A New Melvin Jones Fellow!

The Lions Clubs of Zones 3 and 4 were pleased to award the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Esso and BHP on behalf of the Gippsland Basin Joint Venture, in recognition of over 43 years of funding support.

In 1974, Lion Ken Schokman sought financial assistance from Esso / BHP to provide Christmas Hampers to the needy families in Sale and District. Every year since the Lions club of Sale in conjunction with the Lions clubs of Longford, Maffra, Heyfield, Macalister Valley (Newry), Brigalow and District, Stratford, Rosedale, Loch Sport, and Wellington/Latrobe (Toongabbie) have been delivering Christmas hampers to needy families in the Sale and surrounding communities. Esso and BHP have funded the project every Christmas since its inception.

It was until 2013 a hamper bag of food. Since 2013, it has been a supermarket voucher and a Christmas cake or Pudding. This allows the recipients to choose what food they would like. On average 220 Vouchers are distributed each year by the combined Lions Clubs of zones 3 and 4.

With the support of Esso the Christmas hampers delivery has distributed over 9000 hampers to families in need in our community. This support has enabled Lions to continue to support our mission of “where this is need there is a lion” and also our motto of “We serve”.

The award was presented to Mr Richard Owen, Chairman of ExxonMobil Australia, at a morning tea on 19 October 2017. Members attended the morning tea from all the clubs of both zones. District Governor, Andrew, made the presentation.

Mr Owen made several comments in support of the project including, “We’re extremely proud of our partnership with the Lions Clubs and humbled to receive this award. For Esso, giving back to the communities where our employees live and work is vital to ensure our business is aligned with community expectations and we’re helping to support important community services”. Cr Carolyn Crossley, Mayor of Wellington Shire thanked Esso and Lions for their ongoing partnership to deliver much needed support to families at a very special time.

The project is gearing up for another busy year, and looks forward to another 43 years of serving the community.

Operation Breadbake

In 1996/1997, Trafalgar Lions instigated one of the largest projects of its kind ever undertaken by Lions Clubs in Australia. “Operation Breadbake”. At the time it was awarded as the best project in Australia and was one of 9 finalists in the Lions World Bank of Ideas contest in 1997.

We successfully obtained the donation of over 80 Tonnes of surplus bakery equipment from Sunicrust Bakeries Victoria. With help from most district V3 Lions Clubs, the equipment was overhauled, refurbished and donated to World Vision Australia who sent it on its way to Africa with the aim of providing bread for the needy. Initially destined for Eritrea, it traveled to Malawi where it languished in storage for 6 years before it was sold for $300,000 to a private family firm in Zimbabwe. The money from the sale was designated to be used by World Vision for charitable works in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The bakery was established in the town of Banket, Zimbabwe in 2005. The family successfully ran the bakery for 7 years. In 2009, the Zimbabwe economy crashed and in 2012, the bakery was mothballed; the owner has stated that when the economic situation improves he will re-open it.

There may well need to be a regime change before things get better in Zimbabwe. A country with enormous potential; poverty is rife, hunger is common; many people in poorer parts cannot afford to buy bread.

Operation Breadbake’s slogan was “Feeding the Needy”. In a country town, 100 km from Harare, sits idle, a bakery with the means to produce bread, sent there with the best of intentions by the Lions of District 201 V3.

If any member has ideas on ways that assistance could be provided to get the bakery moving again, please contact Graeme Wilson delburn1@hotmail.com

Nominations Open!

LIONS LOOK FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE WHO LENDS A HELPING HAND TO OTHERS THROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC.

SINCE 1994 THE PEEL VALLEY LIONS CLUB OF TAMWORTH has recognised a member of the Australian country music industry for voluntary service given to the community through his or her connection to the genre.

Awardees range from well-known stars, songwriters, musicians, media personalities through to couples and the tireless workers behind the scenes from country music clubs throughout the country.

PTQ

“Having Fun whilst making a difference”
Over the 24 years the award has honoured the quiet achievers who have seldom, if ever, sought recognition or superlatives for their charity and community efforts. President Amanda Gwalter announced that nominations for the 2018 award are now being accepted and anybody may nominate someone (via your local Lions Club) who they think are deserving of the recognition.

“Anyone with a country music connection who has given of their time and talent to assist charity through their music is eligible,” Amanda said.

“It may be someone who entertains members of their community, works on major country music fundraising events, or something as simple as giving their time for free to help out in caring and support programs.”

Nominees don’t have to be Lions Club members but nominations need to be made through your local Lions Club and must be made in writing to: The Secretary, Peel Valley Lions Club, PO Box 957, Tamworth, NSW, 2340 or via email to secretarypeelvalleylions@gmail.com and need to be in by December 18, 2017.

A panel will sift through the nominations and the 25th Peel Valley Lions Club Australian Country Music Service Award will be presented during the 46th Tamworth Country Music Festival in January 2018. The recipient will receive a one-off trophy crafted by respected artist Fred Hillier and will also be given the opportunity to nominate a charity to receive a $500 donation on his/her behalf from Peel Valley Lions Club.

Enquiries should be directed to Terry Hill on (02) 6765 6042, Jon Wolfe on 0478 040 167 or email terryanddihill@bigpond.com

Previous recipients include:
1994 - Bruce Moser, VIC
2017---Marcia Wells, NSW

in Townsville.
For Club and Zone finals these are the absolute cut off dates. Club finals can be held earlier, even in 2017 before exams take precedence.

Club Registrations should be sent to me along with the fee of $50 (incl. GST)
Cheques made payable to ‘LCI District 201 V3’. Please download and print the Registration form from the website or contact me and I will post one to you.

Colin F. Stevens
YOTY District Chairman
Email: colinfstevens@hotmail.com

Thanks For The Memories!
The Lions Rebels Social Club has made the decision to disband after many fun filled years together. They started in 1983 as a travel group consisting of Lions members from the V Districts, and in 1990 they were incorporated as the Lions Rebels Social Club, travelling together to many MD Conventions- Hobart, Darwin, Perth, Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra just to name a few.

At one stop in Tasmania they were surprised to see so many Rebels and other Lions members. They considered that they were only a harmless Lions group.

From then on, when booking, they had to specify that they were expecting Rebels. They owned their own coach and were offered discounts by the coach drivers for being part of the Rebels group.

The Lions Rebels Social Club has made the decision to disband after many fun filled years together.

Thanks for the memories.

To all members and former members

Masonic Hall on the Sunday after the AFL Grand Final.

A reunion is planned for next year at the Koo Wee Rup Masonic Hall on the Sunday after the AFL Grand Final.

For Club and Zone finals these are the absolute cut off dates. Club finals can be held earlier, even in 2017 before exams take precedence.

Previous recipients include:
1994 - Bruce Moser, VIC
2017---Marcia Wells, NSW

This year it would be lovely to welcome babies into the Lions family and to also record those special Wedding Anniversaries.

President Athol and Secretary Jean Worthy
Lions Rebels Social Club.

Money was raised on the coach trips from raffles and fines and donated to a chosen Lions Project. Special mention must go to Norm and the late May McPherson, who, as Travel Chairmen, did a wonderful job in organising the trips and to our coach driver, Wayne Harley, who was such a help and kept us all safe.

Good times and lasting friendships will be with us always.

A reunion is planned for next year at the Koo-Wee-Rup Masonic Hall on the Sunday after the AFL Grand Final. To all members and former members - thanks for the memories.

Lion President Athol and Secretary Jean Worthy
Lions Rebels Social Club.

Our caring thoughts and get well wishes are extended to the following members of the Lions family, whether it is they are recovering from major surgery or a minor cold. We wish you all a speedy recovery.

Also to members whose names that I have not received we wish you good health and a full recovery.

“Having Fun whilst making a difference”
Secretary’s Report

You will probably hear from our Governor and others about our V3 Convention at Sale, but I must tell you my thoughts because I had a wonderful convention and wish you could have all been there.

Sunshine and rain, fun and business, hot food and cold food, casual and dress up, youth and senior Lions, sadness and celebration. A Convention that had everything. Some wonderful moments with our Youth, the YOTY Winners and the JPS Winners giving their speeches, the Youth Forum where we heard from four young people about their thoughts as they answered our questions. Inspirational and informative presentations from our many speakers as we heard about Community Policing, the Tune in Not Out website from ALDAFF, the Brain Cancer Bike Ride, and the LEHP Children’s vision screening on Friday of convention at Stratford Primary School. And we celebrated the achievements of our District Lions with stories and recognition. From the Opening Ceremony when the Town Crier, Darren McCubbin introduced the official party to the Closing Ceremony the convention was packed. Brendon McGreal did a great job with the Flag Ceremonies. The Remembrance Ceremony for over 30 members of our Lions Family was done so very well with our Vice Governors, Peter and Neil reminding us their ‘Service was Complete’ as we celebrated their lives. I congratulate Lion Kerrie McMahon and her daughter Lion Alisha Austin for the work they did putting together the Remembrance Ceremony and the Flag Ceremonies as well as everything else they did in support of our convention. I would also like to congratulate the Stratford Convention Committee for all their efforts to ensure we had a great convention. My congratulations go to those who stood for Office at Convention. Your District Governor Elect Peter Payne, 1st Vice District Governor Elect Neil Wingrave and 2nd Vice District Governor Elect Graham Cockerell. Congratulations to Lion Peter Savage from the Lions Club of Toora who is once again our District Representative on the Licola Board. I was also successful in my nomination to be your District Representative on the Victorian Lions Foundation Committee.

It was wonderful catching up with Lion friends and meeting those Club Secretaries who I had not met previously so now I can put a face to the name :) LCI Club Visits:
The District Governor Team have been busy doing their Club Visits and are getting towards the end, although there are still some in the lead up to Christmas and in the New Year.

If you are still to have a visit and haven’t sent me your Club Visit Form, please do so before your visit happens. These forms are very important!

Newsletters: There will not be a newsletter in January, so please, if you have something to go in get it to our Editor Alisha as soon as possible for the December Newsletter. Closing date is 20th November.

Before I finish my report, I would like to address our District Communication.

I send out many emails to Club Secretaries. Some are just housekeeping, requests for returns, instructions, reminders etc., but many of them come from District Governor Andrew, from District Officers, other Districts and from our National Office. Most are addressed to the President and Club Members. I send these with the expectation that every member will either receive them electronically via email or in a printed format, depending on what is the norm in the club. I do not expect the Secretary to make a decision as to whether they are important enough go to the President and members or not.

I send emails or letters on behalf of the Governor and his Cabinet to the Club through their Secretary in the belief every member will have the opportunity to read them, starting with the President.

We are so lucky now, with the electronic means to get information direct to our Lion Members.

So, I ask Club Secretaries, if you are not already doing so, please forward on my emails to those members who can receive them and ensure other members get the opportunity to read them at club meetings.

Please be advised:
The Lions Club of Balla Balla will now meet at: Tooradin Public Hall, Tooradin
As from November 8th 2017

Lion Shirley Higman
Cabinet Secretary 2017 / 2018

2ND Vice District Governor’s Report

What a great weekend we had for our Convention at Sale; congratulations to Peter Payne and Graham Cockerell on their elections to District Governor and 2nd VDG respectively, for 2018/19. A great big “well-done” to the Stratford Lions Club members, DG Andrew and Kerrie, Alicia, Ben Davies and the ever-unflappable, articulate PDG Bob Cooper for running a tight and entertaining convention; and thank you for everyone that attended to make it a great event.

I was particularly taken by the presentation from Lions EO Rob Oerlemans, where he discussed the future of Lions. On previous occasions I’d had a few chats with Rob on this subject and really believe that it would be in each Club’s best interest to take an introspective look at how they are going and if they may need to change some of their ways of doing things. In other words, get some vision of the future for their Club. It may be that they are on the right track for effectiveness in their community, growth in their membership and satisfaction among their members; if not, then maybe they need a plan to change some things [not everything].

I found it amusing [and mildly disappointing] when I was studying recently and we were undertaking Strategic Thinking [a subject to which I was looking forward]; the lecturer said “well, there are only three questions that we need to ask when studying this subject, where are we now? where do we want to be? and how do we get there? For some of our Clubs, it’s as simple as that ... I believe that the District Global Action Team can assist Clubs, not by telling them how to run their Clubs, but by offering advice, guidance and clarification if and when they want it. I hope Clubs take advantage of the opportunity and experience available to them.

Neil Wingrave
2ND Vice District Governor 2017 / 2018

“Having Fun whilst making a difference”
**District Governor’s Report**

“Wow” what an amazing convention at the Ibis Stylus in Sale, hosted by the Lions club of Stratford.

The awe inspiring guest speakers, Executive officer Rob Oerlemans who spoke about the future of Lions. Lynsey McLeod who informed us of the Australian Lions drug Awareness Foundation project “Tune In Not Out” and how we can get fresh face Fridays into schools to help our children with self esteem and body issues.

The celebrating women in community service guest speaker Jane Hallam and visiting PDG Anne Eldridge.

The spectacular youth forum was a great example of the good hand’s our future is in. Lynsey McLeod, Alisha Austin, Nicholas and Calvin were inspirational as they gave us an insight into young people’s thoughts and feelings on the topics raised in the conventioneer’s questions.

The Junior Public Speaking and Youth Of The Year demonstration speeches were a highlight. The flag ceremony was fantastic and the remembrance ceremony was very moving.

I would like to thank District Governor Chris and Mary Howard for attending from Canberra, district N2.

I would like to congratulate the following people on being duly elected to their positions:

- Lion Peter Payne - District Governor Elect
- Lion Neal Wingrave - First Vice District Governor Elect
- Lion Graham Cockerell – Second Vice District Governor Elect
- Lion Peter Savage - Licola Representative
- Lion PDG Shirley Higman - VLF Representative

I wish you all the very best in your future roles, I know you will fulfil them with courage and conviction to the best of your abilities.

Events like this convention don’t just happen they are created with a lot of hard work and cannot be achieved by one person it takes a team.

I would like to thank my team - the Convention Committee, Convention Chairman Paul Wager, Convention Secretary Judy Ransome James, Treasurer Kevin Ward, Committee members - Neville Gutheridge, Bill Morley, Ben and Laurel Davies and Lindsay Ross.

Cabinet secretary Shirley, CB & L Chairman Terry Hayler and Cabinet treasurer David Culpitt and not to forget the Sargent of arms PDG Bob Cooper who has the hard position of sorting out all the parts of the program and making each one meld into the next.

Without their help and support the convention could not have run so smoothly.

I would also like to thank My IT team, the IT man and Girl, Ben Davies and Alisha Austin, they make it all happen.

Most of all thank you to all the conventioneers attending especially the Lions attending a convention for the first time of which there was thirty eight new Lions in attendance.

As Kerrie and I continue our visits around the District I look forward to catching up with you all.

**Andrew McMahon**  
District Governor 2017 / 2018

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**1ST Vice District Governor’s Report**

On the 13th September Desma and I were guests at the Traralgon Lions Club. Following the meeting one of their members approached me and told me he had some spectacles that he had been collecting for a number of years for Lions Recycle for Sight, and that he did not know where to send them.

I said I would arrange to call and collect them next time I was passing through Traralgon. What I did not realise was just how many there were! The boxes he had collected completely filled the car boot and the back seat!

Congratulations to Traralgon Lion George Johnson for a great job in collecting so many glasses. This is an example of an activity that Clubs can be engaged in that does not cost any money ( only a bit of effort ) that can make a huge difference to the lives of children and adults who are less fortunate than us.

Since Lions Recycle for Sight commenced in Australia, over 47 million pair of spectacles and sunglasses have been collected, repaired, cleaned, graded, packed and distributed to people in third world countries who could not otherwise afford to purchase glasses.

Lion George’s contribution will add to the 450,000 pair that are processed annually in Queensland.

I encourage Club members who have been allocated the role of Lions Recycle for Sight Project coordinators to talk to schools, elderly citizens groups, retirement villages, local stores and libraries with a view to encouraging them to collect used spectacles and sunglasses. Collection boxes are available from SecretaryR4S@lions.org.au

We need more members with Lion George’s passion. Well done.

**Peter Payne**  
1ST VDG 2017 / 2018

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Photo of Tony Benbow, The Hon, Linda Dessau AC, Jessie Walker and Bruce Hudson, taken at the morning reception at Government House to mark the centenary of the establishment of Lions Clubs International. We all enjoyed the morning thanks to all at Government House. **Lion Jessie Walker**