



Lions District V3 ROAR!



LICOLA BECOMES OUR NEWEST CLUB

It was a cool and occasionally drizzly evening at Licola Wilderness Village on Saturday February 15, but inside it was warm and happy where around fifty people enjoyed the Charter Celebration Dinner for the newest Lions Club in District 201V3, the Lions Club of Licola Wilderness Village.

Lions acquired the township of Licola under the guidance of Ian Stockdale in 1969 and it has been running camps for disadvantaged and special needs children ever since. Yet in all that time there has never been a Lions Club there. This has largely been because of the requirement for a new club to have at least twenty members, whereas the permanent population of Licola is about seven!

This has been overcome by developing a virtual, or online club. The initial membership of twenty-four includes people from across Victoria and NSW – sixteen of whom are either new, first time Lions, or former Lions returning after an absence - and there is no reason why new members cannot join from anywhere in Australia.

The new club was sponsored by the Lions Club of Mount Eliza, and without their support and particularly that of District Governor Ian Davey, it would not have been possible for this to happen. Many other individuals also worked hard towards achieving this goal.

Charter President, Geoff Turnbull thanked the Mount Eliza club for their support and explained the purpose and goals of the new club. "Our mission is to help raise awareness of, and funds for the Licola Wilderness Village" he said.



Geoff continued, "Anyone who has attended a Lions Sponsored Camp will have seen the tremendous difference these camps can make to the lives of the children who attend. Of late it has been harder to attract the necessary sponsorship for these camps. It is our aim and purpose to support the Village in any way that we can, so that more and more children can be helped in future, and so we can help lower the cost of sponsoring children. I am thrilled with the vision, energy and enthusiasm of our initial membership."

He went on to add, "There is so much passion to fulfill our purpose – I have no doubt that we can not only make a difference, but significantly grow our club membership as well."

The club will meet once a month with most meetings being held via Zoom, but with three in-person meetings occurring at the Licola Wilderness Village each year. These will also be valuable social occasions, and working bees for members and guests will be incorporated.

If you are interested in finding out more about the club, you can contact the club secretary by email on licola.vic@lions.org.au.

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.

People are often shocked to find out that we pay yearly dues but.... they only work out to about a cup of coffee a week & these dues cover the cost of running our club which means

100%

of the money we raise through events & donations goes right back in to our community.

We're PROUD of that!



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Fellow Lions, It's been another action-packed month as we continue to serve with enthusiasm, energy, and, most importantly, Service with a Smile!

Licola Wilderness Village Lions Club Charter

One of the highlights of the month was attending the Charter Ceremony of the Licola Wilderness Village Lions Club. It was a privilege to witness the official launch of this unique club, dedicated to supporting the incredible work of the Licola Wilderness Village. This initiative will provide even more opportunities for service, particularly for young people and those who benefit from the village's outdoor experiences. Congratulations to all involved in making this club a reality!

Big Audacious Mission – Membership Focus

A reminder that we need to keep our eyes firmly on our Big Audacious Mission – aiming for a net annual membership gain and strengthening our club numbers to reach 30,000 Lions by 2030. This goal is ambitious but achievable if we all play our part.

Membership isn't just about recruiting—it's about retention, engagement, and making Lions membership meaningful for every single member. I encourage all clubs to take time this month to review their membership strategies and consider how we can continue to grow and thrive as a district. Our mission is to ensure we remain strong and sustainable into the future.

Club Development Day – 30 March 2025

Another exciting event is coming up! The Club Development Day in Trafalgar on 30 March 2025 is an excellent opportunity for all Lions who are keen to enhance their knowledge, learn best practices, and connect with others who share our passion for service. This is open to all interested Lions, so I strongly encourage you to attend. The sessions will cover membership growth, leadership development, and service projects—all critical elements to strengthening our clubs.

Looking Ahead

We have plenty of exciting events and initiatives on the horizon, and I encourage all clubs to continue looking for new ways to serve, engage, and grow. Let's keep the momentum going and ensure that our Lions family remains strong, vibrant, and committed to making a difference.

As always, thank you for everything you do. Keep having fun, giving service with a smile, and making an impact in our communities!

Yours in Service,
Ian Davey
District Governor
Service with a Smile

CABINET SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have had our newest club charter on Saturday 15th February at Licola and of course it is called the Licola Wilderness Village Club. A great night was had by those who attended and they definitely displayed DG Ian's motto of Service with a Smile. A very young, enthusiastic club, looking forward to assisting Licola and other clubs where possible.

The President is Lion Geoff Turnbull (0427 229 322) and the Secretary is Marguerite Byrne (0439 812 522) should you wish to contact them at any time to either join or assist. Another great Lions club formed.

Regarding the Multiple District Convention could club secretaries please return to me as soon as possible their return in relation to parted members from May 2024 to 30th March 2025. If any members pass away after this date we may still be able to include them in the remembrance ceremony, so please advise me.

I am also requiring clubs to nominate their respective delegates for the Convention and send them to me by 16th April 2025. Please remind your delegates that they have to register for the convention to be a delegate even if they don't attend any functions. Multiple District need to know of their attendance.

Please check the MD web site re the convention for some very interesting articles and soon the programme will be available along with the guest speakers. If you would like to attend the Gala Dinner on Sunday 4th May 2025 please book as there is only 420 places available and it is booking fast.

There are many things coming up –

- Development Day March 30th 2025 – Trafalgar community Centre at 9am
- Return form for memorial Service MD Convention
- Delegate form for MD Convention
- Register for MD Convention NOW
- Return of PU101 with your new Board details
- District Changeover Dinner July 27th 2025 Warragul Country Club.

It is a busy time so if you need assistance at all please contact me and I will help you where possible until next time remember "Service with a Smile" sometimes we need that smile to keep us going.

Yours in Lions
Terry
Cab Sec
"Service with a Smile"

CLUB DEVELOPMENT DAY

To assist clubs with well developed leadership in 2025-26, we will be providing our V3 Club Development Day on Sunday 30th March 2025 at the Trafalgar Community Centre [105 Princes Highway – parking at rear].

ALL LIONS IN OUR DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Beginning at 9am sharp, the day will include lunch and conclude at approximately 3pm.

We have a wide range of facilitators and mentors available, and the day will consist of:

- guiding and preparing clubs in establishing Club Boards to be elected for 2025-26
- new member orientation sessions for any Lions that would like guidance and knowledge since becoming a member of their club

Lunch provided. Please RSVP by 22nd March to assist with catering; please highlight any dietary requirements.

NOTE – history has shown us that placing a \$5 lunch charge on attendees is not unreasonable and will assist in managing your District expenses.

RSVP:

Neil Wingrave
0428362755
nwingrave@optusnet.com.au

Terry Hayler
0437353651
GLT201V3@gmail.com

Neil Wingrave
V3 GLT Co-ordinator



DROMANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The Lions Youth of the Year (YOTY) program has long been a cornerstone of community engagement, offering a platform for young people to showcase their leadership, public speaking skills, and commitment to making a difference. This year, the Dromana Lions Club proudly stepped up to host a club-level YOTY competition—the only one held in the district in 2025. The event was a resounding success, spotlighting the remarkable talents of local youth and proving once again why this initiative deserves a bigger spotlight.

At the Dromana competition, participants competed across various categories, with Grace Boehnke emerging as the overall winner. Her poise, intellect, and passion left a lasting impression on judges and attendees alike. Meanwhile, Zali Horner took home the prize for the speech component, captivating the audience with her eloquence and confidence. These outstanding young women are a testament to the potential that lies within our communities—potential that the YOTY program is uniquely designed to nurture.

For those unfamiliar with Lions Youth of the Year, it's more than just a competition. It's an opportunity for students to develop critical life skills, gain recognition for their achievements, and connect with mentors who can guide them toward a bright future. The program challenges participants to articulate their ideas, engage in thoughtful discussions, and demonstrate their dedication to community service—qualities that are essential for tomorrow's leaders. Beyond the local level, winners can progress to district, state, and even national competitions, opening doors to scholarships, travel, and invaluable experiences.

Yet, despite its proven impact, this year's YOTY saw limited participation across the district, with Dromana standing alone in hosting a club-level event. This is a missed opportunity—not just for the youth who could benefit, but for the Lions Clubs themselves. Hosting a YOTY competition is a chance to energize your club, strengthen community ties, and invest in the next generation. It's a win-win: the youth gain a platform to shine, and clubs reinforce their relevance and commitment to service.

So, here's the challenge to Lions Clubs everywhere: let's make next year's YOTY bigger and better. Imagine the ripple effect if every club in the district rallied behind this program. More young voices would be heard, more talents uncovered, and more communities uplifted. The Dromana event showed what's possible—Grace, Zali and Lacey are proof of the brilliance waiting to be unleashed. All it takes is a spark of initiative from clubs like yours to turn that possibility into reality.

If your club hasn't participated in YOTY before, now's the time to get involved. Reach out to our YOTY coordinator Julie Swan, gather your members, talk to local schools and start planning. The rewards—both for the youth and your club—are immeasurable.

Many thanks to Colin Stephens for his unwavering support of the program, and to members of the Lions Club of Dromana as well as teachers, parents and of course participating students.



Ron Elleray, Zofia West, Andy and Mary Alexandrou and Christine Andrews



Chris Secoulidis, Mary Hailes, Graeme Wilson, PDG Norma Barnard, Funmi Ajetomobi and Julie Swan



Grace Boehnke, Lacey Brooks and Zali Horner



JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING 2025 UPDATE

Greetings Lions, a quick update on the Junior Public Speaking program for this year. An "Information for Schools" document has been circulated to all 201V3 Club Secretaries and hopefully this has been forwarded on to the relevant members in each Lions Club. If you haven't received this document and need a copy, please contact me on aldbar@dcsi.net.au and I will send one out to you.

I urge all clubs to consider participating in the JPS program. The program provides an opportunity to showcase Lions in your community and to interface with non-Lions - parents and school teachers who should be considered as potential Lions members.

The program is open to primary school students from Year 3 to Year 6, and I understand public speaking is an integral part of schools' curricula. As such many teachers welcome the opportunity to join in, once they are aware of the program.

Students from Years 3 and 4 are asked to speak about a Creative Invention. They are asked "if you could invent something new, what would it be? Tell us about it. What is it made of? What is it for? How could it be used? Who would use it?". Year 3 and 4 students speak for three minutes.

Year 5 and 6 students are asked to speak on Technology. "The impact of fast moving technology on our lives and the environment is often overlooked yet it can be very significant. Is technology moving too fast for humans to keep up with? Choose any technology you are aware of – for example smartphones, social media, artificial intelligence, etc.". Year 5 and 6 students speak for four minutes.

There are several levels of the JPS competition:

School level: Teachers are encouraged to assist students to develop skills needed to speak well. A school level competition will be held at each participating school in your area. It may be organized and run by a member of the participating Club and will be organized to suit students and staff and to make the process as easy as possible. There should be three judges, from your Lions Club or the community or the school. The school level competitions should be finalized, with one person from each section nominated for the Club competition by 25th July.

Club Level: Students representing their individual schools will compete to become the Lions Club's representative in each section. In order to keep the program on track, it will be necessary for clubs to conduct their Club Level JPS competition by 29th August.

Zone Level Competitions: These will be held depending on the numbers of participating clubs in each zone. Zone Level Competitions, if held should be completed by 19th September – the end of the third school term.

District Semi-Finals: These will be conducted at two strategic locations in the district after the start of the fourth school term between 6th and 17th October.

The District JPS Finals will be conducted at the 201V3 District Convention to be held in Warragul on Saturday, 25th October.

I am pleased to advise that Lion Paul Wager of the Lions Club of Stratford has agreed to take over the role of JPS Coordinator for the coming year. Any JPS enquiries your Clubs may have can be directed to either myself or Lion Paul on jetblack5390@gmail.com

Geoff Anderson
JPS Coordinator (2024/25)



CLUB CORNER

MCCRAE QLD FLOOD RELIEF

McCrae Lions sausage sizzle outside Bendigo Bank Dromana Thursday 5th February, collecting for our mates in Queensland.



Colin Blythe

FREE SAUSAGES AT MIRBOO NORTH!

The Mirboo North club manages finances for the L2P (driver learning) program and is looking at a shed to store a vehicle in.

Pictured to the right is Leigh Mullen, resplendent in his L2P jacket. Leigh has spent some time getting accreditation for the mentoring program.

The 20th anniversary celebration (thank you Strzelecki club for getting us going all those years ago) is on **Sat April 26th** at the brewery Mirboo North. **(Please note change of date)**. Invites are going out but don't wait for yours, put your name down now by contacting secretary Judy 0419370770



WE APPRECIATE WAYNE WALKER

Paynesville Lion Wayne Walker received a "Certificate of Appreciation" for his above and beyond effort selling Christmas Cakes this year. He is a well known identity in the community and people respond to his friendly engaging manner. Here he is flanked by Secretary Lion Peter and President Lion John.



WELFARE REPORT

District Governor Ian and the members of District 201 V3 would like to pass on their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lion Grant Cowley, who passed away recently and was a hard working and committed member of the Lions Club of Moe. He will be sadly missed.

With the chartering of the new Lions Club of Licola Wilderness Village, I am very happy to report a number of new members have been inducted, they are:

- Lion Louise Sterling
- Lion Melissa Silby
- Lion Phillip Campbell
- Lion Karen Lurz
- Lion Karen Sawyer

- Lion Nayrah Bustamante
- Lion Adrian Bennett
- Lion Natalie Downie
- Lion Sarah Gray
- Lion Dwayne Gray

Welcome to the Lions family.

There are also a number of Lions who have returned to continue their journey of community service. They are:

- Lion Darren Laffan
- Lion Gail Carruthers
- Lion Laurence Cooper
- Lion Sophie Hudecek
- Lion Edward Loader
- Lion Susan Loader

We wish all new Lions and returning Lions every success with the new Lions Club of Licola

Wilderness Village.

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

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



PAYNESVILLE HELPS DELIVER STATION

Paynesville Lions donate to Paynesville Ambulance Auxiliary.

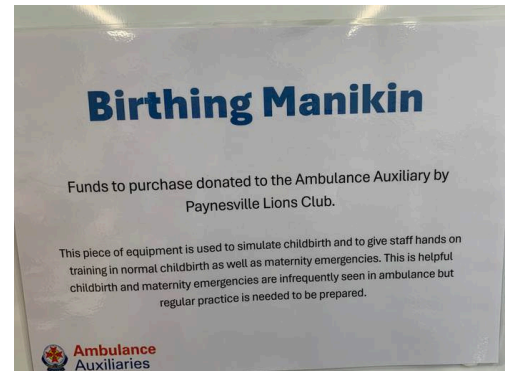
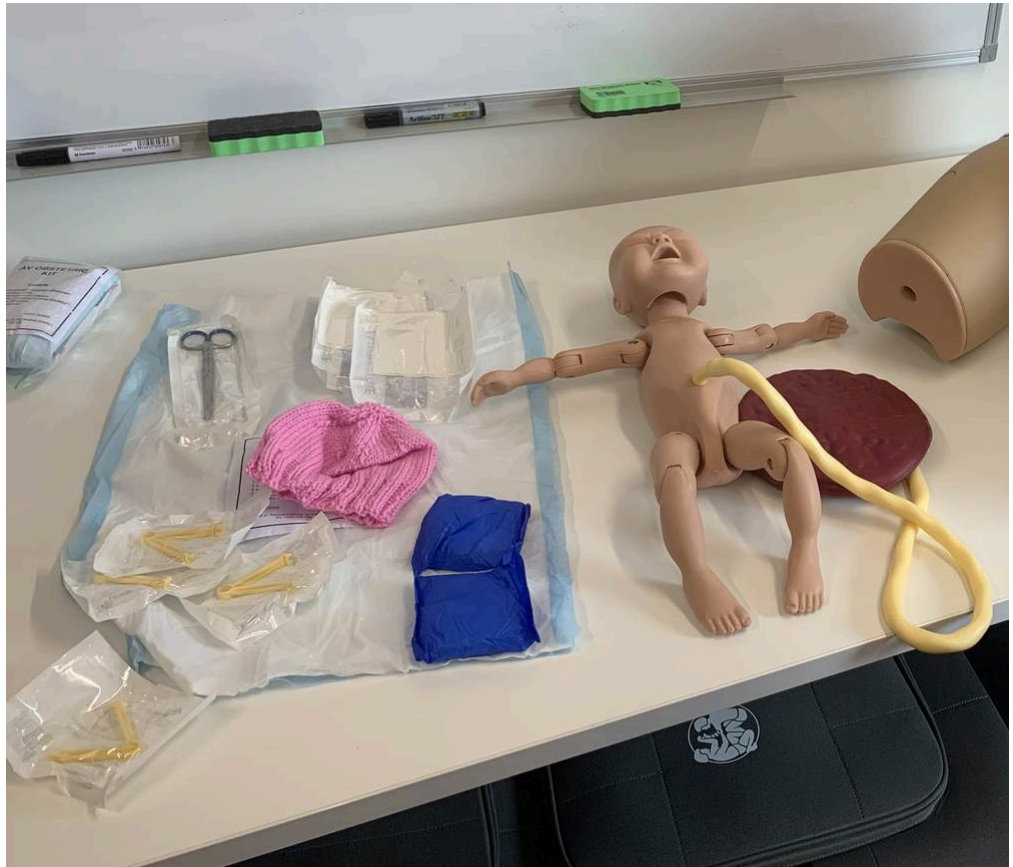
On Saturday 15 February 2025, the long-awaited brand-new Paynesville Ambulance station was opened to the public. People were able to see displays of life saving equipment and chat to the dedicated paramedics who provide such a vital service to Paynesville and surrounding areas.

Prominent among the displays was a Birthing Simulator Mannequin, which had been donated jointly by Paynesville Lions and a generous dollar for dollar grant from the Australian Lions Foundation for a total amount of \$10,745.90.

Paynesville Lions Club members attended the day and were interested to hear that the simulator has been widely used in training – not only of Paynesville personnel – but also operators from other stations around East Gippsland. All ambulance operators spoken to expressed their gratitude at having access to such a valuable and useful training aid.

A Paynesville paramedic indicated that training on the simulator had been put to good use when a birthing was successfully completed in the back of an ambulance before arrival at the hospital.

Paynesville Lions raises funds for donations through its markets, food van activities and several raffles. This together with the generosity of the Australian Lions Foundation has again proven very valuable in providing an excellent resource to the Paynesville Community.



...AND FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE...

Very exciting news. The Paynesville Cemetery frontage upgrade is under way thanks to the Community Bank, Paynesville and District grant of \$17000. This is a collaborative project by the Paynesville Lions, the Paynesville Cemetery Trust and the Paynesville Mens Shed. Stage 1, relocating the beautiful historic gates to the main entrance commenced today.



President John Waller and Secretary Peter Wallace receiving the grant



Relocating the gate

DROMANA GROCERY GRAB

On Saturday, February 15th, 2025, the Dromana Lions Club held a "Grocery Grab" outside the Ritchies IGA supermarket in Dromana. They set up trolleys and gently encouraged local shoppers to donate food for Food For All, which helps people struggling with food costs. Lots of people kindly pitched in with items such as canned goods and long-life milk from the IGA.

Volunteers ran the show from 10 AM to 2 PM, then handed everything over to Food For All for quick distribution around the Mornington Peninsula. Huge thanks to Amanda Fothergill for organising this fun event and we look forward to doing it again in the near future.



Amanda Fothergill waiting for victims!



...AND LAST BUT DEFINITELY NOT LEAST

NATIONAL HEARING DOG DAY

National Hearing Dog Day marks the annual celebration of Australia's first Hearing Assistance Dog, Amber, who was delivered on April 19th, 1982.

From this prestigious milestone, Australian Lions Hearing Dogs have gone on to train and deliver over seven hundred Assistance Dogs to valued recipients across Australia. It is in this achievement that we come together to celebrate on April 19th for National Hearing Dog Day. Not only is it a day to recognise the growth and awareness that surrounds Assistance Dogs, but to come together as a community to continue to learn, understand, support and celebrate with each other.

This year, we have plenty of exciting opportunities for learning and activities for engagement planned. In the month of April, we will be hosting casual day events at different schools around Australia. In addition to this, we will attend schools where we have spoken at in the past, and schools that have implemented Auslan as part of their curriculum. We believe it is significant to use National Hearing Dog Day and the month around the 19th to spread awareness into our early education system.

Additionally, we will again be partnering with Indepet, a membership group of independent pet stores across Australia. Through small donations customers will receive personalised items and material as a show of appreciation from us to their endless commitment and support of National Hearing Dog Day and our Hearing Assistance Dog Program.

As always, we invite all Lions Clubs and their members anywhere across Australia to join us in celebrating this important day through any means that you can. Visit www.lionshearingdogs.com.au/hearingdogday for resources and ways to get involved, or contact our team at development@lionshearingdogs.com.au



**Australian
Lions Hearing Dogs**



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



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