



Lions District V3 ROAR!

RED HILL TURNS 40!

Red Hill District Lions Club has celebrated 40 years of service to the local community.

The club was chartered in May 1985 and has worked tirelessly for the community ever since. Some of the projects over the years have included:

- 1988 commenced parking at the Market at the Red Hill Recreation Reserve.
- 1995 the club "harnessed the managerial and technical skills of members to design, facilitate, and project manage the construction of a sports oval to the same dimensions and camber profile as the Melbourne Cricket Ground. That oval became the Richard Hudson Oval.
- 1997 after a fire on Arthurs Seat, the Lions Club rebuilt the boardwalk from Flinders Cairn to Seawinds – a plaque marks the area and if you look around that area you will find it.
- 2002 the development of FUSION Youth Housing and Support Program at the old army barracks in Mt Matha.
- 2009 \$10,000 was contributed to the establishment of the Community Pavilion at the Recreation Reserve.

Since this time, Lions have funded projects of local organisations to help them be the best they can be.

Red Hill Lions' three-pronged approach to disbursement of funds focuses on Community, Youth, and Disadvantage, and they support many organisations each year to achieve their aims.

Sporting programs, scouting projects, community festivals (Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Festival), environmental projects, local celebrations (like the Show), school activities through scholarships and program development, and welfare organisations like Southern Peninsula Community Support and Westport Community Support. As well, the club regularly makes "in-kind donations" to help meet the needs of these welfare organisations. Food parcels, fresh produce, Christmas cakes, shampoos and soaps, and donated clothing. This year they are also supporting the Catalyst Tiny House project, to provide emergency accommodation for those in need.



A FINE FELLOW: ROB CONNOR

In a highlight of the evening, the District Governor of Lions District 201V3, Ian Davey, presented Rob Connor with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest form of recognition from Lions Clubs International. This award was named after its founder, Melvin Jones. It honours individuals for their exemplary service and dedication to humanitarian efforts, embodying the ideals of Lionism.

Rob has held many positions in the local Lions Club as well as other local organisations and has a proud history of giving back to his community.

"Your years of service, both within and beyond Lions, are a shining example of the values Melvin Jones himself stood for. Your efforts have touched lives, strengthened communities, and inspired those around you," said District Governor Ian Davey.



About this newsletter



This is the official newsletter of the 201V3 district of Lions International. 201 is Australia & PNG and V3 is a district that covers clubs in the area shown above.

OUR HERITAGE

“DOING SOMETHING FOR SOMEBODY ELSE”

As we recognize those who contribute so much, via the Melvin Jones Fellowship, it's worth taking some time to learn more about the man himself - our founder, Melvin Jones.

Melvin Jones, born January 13, 1879, in Fort Thomas, Arizona, founded Lions Clubs International, transforming a simple idea into a global service movement. His credo, ***“You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else,”*** defined his life's work.

Early Life

Raised in Illinois after his family moved from Arizona, Jones settled in Chicago and became a successful insurance broker by 1913. An energetic salesman with a love for Shakespeare, he joined the Business Circle, a businessmen's group, but found its self-interest limiting.



Founding Lions Clubs

In 1917, Jones envisioned a service-focused organization, asking, “What if these men used their talents to improve their communities?” That year, he founded Lions Clubs International in Chicago. Elected secretary-treasurer, he shaped the organization's mission through its Objectives and Code of Ethics, later becoming its lifetime secretary-general.

Leadership and Legacy

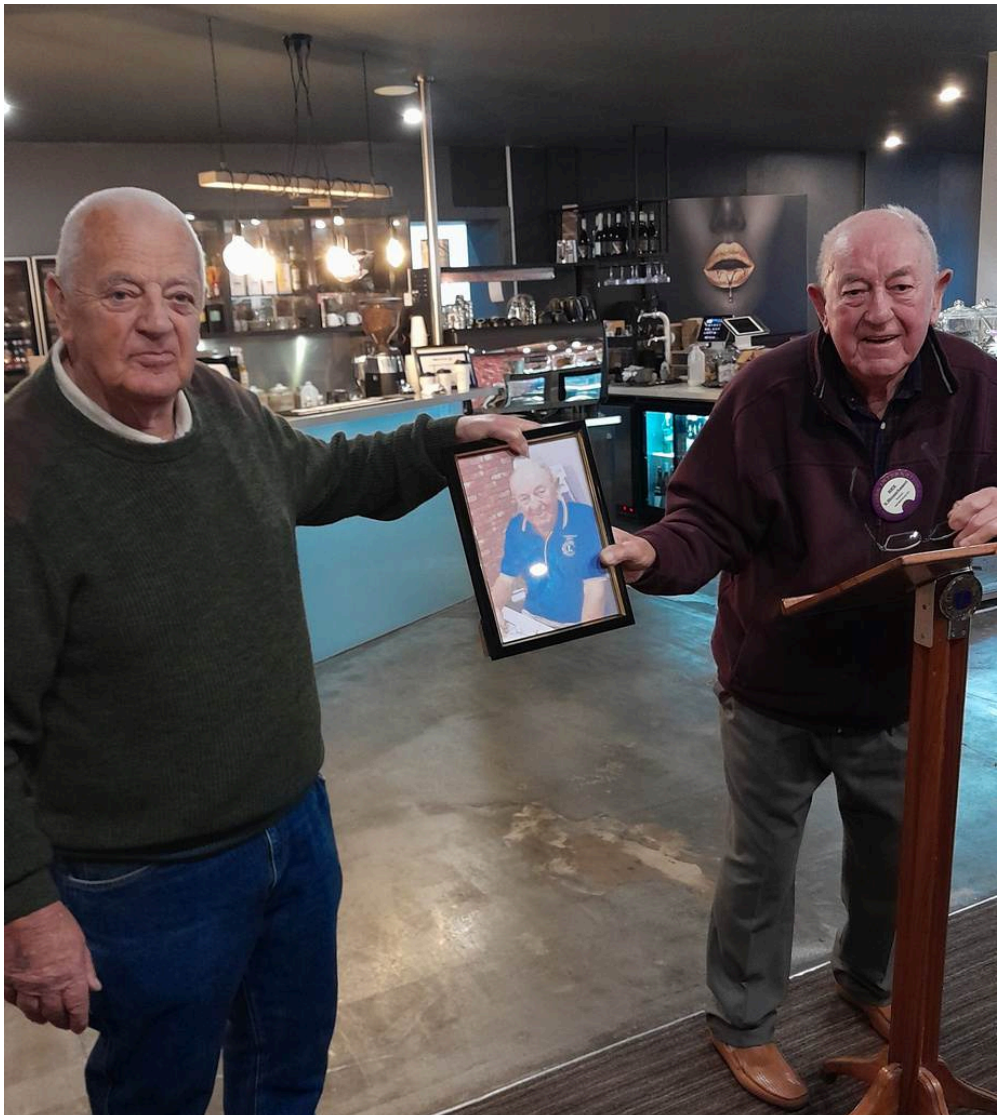
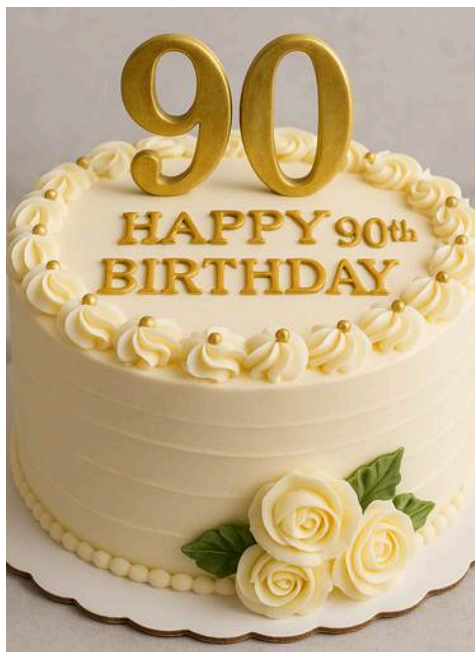
In 1926, Jones left his insurance business to lead Lions full-time, growing it into the world's largest service club organization, with over 1.4 million members today. He represented Lions at the United Nations' founding in 1945. His death in 1961 at age 82 marked the end of a remarkable life, but his vision endures.

Jones' legacy includes the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, memorials, and a 2017 U.S. commemorative coin. His philosophy continues to inspire Lions clubs worldwide to serve their communities.

LION REX TURNS 90

Paynesville Lions recently celebrated Life Member and Past President Rex Blennerhasset's ninetieth birthday at 3880 Restaurant.

Rex has been a Lion for 37 years including two years as President in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. Amazingly he sponsored nine new members. Among his many achievements was the establishment and development of the Lions Community Markets. He still takes an active interest in the activities of the Paynesville Club.



Immediate Past President Bill East presents a photo gift to mark Rex's 90th Birthday



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Greetings, Lions of 201V3 District. This is my first message to you as District Governor, and we are moving very quickly into the new Lion's year. We have heard once again the same joke about the outgoing DG moving from the role of rooster to feather duster, but I can assure all that Immediate Past DG Ian Davey will not enjoy "feather duster" status for long. He will be a valued member of the District Cabinet and I will rely on him for advice and support during my year as DG. Additionally, IPDG Ian has agreed to take on the role of LCIF Coordinator, so he will be your "go to" person for any LCIF queries. IPDG Ian has left 201V3 in good shape and I thank him for paving the way well as I take over the DG's role.

There is concern for the low level of reporting of service by Clubs in 201V3. At present, only 34% of Clubs in this District are reporting service, and this is the lowest level of reporting among all Districts in Multiple District 201. I am expecting to be grilled by my superiors on this low level of service reporting. I once thought that reporting of service was an unnecessary boast, but it is important. If you look now at the Lion Portal, on the opening page you see the accumulated of dollars donated and the numbers of people served worldwide. These figures establish the credibility of Lions International and the service information of each of the individual Clubs contribute to these amounts and to the credibility of our organisation. Further, organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, support Lions International, in some cases on a dollar-for-dollar basis and our service reporting supports these philanthropic areas of support.

To report service on the Lion Portal you must be either a Club Secretary or Administrator. Every Club has (or should have) a Secretary and if you haven't already nominated an Administrator, you can contact the District Administrator, Ron Chidgey on ronaldchidgey@bigpond.com and he will set it up. Log on to the Lion Portal and you will see "Services" on the centre of the top line. Click on "Services" and it will take you to the next page. Click on "Create Service Activities Now" near the top on the right-hand side of the page and then just answer the questions. I am aware some Lions members are unable to access the Lion Portal – seek help, it's not difficult and you will need your membership number. If you don't have that and someone in your Club can't help, call your Zone Chair, they will find it for you. The Lion Portal may appear daunting when you're new to it, but it's not.

In closing, I would like to mention the value of interclub visits. When I joined Lions in Hay, NSW, our neighbouring Clubs were Jerilderie and Deniliquin each over 120km distant, yet we visited each other on a regular basis. These visits are valuable for fellowship, friendship and the exchange of ideas. I would like to see the Clubs in 201V3 continue to establish linkages with other Clubs in or outside their Zone.

Meanwhile, I continue to look forward to working with the Clubs and Lions of District 201V3 during 2025/26. Let's continue to have a great year serving better together.

CABINET SECRETARY'S REPORT

What a great District Changeover was held at the Warragul Country Club to thank IPDG Ian and welcome back DG Geoff and Lions Lady Rosemary. Thanks to all members who attended and made the day such a success.

Our first cabinet meeting will be held on the 3rd August and at time of reading this it will have been held and many ideas forthcoming as our district needs to rebuild and consolidate this year, membership is still an ongoing concern and members of the District Cabinet are here to assist all clubs in their endeavours towards increasing membership, let's use DG Geoff's theme of "Serving better together" to achieve this goal.

The District Conference will be held at Lardner Park Burnt Store Road Warragul on October 24th, 25th and 26th with all meals and convention programme held there. The Dinner Dance will be held at the Warragul country Club, please attend and help frame your district for the coming months. Costs have been kept to a minimum and the registrations form is available on the District website under Convention so please come along enjoy and have fun.

As stated if you need to hear from any of our Cabinet Officers concerning Lions programmes please contact them and invite them to you meeting to hear what they have to offer there is an array of experience in the District so please members use them to your advantage.

Those clubs who have had members pass away please send me a photo and bio as soon as possible as this will make my job much easier in the future so please help me in this area.

Yours in Lions,
Terry
Cab Sec
"Serving Better Together"

WELFARE REPORT

District Governor Geoff and the V3 Cabinet would like to pass on condolences to the family, friends and members of the Lions Club of Toora at the passing of their past member Lion Chris (Christopher) Kerri, who passed away suddenly on June 30.

Best wishes are extended to members of the Lions Club of Moe, Lion Kay McShane who has spent some time in hospital after fracturing seven ribs, also John and Norma Buckkton, who have both had some health issues, we wish these members a speedy recovery.

To all other members who have been unwell, best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to new members of the Lions Club of Toora, Lion Sue Brown, Lion Chris Charana, Lion Jass Murphy, Lion Leanne Harrison and Lion Geoffrey Turner. Also congratulations to Lion Sue Harrison a new member at the Mt Eliza Lions Club. And welcome to Lion Tau Tamua a new member at The Lions Club of Dromana. Welcome and we hope you all enjoy your Lions journey.

On 24 July PDG John Nankervis celebrated his 101st birthday. John joined Lions on 7th March 1963 being a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Moorabbin. John has served for over 62 years of continuous service with a number of various clubs. John served as District Governor from July 1975 until June 1976. John is in good health and still likes to keep up to date with what is happening in Lions, particularly the activities of the Lions Club of Dromana. Very happy birthday PDG John.

Please let me know if you have any news to be included in the Welfare Report.

Sandra Faull
District 201 V3 Welfare Officer
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Thank you all for joining your respective clubs and we hope you will enjoy working with and enjoying the company of your fellow Lions.

Sandra Faull
District 201V3 Welfare Chairman
0417 531 211



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR FRANKSTON PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT

Frankston Lions Club were recently able to donate ROHO Cushions (2) to the Frankston Palliative Care Unit. In conjunction with the District Cake Allocation Fund, the Club was proud to be able to present them to the Unit Manager.

Patients receiving palliative care often experience prolonged periods of immobility which puts them at a significant risk of developing pressure areas. ROHO cushions are the best line of defence against sacral pressure areas. In addition, patients with certain types of cancer experience significant pain in their sacral region and ROHO cushions have been found to be beneficial in relieving this pain. Providing these cushions aligns with the Palliative Care Unit's commitment to compassionate, patient-centred care and will greatly improve the comfort and dignity of their patients during their final stages.

The Palliative Care Unit value our Club's ongoing collaboration in facilitating positive outcomes for their patients and the local community.



Cate (Palliative Care Nurse), Tony (Frankston Lions Club President), Monique (Acting Nurse Unit Manager Palliative Care Unit), Julie (Frankston Lions), Jennifer (Palliative Care Nurse), Deb (Palliative Care Ward Clerk).

MCCRAGE LIONS DISBURSEMENT AFTERNOON TEA

McCrae Lions disbursement afternoon tea was recently held at Rosebud hatch club. Seven local charities benefited from the club's hard work throughout the year, a total of \$25,000.00 given to worthy local charities, who thanked the Lions for their generosity, including a medical item for cancer ward at Peninsula Private Hospital which will be named "Nina" in our Club member's honour as it was her suggestion and money from cake allocation fund assisted in purchase



LICOLA CHANGEOVER

Lions Club of Licola Wilderness Village
Working Bee and Changeover Dinner
Weekend

Our club had a wonderful first ever Changeover weekend at Licola over the weekend of 20-22 June. The weather was absolutely perfect which allowed us to get plenty done around the place, while also allowing a lot of fun, games and fellowship.

The Friday evening was a lovely chance to all catch up, socialise, chat and listen to music over good food and drinks. Then Saturday morning dawned clear and frosty but soon warmed up, allowing Dwayne to get to work with his stump grinder, while most of us got stuck into some repairs and maintenance of the memorial garden and arbor. Phil proved to be an excellent pruner and garden edger (ably assisted by 3-month-old Border Collie Snax), while others were busy sanding, repairing timbers and painting the arbor, taking particular care to preserve all the memorial plaques.

We had a quick lunch break then had a brief meeting. This focused mainly on some brainstorming about future projects and fundraising ideas, and some great suggestions were made. Janice then introduced a short but very entertaining game that involved picking up cotton balls with a spatula while blindfolded. There was a lot of laughter!

In the evening our Changeover Dinner had a Christmas theme which was well embraced by all who attended, and was presided over by our guest installing officer PCC Lou Onley OAM who joined in with the spirit of the evening and did a marvellous job. Lou has been a Lion for 48 years, was on the board of Licola for 9 years, and is currently in the Lions Club of South Vermont which sponsors Cabin 13 at Licola.

We enjoyed a delicious roast dinner (that crackling!!) and Christmas cake and custard for dessert, also prepared by Mel and Tammy. During the dinner we had a raffle which proved to be a lot of fun too. Our table was beautifully decorated by Janice and Sarah, who also ran the raffle – thanks to both.

Of course, we also had our Changeover Booklet that had been created and printed by Steve Boyce. Steve was also instrumental in making the whole event possible, so I wish to sincerely thank Steve for all his invaluable contributions.

Marguerite officially stepped down from her Secretary role at this meeting, though due to illness she was unable to attend. I thank her for the faultless job she has done as Secretary – I could not have done without her. Her role now belongs to Sarah Gray, who was also installed as our third Vice President. This is a lot to take on for a new Lion, but Sarah certainly has the enthusiasm and ability to perform the roles, and I congratulate her for stepping up.



LICOLA CORNER



CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



This Lions project will run until at least the end of June 2027, by which time the goal is to have planted one million new trees Planted in Australia .



Buy One tree Get One FREE!



GREEN CANOPY

The recent heavy rains in the eastern states saturating the soil may be causing havoc for many, however it also provides the ideal environment for soil preparation to plant trees and shrubs. Subsoil moisture is at a maximum ensuring ongoing sustenance for new plantings.

Selection of suitable plants is essential to maintain the balance within our ecosystem. I have spoken with Lion Garry Bates, the incoming District Environmental Officer from Q3, who has had discussions with professionals at the University of Southern Queensland regarding this matter. The balance within the ecosystem is extremely delicate and we must make every effort to retain that balance.

We are all aware of the precarious position of our koala populations in Queensland, northern New South Wales, Riverina and many other select areas across our country. Koalas, like many fauna, require very specific eucalyptus varieties to survive. With many of their areas being cleared for timber and property development and seeing limited appropriate revegetation of these native areas, our Koala populations have been decimated.

Another area of deep concern is the rapidly deteriorating native bee population. We are all aware of the essential work that bees do within our ecosystem. While collecting nectar, native bees cross fertilise the majority of flora and generate many food sources for insects and animals alike. They are essential to maintain the balance of our ecosystem and we must do everything possible to retain the native populations.

As we go about our Lions business participating in this Multi District project, we must be vigilant to select plants not just suitable for an area but of plants that retain "the balance". A thorough study of your terrain, the suitability of your area and investigation of the requirements of local fauna are necessary to retain the equilibrium of the ecosystem.

You may not have the native bees or koalas in your vicinity. You will, however, have issues unique to your area which it is important for you to address prior to jumping in and planting whatever plants are available. I ask you to consider these problems, talk to professionals with knowledge of your area then plant with a confidence that you have given your plantings the best opportunity to survive which in turn will best benefit the ecosystem. Remember that like everything in life, the ecosystem is only as strong as its weakest link and any break in that link can jeopardise its survival.

This project is not difficult when all resources are utilised. We continue to encourage clubs to work with your own communities and source knowledge to achieve their best results. Always remember, none of us are perfect. While we can make every effort to achieve the ultimate result, the forces of nature will determine this for us. Lack of or too much sun or water, soil bacteria, weed infestation, soil pH, pests and vandalism are all possible restraints to the perfect project result. If any of these happen do not lose faith. Assess the problem, work with it, restrict the likely damage, carry on and enjoy your results. We continue to see this wonderful project gain momentum and receive questions from both individual Lions and Lions Clubs for which we are most thankful. We emphasise that as members of the committee we are guardians of your project and happily pass on what information comes to us to generate the stimuli for Lions members to liaise with their local communities and at the same time grow our own knowledge of the environment.

Please continue to tell us what you are doing so we can all absorb and learn from your efforts.

PDG Tim Moore
Chairman Lions Green Canopy Project



LAP THE MAP

Lap The Map for Diabetes is officially live for 2025! Head to www.lapthemap.com.au to sign up yourself, your club, or a team of friends and family.

To finish off National Diabetes Week in July, we launched Lap the Map, marking the second year the event has been run by Lions Assistance Dogs. This year, our collective goal is to Lap the Map of Australia twice, over 50,000 kilometres! The distance is equally important to our fundraising goal of \$80,000 – which will cover the cost to train and deliver two Diabetic Alert Dogs, Archie and Zena, both who will be delivered at the end of this year. This goal is achievable through the efforts of individuals and Lions Clubs across Australia who will go above and beyond to support Lions Assistance Dogs through this initiative.

For Lions Clubs who get involved in Lap the Map 2025, we will have some exciting incentives including special banner patches for each club who achieves certain milestones. These are tiered patches that reflect the kilometres travelled and funds raised for the cause. Also, the club that raises the most funds, AND the club that logs the most kilometres by the end of Lap the Map receives A FREE puppy sponsorship opportunity valued at \$5,000!

While it has only just started, Tasmanian Lion, Sheryl, has already embarked on an inspiring 350km trail hike on the Heysen Trail in South Australia, all for Diabetic Alert Dogs through Lap the Map.

To register today, head to www.lapthemap.com.au



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the world's largest humanitarian organization, continues to combat global hunger, delivering food assistance to millions in 2025. From emergency relief in crisis zones to sustainable solutions for communities hit by conflict, disasters, and climate shocks, WFP's mission is transformative. A key initiative, the School Meals Coalition, aims to provide every child with a nutritious meal by 2030, boosting education and local economies. In Haiti, a partnership with Japan will deliver locally sourced meals to nearly 18,000 children across 80 schools, empowering smallholder farmers and tackling food insecurity.



In 2025, WFP's collaboration with Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has amplified these efforts. Through a US\$4 million partnership, with each contributing \$2 million, Lions International and WFP are supporting homegrown school meals programs in four countries. This initiative provides nutritious meals to children, fostering education and community resilience while addressing global hunger. Lions International's commitment to service shines through this coalition, aligning with their motto, "We Serve," and their mission to empower volunteers worldwide.

WFP's School Menu Planner (SMP) PLUS tool further enhances these efforts, optimizing school feeding programs in countries like Madagascar and Lesotho by reducing costs and prioritizing local ingredients. In 2024, WFP secured \$110 million from the USDA to support school meals in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Laos, and Rwanda, benefiting nearly half a million children. Together, WFP and Lions International are building resilient food systems and feeding hope for a hunger-free future.

Thanks for reading!
Please send your news for the September edition.
All submissions to v3newsletter@gmail.com.
DEADLINE AUGUST 23



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