes Awareness Advocate | Adventurer

Lion Sheryl Keppler is a proud member of Lions. Sheryl has always placed community service at the centre of her life. From her years as a Guide and Scout Leader to her extensive involvement with Lions, helping others has been a constant and defining theme. Inspired by the opportunities Lions provided for her children, including participation in a Scout Jamboree and the Lions Yamaga Sister City Exchange Program, Sheryl officially joined the Cooma Lions Club in 2014. Following the loss of her husband, she embraced a new chapter by selling her home and travelling Australia in a caravan. Missing the camaraderie and purpose that Lions provided, she transferred to the Australian Online and Travellers Lions Club in 2019. Living a truly unique lifestyle, Sheryl resides in Tasmania, works in Emerald, Central Queensland, and belongs to a Lions club based in New South Wales. Her travels regularly take her across Australia and around the world, where she enjoys visiting local Lions clubs and building friendships through service.

Sheryl's passions for Lions, travel, and hiking have combined to create some extraordinary experiences.

In 2023, she joined the Lions Kili4Kids Project, climbing Mt Kenya and helping raise funds to build a safe haven for children with albinism in Tanzania. She returned to the project in 2025, trekking to Mt Everest Base Camp to support the construction of a school in Nepal.

To celebrate her 50th birthday in July 2025, Sheryl completed an incredible 366-kilometre solo hike along South Australia's Heysen Trail while raising funds for Lions Diabetes Alert Dogs. During the same year, she walked an astonishing 1,100 kilometres as part of the Lions Lap the Map initiative and now serves as the Diabetes Chairperson for District N1. A passionate advocate for diabetes awareness, Sheryl's interest in the cause stems from seeing friends and family affected by both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Recognising that her own love of good food

and fellowship could increase her risk of Type 2 diabetes, she became committed to promoting healthy, active lifestyles. She encourages Lions members to lead by example within their communities by staying active and making physical activity a regular part of everyday life. Sheryl is also a strong supporter of the Lions Diabetes Alert Dog Program. She believes the program provides young people living with diabetes greater independence, confidence, and opportunities to enjoy life while reducing the daily burden often carried by their families.

As a founding member of the International Lions Adventure Challenge Team, Sheryl continues to combine adventure with service. In 2025, she

completed the United Kingdom's Three Peaks Challenge in support of Special Olympics. Her love of hiking has also taken her across trails in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Scotland.

Last Year's Heysen Trek in July covered 366km of terrain, through the beautiful Adelaide Hills and down to Cape Jervis, with all but 11km done solo over 17 days. She trekked through some harsh weather conditions, even encountering heavy rain, hail and snow.

Sheryl will begin her Lap the Map adventures for 2026 by once again tackling some of SA's 1200km Heysen Trail, this time from Tanunda to Spalding.





lions district
201N1 ABN 80 872 875 948

www.lions201n1.au



Lion Lenise Walker
District Co-Ordinator N1
lenise11@bigpond.com
0429 680 403

10 August 2026

YOTY Info for Clubs

Hello fellow Lions

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

It is YOTY time again, let's make this a fabulous year for this wonderful activity.

11 clubs took part in this program last year; it would be fantastic if we could double that in our N1 district. This is an awesome youth program, let's get behind it and be the best district.

Getting Started – August 2026-2027, I am here to help you, please don't hesitate to ask. Please contact me to obtain the password for the protected documents.

Discuss the competition at a Club meeting. Cost of entry is \$130 per club.

Outline costs, tasks and responsibilities of a sponsoring Club. Obtain approval and a strong commitment because several Lions will need to be involved. **Note: All costs associated with running this event come from the Activities Account.**

Appoint a Club Chairperson to take on the role of organising the competition at the Club level and to liaise with the District Chairperson and all directly involved club members **MUST** have a **WWCC**.

Finals to be completed by:

Club: 21 February 2027, Area: 7 March 2027, District: 21 March, State: 10 April 2027. National 10 May in Perth. It is important to inform students of their possible ongoing commitment if they win the Club Final.

Approach all local secondary schools to obtain contestants. If this is a new School to the competition, then it is essential to arrange a face-to-face interview with the Principal and Year Level Coordinators to explain what is involved. Remember that the eligibility age is 'at least 15 and under 19 years on 30 June in the Lions year of the National final, so don't limit your contact to Yrs 11 or 12. Provide the YOTY website details so students and teachers can become fully aware of the program requirements. Be well prepared and have a clear idea of your task. Have a date in mind for the Club Final.

Yours in Lions
Lion Lenise Walker



Joe Pope – District Governor 2026-27

Take that extra step to serve

Coffs Harbour Lions Club

1st VP Stuart Ritchie visited the Coffs Harbour Lions Club and had a busy night giving out awards to some of the hard working members of the club.

LEXIE CLARK (President) MELVIN JONES AWARDS

Award for the Leadership of the club since it was reformed and setting the club on its own path.

Identified the community was lacking a dedicated Women's Shed not only as a means of teaching new skills but support for Women in general.

Acting on her beliefs and commencing a long and arduous process in the formation of the Coffs Harbour Women's Shed. Leading the committee, discussions with Council and State politicians and many other players to be able to progress the Women's Shed to the status it is today.

Finding ways to overcome the difficulties in general for the good of the club.



ROSEMARY HANSEN (Secretary) MELVIN JONES AWARDS

Goes the extra mile for her work as Secretary

A member of the Women's Shed committee since inception and strong backup for Lexie.

Cooking meals weekly for Pete's Place and engaging with the Neighbourhood

Involved in so many catering projects and in particular the Breakfast the club put on for Victorian Scouts return home from the Queensland Scout Jamboree and giving up nearly every room in her house to prepare and store the food.

Proactive on behalf of the Club and seeking guest speakers for our Social Meetings and of course lots more.



CHRIS HANSEN (1st Vice President) James D Richardson Award

They say that behind every man is a good woman but in this case behind Rosemary there is a good man.

Always with Rosemary giving her the support she needs and deserves.



Coffs Harbour Lions Continued

MARGARET PRESSER (Treasurer) James D Richardson Award

For dedication to ensuring the clubs finances are kept 100% the good ole fashioned way. No Excel spreadsheets for Margaret, everything hand written neatly and methodically.

Liaising with Bunnings and other parties for our major regular fundraising projects.

Her involvement with Uniting Church and other groups in the community.

Single handedly ran the Lions Mints programme for many years.

Liaising with all the Community Venues, collecting the money and always visibly promoting Lions



KERRIE WILSON (Quartermaster) James D Richardson Award

Quartermaster/Catering Officer for some years.

Recognised the need to step up and assist the organising of Rosters and running of the club BBQs.



Bundarra Lions Club



Bundarra Farewell presentation for Lion Peter Hall of 32 years standing - Thank you for your service.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA | +1.630.571.5466 |

To: Lions Club Presidents

28th August 2026

Subject: Nepal Flooding – An Urgent Call for Lions Support

Dear Lions Club President,

The people of Nepal are facing a devastating situation following severe flooding that has caused widespread damage to communities, homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. In response to this disaster, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has already provided a US\$200,000 grant to support immediate relief efforts and assist those most seriously affected.

This significant contribution demonstrates the power of Lions working together when communities are in need. However, there is much more to be done. As the immediate emergency response continues, affected communities will require ongoing assistance with food, clean water, shelter, medical support and essential supplies. Beyond the initial relief phase, there will also be a substantial need for rebuilding homes, restoring community facilities and helping families regain their livelihoods.

This is an opportunity for Lions Clubs throughout our region to demonstrate the true meaning of **"We Serve."**

I encourage every Lions Club to consider how it can support the people of Nepal through LCIF. Donations, regardless of size, can contribute to the continued relief and recovery effort and help LCIF extend its support well beyond the initial emergency response. By giving through LCIF, we can combine the strength of Lions Clubs around the world and make a meaningful difference where it is needed most.

Nepal needs Lions now – and it will need Lions for the recovery ahead.

I ask you to share this message with your members and encourage your Club to consider making a contribution to the Nepal flood relief effort through LCIF. Donations can be made to the Disaster Relief Fund or the Empowering Service Fund. Donations to either fund will count towards accumulation of Melvin Jones Fellowship credits but only donations to the Empowering Service Fund qualify for District and Club Community Impact Grants.

For this appeal please do not deposit funds into the Australian Lions Fund for LCIF as those funds can only be used within Australia.

All donations should be directed through your Cabinet Treasurer.

Together, we can help communities rebuild, restore hope and demonstrate once again the extraordinary difference Lions can make when we stand together.

Thank you for your leadership, your compassion and your commitment to **We Serve.**

Yours sincerely,
PID Tim Irvine
Trustee Lions Clubs International Foundation



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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

Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club

On Thursday 3rd September members of the Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club travelled to Armidale to participate in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. Two members were nominated for Volunteer of the Year, five for Senior Volunteer of the Year and the club for Volunteer Club of the Year.

While the Glen Innes Highlands Lioness Lions Club or individual members were not winners, it highlights the esteem in which the community holds the club.

As the end of the year rapidly approaches members are busy preparing for the Year 12 Scholarships, for which over \$3000 has already been raised to assist needy youth to prepare for tertiary studies. Youth of the Year preparations are also underway.

Hellies Christmas Drive has begun with a \$2000 grant secured to help provide Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children and teens.

Participation in community events will also keep members busy with markets, Christmas in the Highlands and involvement in the annual Christmas tree competition.

Club members are looking forward to a much-earned break over the holiday season, which will begin with our Christmas Party in December.



World Sight Day - Thursday 8 October 2026

What can your Club do for Vision Week – 8-18 October 2026?



PO Box 3021, CLONTARF MDC QLD 4019

Vision 8-18 October 2026 is International Service week.

You are encouraged to have an eye checkup. Spectacles can be given to the Lions Clubs of Old Bar and Tamworth Peel Valley for recycling

OR

Reply Paid 3021, Lions Recycle for Sight



Children's Vision Screening Program

Program Overview

The **Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP)** aims to reduce the incidence and impact of vision loss in Australia by promoting regular eye examinations, raising awareness about preventable vision problems, and providing free vision screenings for children aged 3–18 years. The program emphasizes that **90% of adult vision loss is preventable** and that regular eye checks can save sight. LEHP also highlights that vision loss is **three times higher among Indigenous Australians**, underscoring the importance of targeted community outreach.

LEHP's **Children's Vision Screening Program** is a national initiative providing free screenings in childcare centres, schools, sporting clubs, and community groups. The program uses a **state-of-the-art Vision Screening Device** to detect conditions such as myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, anisometropia, strabismus, and anisocoria. Screenings assess **visual acuity, colour perception, and depth perception**, helping identify children who may need further assessment by an optometrist. Since its launch in 2018, over **50,000 children in Australia** have been screened, with more than **10,782 referred for further evaluation**.

Thank you to the N1 Clubs providing screenings and if your Club would like to participate in the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lion Brian Hemsworth
Vision/LEHP District Chair
0407 130 393



Registrations are officially open to the Lions community for Lap the Map 2026, get involved today! Scan the QR code or head to the link below.

This November, Lions Assistance Dogs is calling on Lions Clubs and members across Australia to come together and collectively **Lap the Map of Australia**, raising much-needed funds to support our Medical Assistance Dog Program. Your fundraising will help us provide life-changing Diabetic Alert Dogs to Australians living with type 1 diabetes, free of charge.

Whether you choose to walk, run, swim or get involved with your Club, every kilometre and every dollar raised will help us continue providing Assistance Dogs to people who need them.

When you sign up, if you contact us, you can receive a **digital welcome pack** filled with everything you need to get started, including posters, bunting, fundraising materials and other digital assets to help promote Lap the Map within your Club and community. There are also plenty of rewards to earn along the way! **Sign up with your dog and receive a free Lap the Map bandana**, then start fundraising to unlock even more rewards:

- **\$100 raised:** Lap the Map dog treat pouch
- **\$150 raised:** Lap the Map drink bottle
- **\$300 raised:** Lap the Map cap

With registrations now open, there is no better time to get your Club, family, friends and four-legged companions involved. **Together, we can Lap the Map and help give Australians living with type 1 diabetes greater independence, confidence and peace of mind.**

Register now at www.lapthemap.com.au

If you have any questions about Lap the Map or how your Lions Club can get involved, contact our Development Team at development@lionsassistedogs.com.au.