



Lions District V3 ROAR!

THE LIONS OF TOORA

Tucked away in South Gippsland where the rolling hills meet the sea, chartered in 1972, the Lions Club of Toora has been quietly achieving milestones. The most recent occurred last January, when the club purchased the old Toora garage and workshop with its adjoining dwelling quarters, a lovely 3-bedroom house, in the heart of town, on Stanley Street.

The Toora pub may have closed a while ago to the chagrin of the locals, but the endeavours of the Toora Lions have become an institution, with their bi-monthly Den Market, held on the first and third Saturday of each month. A sale extravaganza of second-hand donated goods including furniture, white goods and bric-a-brac of all sorts, carefully sorted, prepared and stored in the old warehouse of Toora's former butter factory, nowadays Vi-Plus, generously leased at no cost by the present owners, and also their own more diminutive Lions Den just across the road.

For years members have tirelessly collected no longer wanted goods, or contents of deceased estates, giving them a second chance at life, thus helping the environment in a big way. This long-standing dedication by the members has also enabled people finding themselves in a precarious financial position, for whatever reason, to acquire furniture, white goods etc. at little or no cost, allowing them to embark on a new chapter of their life with home basics.

The club's history will live on in the new premises that will house a retail outlet and storage shed with the adjoining dwelling offered as a rental, a blessing in disguise, in a town where properties available for renting are so scarce.



Toora Lions preparing new premises for official opening

The club membership stands at 23, a good healthy number but as with many other clubs, members are getting older, still full of enthusiasm but with declining physical abilities and the Toora Lions need young blood to help carry our vision across the local community and the world at large.

Indeed, together we can achieve so much more.

P.S. There will be an official opening with a traditional sausage sizzle. Date to be announced, and we hope it will be soon.

With many thanks,
Noelle Bonnin
Secretary

RYE LIONS CLUB SUPPORTS CFA

Recently, the Lions Club of Rye made a \$5000 donation to Rye CFA. On behalf of his team, Captain Eddie Matt expressed his gratitude for the support of the club, which has been busy fundraising to assist local causes. Soon the Rye CFA station will be renovated and the funds will assist the purchase of much-needed equipment. In addition to its assistance to the CFA, Rye Lions supports various community, health and support services, and local organisations including schools. The club is visible in the community raising money and its members can be seen each month at the Boneo Community Market and the Southern Peninsula Community Bank in Rye providing their well-known barbecues.



Rye Lions Club President Ivor Blencowe presents a \$5000 donation to Eddie Matt, Captain of the Rye CFA station

TOORADIN READY TO SAVE LIVES

Eight Lions members recently completed a first aid and CPR course with a local Cranbourne company via a grant from Casey Council. We'll be looking to apply for a grant to purchase a defibrillator for our barbecue trailer — and hope we never have to use it!

Picture taken at our monthly Tooradin Market — 3rd Sunday of every month — best egg and bacon rolls, donuts and expert sausage/onion in bread.

Cheers Janet Troup, Secretary, Tooradin and District Lions Club Inc.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR REPORT

Greetings, Lions of District 201V3. Last month, I wrote at some length of the need to elect or select club office bearers for 2026/27. By now, hopefully, all clubs have done this and have either recorded them on the Lion Portal, or sent details off to Cabinet Secretary, Terry. Now we have to consider succession at District level. Our First Vice District Governor Elect, Dale Harriman, when he becomes District Governor in 2027/28 will be the first DG in four years that has risen through the ranks. And Second Vice DG Sal Giambruno is destined to be your DG in 2028/29, but who will take on the role in 2029/30? Immediate Past DG Ian, DG Elect Russell and I have all been parachuted into the position without the benefit of the two-year preparation. Convenient maybe, but the District does suffer by this lack of preparation. It isn't too early to be thinking about nominations for the position of Second Vice District Governor to be voted on at the 201V3 District Conference to be held in October. In past years we always had several nominations for this position and held an election. I would be very happy to see that situation arise again, but also happy to see just one nomination. And, as I mentioned at the last Cabinet meeting, it is ten years since we had a woman as a District Governor – think about it ladies!

Now to discuss something different. I would like to talk about Lions interaction with other community groups. There are two great examples that I know of and probably quite a few I am unaware of. Don't hesitate to get back to me if your club is doing something similar. The Lions Club of Lakes Entrance runs Bingo every Monday evening. Even when the club membership got down to four members, they still were able to handle setting up, packing up and running the bingo for upwards of 100 players.

In fact, when the club was risking closure, the question raised within the community was "what's to become of the bingo"? Thankfully, the club is back on its feet and growing in membership, but how did it manage the mammoth task of running bingo for so many people? The club just organises the bingo, and they roster in Little Athletics, CFA, Coastguard, the Hockey Club, the Basketballers, the Ambulance Auxiliary, and others to help. And they share the profits. These other organisations did the work. The Lions Club of Koo Wee Rup and District run an Op Shop (as do many other clubs). The Koo Wee Rup Op Shop is staffed, on a roster basis by the Netball Club, the Scouts, the Senior Citizens, the Historical Society, the Junior Footballers, the Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, the RSL, the Pre-school, the Uniting Church and the Men's Shed. Every six months, the Lions Club declares a dividend and shares it among the cooperating organisations, based on the numbers of hours served. Then, they are all invited to a Christmas Party at the end of the year. I was at the Koo Wee Rup Christmas Party last year and asked: "how do you interface with all these young people"? Through the Op Shop. Not only are these projects great income earners, they provide a great opportunity to interface with other community organisations – particularly young people. There are probably other great examples out there – please let me know by email to aldbar@dcsi.net.au.

In closing, a final reminder of the Club Development Day to be held at the Community Centre, Trafalgar (next to the Bendigo Bank) on Sunday, 26th April, commencing at 9:00am. This training day is for incoming Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, but anyone interested is encouraged to come along.

Meanwhile, let's continue to have a great year serving better together.

Geoff Anderson,
District Governor

CABINET SECRETARY REPORT

PLEASE SEE THE REMINDER BELOW. THANKS.

As we enter this month it is time for clubs to elect their new board for the year 2026/27, and then the Admin Officer to place all the board members into the Lions Portal as the MD Office this year will be getting the details for the Directory from the Lions Portal.

I have sent to all clubs a copy of the PU101 but did leave off the Administration Officer so if you return this form could you include this name thanks. It would be appreciated if clubs could use the Lions Portal for this information thanks.

I have now sent out the returns 3 and 4 being delegates to attend the MD Convention in Adelaide in May and members who have passed away since the last MD Convention in Traralgon (What a Convention). These will need to be returned by the end of 25th April thanks.

If you would like further copies of the returns please let me know and I will send them to you to fill out and return thanks. It is especially important clubs let me know of any family members who have passed so we can include them in the remembrance ceremony.

Please members if you are attending Adelaide don't forget to fill out a registration form which was sent to all clubs recently for you to use. Lion Bill Lack will be attending the Convention in my place so please look for him when registering at the convention.

We have sent to clubs the Lions International dues invoice. Those clubs who have not yet paid could you please arrange for this payment to be activated. Some clubs are over 90 days overdue and could be placed in status quo which means you will not be able to operate as a Lions club. Your help would be appreciated thanks.

Let's all get together and remember DG Geoff's theme "Serving Better Together".

Cheers
Cab Sec Terry



LIONS EYE HEALTH PROGRAM - RED HILL

A small group of children seen interspersed with a fire drill!

Lions had great fun and one child showed a marked loss in his vision of one eye.

Time well spent as I was able to show Boneo Lions members "the ropes".

Rod Jackson



Julie Eldridge in action at our recent screening in Red Hill

The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) is a fantastic volunteer-driven initiative that's making a real difference across Australia. By focusing on education and awareness, it encourages regular eye checks and helps prevent avoidable vision loss from conditions like glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. Its standout effort is the free Children's Vision Screening Program, which has already screened over 50,000 kids since 2018, catching issues early so they don't affect learning or development. What makes LEHP truly great is its practical, community-focused approach—powered by dedicated Lions volunteers—who deliver accessible screenings and genuine care. It's a shining example of how targeted action and heart can protect one of our most precious senses for families and future generations.

WELFARE REPORT

My email has been very quiet with notifications of Lions welfare issues.

For those Lions who have been unwell or have had hospital visits, best wishes for a speedy recovery and we hope it's not too long before you are able to rejoin your Lions family and continue your great community work.

A big welcome to new Lions members who have recently joined, we hope you enjoy being part of the Lions family.

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

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Centre for Eye Research Australia Raffle

1st Prize: Tempur - Tempur Sensation Medium Queen Mattress & Base, 2 x Tempur pillows & Tempur Manchester package. Value \$9400.

2nd Prize: SG Offroad - ARB Elements all weather 60lt fridge freezer. Value \$2000.

3rd Prize: Hentley Farm - Ultimate Private Wine Experience. Wine tasting in your home for up to 12 people. Value \$1500.

4th Prize: Harvey Norman Bedding Nunawading - 2 Emily King Single Beds with a side table each Value \$1400.

5th to 8th Prize: Evans Petroleum - \$100 fuel card for each prize.

\$2.00 a ticket – A book is worth \$200

Tickets drawn on the Thursday 14th May at the Lions Eye Health Night at Inverloch.

If you would like to purchase a book, please email your (Name or Club Name and Phone Number) and how many books you would like to purchase to Sharon Oates, Email: oasiscc@dcsi.net.au

To pay for the books, you can direct credit funds into a bank account details below:

Bendigo Bank
Acc Name: Sharon Oates
BSB: 633000
Acc No: 241685072

(Please use reference number provide on confirmation of raffle book order).

No tickets will be posted to your club. If you on-sell any tickets, please keep your own records on an excel spreadsheet. I will provide the raffle ticket numbers of your book/s.

All money raised goes to Centre for Eye Research Australia



PAYNESVILLE CLASSIC BOAT RALLY

Paynesville Classic Boat Rally in early March was a great event for the Paynesville Lions.

Our food van operated for 5 hours on Saturday and Sunday. There were huge crowds and the weather was fine. We sold 254 egg and bacon rolls, 542 sausages, 180 burgers, 220 dim sims and 100s of drinks (it was quite hot!). That's about 2 food items per minute. The Lions were "flat chat" and were happy but exhausted.



Mary's home grown tomatoes



Setting up



Graeme Radford, Chelle North and Vice President Elect Mary Hammond calm under pressure



Customer Service Officer Rob Rutherford



The Replica Schooner Enterprize from Melbourne - 5 of the 10 sails aloft



Past President Bill East and President John Waller overseeing operations

DEBORAH RATFORD INDUCTED

Paynesville Lions President John Waller inducted Deborah Radford as a member of the club recently. Her husband Vice President Elect Graeme Radford was her sponsor. Deborah has a very strong record in community service and the Radfords are a dynamic "can do" couple who will be of great value to the club and community.



LAKES ENTRANCE: LIONS AT THE CONVOY

It was a very busy day for members of the Lakes Entrance Lions Club, ably assisted by members from the Gippsland Lionesses Club, at the Lakes Entrance airfield where over 400 trucks converged to raise funds for Convoy for Kids. An event held every 4 years, Convoy started their journey from either Orbost or Traralgon. Money raised will be donated to Convoy for Kids who this year will share money raised equally between Angel Flight and Camp Quality. Lion members were busy serving hamburgers, egg and bacon rolls and of course the ever-popular sausage and onions wrapped up in a slice of bread.

With sales booming and a little top-up from the Lakes Entrance Lions Club, a donation of \$2000 was very welcomed from the organisers who responded by saying:

“Wow – that is fantastic. I would like to inform you of the little squeal that came out of our office when I read out your email. From all of us at East Gippsland Convoy for Kids, thanks so much for your support once again. Your food was very popular and without it we would have struggled to feed the crowd. The Lions & Lionesses have been involved every year to date and have always been a part of our success.”





Victorian LEOS

Support LEOS during Leo Awareness Month!

April is Leo Awareness month, a time to celebrate Leos and their meaningful contribution to our mission of service.

Here are some ways your club can support current Leos and welcome some new ones.

- **START A LEO CLUB** – Discuss how sponsoring a Leo club gives younger people the opportunity to lead, serve and make a difference within our organization.
- **CELEBRATE** Leo creativity and leadership – Be inspired by this years Leo Video contest, LEO of the Year competition or the Leo Project of the Year competition. See how Leos around the world are sharing their passion for service.
- **HELP LEOS TRANSITION** – into a Lions Club. When Leos age out of the program, we have resources that can help you encourage and support their Leo-to Lion transition.

Give youth in your area the opportunity to develop leadership skills, grow in confidence and make new friends.



MIRBOO NORTH GREEN CANOPY

Having nurtured 40 “green canopy” trees through the heat of summer, they were presented to Stuart Hand, captain of the Campbell's Creek fire brigade.

Mirboo North club was looking for a place to plant these and grabbed the opportunity, following the devastating Harcourt area fire, to plant them.

The Lions Green Canopy Environment Project is a volunteer initiative run by Lions Clubs across Australia. It was launched following the 2024 National Convention in Darwin, with the clear target of planting one million new trees in Australia and Papua New Guinea by 30 June 2027. Lions members and local communities organise and take part in tree planting events, often working alongside councils or on sites that need more vegetation, such as new housing areas, wetlands, or places affected by tree loss.

The project focuses on straightforward benefits like improving air quality, providing shade, supporting native wildlife habitats, and helping with local cooling as temperatures rise. It also works well as a group or family activity, getting people of all ages involved in practical outdoor work. Many clubs coordinate plantings of native species and encourage broader community participation. It is a solid example of how ongoing volunteer effort can deliver measurable environmental improvements over time.



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



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.



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