



Lions District V3 ROAR!

TOUGH GUY BOOK CLUB!

District Lions come together for a great cause

Recently, Lions Clubs from across District 201V3 came together at Licola Wilderness Village to support a unique and inspiring event, the Tough Guy Book Club annual camp.

More than 230 men travelled from across Australia and beyond to attend, spending several days connecting, sharing stories, and building genuine friendships.

This is not your typical book club.

While books are part of it, the Tough Guy Book Club is really about something deeper. It creates a space where men can have real conversations, support one another, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

To help bring the event to life, a call went out for Lions volunteers and the response was fantastic.

Members from multiple clubs stepped up, including Catriona Rojko from Traralgon, Christine Gardner from Wellington Latrobe, Merrin Munroe from Flinders District, and Marty Taylor from Traralgon, who worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing and serving meals for a very hungry crowd. Mel Silby from the Wilderness Village Lions Club kept things running smoothly in the general store.

It was a true team effort and a great example of Lions working together beyond individual clubs.

More than just supporting the event, it created an opportunity for volunteers to connect with each other, share stories, and strengthen the wider Lions community.



There was no better place for it than Licola, a location with a long and proud connection to Lions, built on service, support, and community.

At its heart, this is what Lions is all about.

People coming together
Supporting one another
Creating connections that truly matter

From men supporting men, to volunteers supporting the event, to a whole community opening its doors, this is service in action and Gippsland at its very best.

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.

Vale

BOB ROWE

1942 – 2026

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Bob Rowe, a valued Past President and Life Member of the Paynesville Lions Club.

Bob's dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to our community will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He made a lasting contribution through his kindness, leadership, and generosity of spirit.



Our sincere condolences go to Pauline and the entire Rowe family at this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Bob 



PAYNESVILLE
LIONS CLUB



WELFARE REPORT

District Governor Geoff and the V3 Cabinet would like to pass on condolences to the family and friends of Lion Graeme Tuckett. Lion Graeme was a hard-working member of the Leongatha Lions Club. Lion Graeme will be missed by family, friends and the members of the Leongatha Lions Club.

Condolences are also extended to the family, friends and the members of the Lions Club of Paynesville on the passing of Lion Robert (Bob) Rowe. Lion Bob was a Life Member and recently received his 50-year medallion for 53 years of service.

To all members who have been unwell, have had surgeries or have had a stay in hospital, best wishes for a speedy recovery.

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.

Sandra Faull
District 201 V3 Welfare Officer
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DISTRICT GOVERNOR REPORT

Greetings, Lions of District 201V3. My contribution this month will focus on the future of the Lions Ride for Sight (RFS) project which is unique to our District and has run very successfully since 1994. During these thirty-two years, RFS has raised well over one million dollars which has supported the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) part of one of the leading pillars of Lions target areas of support Worldwide. At the last District Cabinet Meeting held in February, the future of RFS was discussed and it was agreed that further discussion, leading to a decision would be had at the next Cabinet meeting scheduled for June. One clear option was to discontinue the program – a decision that would be made reluctantly but considering these concerns raised by participants:

- reluctance of Lions members to step up to key positions, particularly that of RFS Chair;
- growing reluctance of individual Clubs to support RFS riders as they pass through their particular areas;
- increased requirements and expectations in the field of traffic management associated with the ride on public roads;
- increased urbanisation in the western end of the District making anywhere west of the Pakenham to Koo Wee Rup Road unsuitable for group riding – fifteen of our fifty-eight Clubs lie within that western area; and
- the present uncertain economic climate making it increasingly difficult to raise support from sponsors.

These are all points to be considered, but none that should stop us proceeding to the 33rd RFS in 2027 and more rides in subsequent years. I attended the excellent closing lunch of the recent 2026 RFS at Longwarry. At that event, I saw the enthusiasm of both participating riders and RFS supporters for the event, as well as acknowledgement of funds raised, and I said, as part of my short address:

“this is too good an event to allow it not to continue”. Having publicly stated that in front of RFS supporters, I now have a commitment to make good on my comment! And I need the support of Lions Clubs and Lions members. Following the advice of former RFS Chair, Lion Ian de Bruyne, I have outlined the need to identify someone for these positions:

- Ride for Sight Chair - a Lion with the ability to manage and oversee the planning and operation process and actions of the committee.
- Organising Committee - consisting, at least, of the following positions:
 - Secretary,
 - Hosting Club Liaison (needs to be a Lion)
 - Course Planning (needs to drive the full course to assess risks and issues)
 - Navigation Officer – to prepare notes and Daily Ride Schedule
 - Regulatory Officer – to apply and obtain necessary permits.
 - Rider Registration and Liaison Officer
 - Fund Raising Officer as a portal for donations and sponsorships
 - Media Liaison Officer.
 - Transport Organiser to arrange necessary rental vehicles and traffic management requirements.
 - Support Crew Coordinator.

Because, for geographic reasons, not all Clubs in the District will be able to directly participate in overnight hosting or feeding RFS riders, there will be a need to determine how other Clubs can actively contribute to this District project either by providing support to the organising Committee, or financially. In consultation with District Governor Elect, Russell, I will take this matter up with District Cabinet when it meets.

On another matter, as District Governor, there is an ever-present expectation from above, that I will oversee the chartering of new Clubs. There have been no new Clubs chartered in 201V3 in my year as DG, however the fact that we have had no Clubs close down, I believe is a greater achievement for the District. Our District was set a target of a net growth of forty-five members for the year, and we have achieved this target. I really appreciate the efforts Clubs and key Lions have taken to achieve this membership growth. More members equals more service.

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

Geoff Anderson,
District Governor,
Lions District 201V3

CABINET SECRETARY REPORT

As we now enter our final two months I hope all clubs have organized and entered their new board members for 2026/27 in the Lions Portal or at least sent the details to me so that our Admin Office Lion Ron can enter your details in the portal for you.

Time is running out for this information to be supplied before the Multiple District Office downloads the information to go into their directory so please be aware of this thanks.

As at present I have been advised of one member of the district who is going to be a delegate at the Convention in Adelaide so if members of clubs are attending can they please email their delegate's name so Lion Bill Lack will know at Adelaide as he is standing in for me as I cannot attend. Please assist in his area.

I hope you have all achieved your goals you set this year and are looking forward to ending your Lions year in a very positive mood and help the new board and members achieve their goals next year.

Please remember to assist Lions projects with your allocations this year along with your own community as we are a worldwide organization it does not hurt ourselves to look beyond our own area and assist the projects that we actually have in the Multiple District, ALF and Lions Clubs International say with a Melvin Jones Fellowship for one of your members.

If any member would like to assist in next year Cabinet please let either Lion Bill Lack or Russell Napper know of your intentions.

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

Cheers
Cab Sec Terry



AN INSPIRING YOUNG MAN

AN INSPIRING YOUNG MAN AIMING HIGH AND WORKING HARD TO ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS

Thomas McGough is a Peninsula-based 15-year-old para sprinter currently ranked second in the world in his classification (T38) for the 100 metres.

“Over the past three years, I’ve put everything into my sport,” said Thomas. “Through consistent training and competition, I’ve become a multiple national champion and hold multiple Australian records including T38 100m and T38 200m in para track and field. I’m registered with both the International Paralympic Committee and World Para Athletics, and I’m proud to compete as part of Australia’s para-athletics community,” said Thomas.

Thomas is seeking support through sponsorship as he continues working toward representing Australia at the highest levels of athletics.

This year, his competition schedule has included the Perth Track Classic, Capital Athletic Open Championships and Victorian Championships, the Oceania Championships in Darwin, Athletics Australia National Championships in Sydney, and the Australian Underage Championships in Brisbane. Each event is an important step toward his goal of representing Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow later this year, and ultimately the Paralympic Games.

While he is incredibly grateful for the opportunities he has earned, the reality is that competing at this level comes with significant costs. These include travel, accommodation, uniforms, coaching, equipment, recovery, and competition entry fees — all while balancing school and other commitments. (Thomas is involved in Navy Cadets, CFA and also has a part-time job!)



Thomas presented to the Red Hill District Lions Club at a recent meeting

While he is incredibly grateful for the opportunities he has earned, the reality is that competing at this level comes with significant costs. These include travel, accommodation, uniforms, coaching, equipment, recovery, and competition entry fees — all while balancing school and other commitments. (Thomas is involved in Navy Cadets, CFA and also has a part-time job!)

“Your support would be an incredible help and make a huge difference in supporting me to continue to compete, improve and develop as an athlete. In return, I would be proud to represent and promote you and your business both on and off the track through social media recognition, media opportunities, and community events.

I also hope my journey can help inspire other young athletes with disabilities to believe in what’s possible,” said Thomas.

If you can support Thomas in any way, you can contribute to his GoFundMe page, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tom-elite-australian-para-athlete-running-for-his-dream>

If you would like to discuss other options to support Thomas, please contact Red Hill District Lions at info@redhilldistrictlions.com.au

A FIRST: DG PATHWAYS WORKSHOP

The inaugural DG Pathways Workshop was held in April 2026, with participants from all around Australia.

The course was held from Friday night until Sunday lunchtime at the Best Western Airport Motel, Tullamarine, with Lions Facilitators Phillip Johnson, Megan Butler and Libby Salles.

Lion Tony Benbow, International Third Vice President, attended our dinner on Saturday night and gave us all an insight into his next three years before becoming International President.

If anyone has the need to do any training, please contact me.

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Incoming Global Leadership Team Coordinator
(Lions Club of Frankston)
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LICOLA VILLAGE STORE AND HOLIDAY PARK OPEN AND OPERATING



Many Lions members will be aware of recent changes at Licola, and we wanted to provide an update for you.

The Licola Village Store and Licola Village Holiday Park are open and operating, now under the management of Licola Wilderness Village.

Since early February, the Village has taken over the day-to-day running of both businesses, ensuring that essential services in Licola continue to be available for visitors, volunteers, and the broader community. Mel Silby, who is a member of the Wilderness Village Lions Club and a staff member of the Wilderness Village, has taken over running the store and park and is doing an amazing job.

The Village Store is providing fuel and supplies, while the Holiday Park is welcoming campers and travellers back to the region. These services play an important role in keeping Licola accessible and supporting ongoing activity in the area.

Importantly, the Licola Wilderness Village itself remains fully operational and continues to take bookings, with camps and programs continuing as planned.

This transition represents an important step in maintaining stability and continuity for Licola, while supporting its long-term future.

We would like to sincerely thank Lions members for their ongoing commitment to Licola over many years. The continued support of clubs and volunteers has been instrumental in ensuring Licola remains a place of opportunity, connection, and growth for young people.

Licola exists because of Lions — and continues because of Lions.

PAYNESVILLE SIZZLES...

Great community spirit and fun when the Paynesville Lions did a sausage sizzle as part of the Paynesville Ritchie's IGA Supermarket Community Fun Day. Ritchie's very generously donated all the food items for the Lions fundraising.



Vice President John Hopman showing how it's done



Lion Chelle North being checked by Paw Patrol



Lions Wayne Walker, Rob Rutherford and Vice President Elect Graeme Radford doing the sums

...TRARALGON TOO



Traralgon Lions doing a bbq at Gippsland Water Board. Roger Watson, Marty Taylor, Dennis Paine and Chris Love



FLINDERS GOLF

The Flinders Lions Club held their 38th annual charity golf day at the Flinders Golf Club on Monday 2 March 2026.

96 players enjoyed a fun day of golf followed by a great lunch. A live auction, a silent auction and a raffle were held during the lunch. All were very successful.

All the auction items and the golf prizes were donated by local businesses and Lions Club members.

The major sponsors of the golf day were The Flinders Golf Club and The Bendigo Bank.

A total of \$36,000 was raised. These monies will be used to support very worthy school-focused projects that have been identified and fit the youth well-being and health needs in local primary and secondary schools on the Mornington Peninsula.



FLINDERS MOTORING HERITAGE DRIVES HOME A GREAT EVENT



This event has once again proven why it's become such a favourite on the local calendar.

The atmosphere was buzzing from start to finish. Visitors enjoyed a vibrant mix of classic and unique vehicles, live music, and local traders.

This year saw an impressive 158 car entries, a strong increase on last year, with nearly 50 vehicles entered into judging. From proud owners to curious spectators, the passion for motoring heritage was on full display.

Crowds of more than 1,500 people attended across the day, enjoying everything from the cars themselves to the lively entertainment and community spirit.

Behind the scenes, the event ran smoothly thanks to the incredible efforts of volunteers, Lions members, and organisers. From marshalling and parking through to administration and coordination, it was a true team effort that ensured everything ran like clockwork.

The event raised over \$23,000 to support community initiatives. This outcome was made possible not only by attendees, but also through the generous support of sponsors Buxton Real Estate, Bendigo Community Bank, and Kalus Kenny Intalex Lawyers.

A special thank you goes to everyone who contributed – from volunteers and sponsors to car entrants and visitors. Events like this don't just happen; they're built on community spirit, collaboration, and a shared passion for making a difference.



Join us
to celebrate
60 years of the
**Lions Clubs of
Morwell, Moe
& Traralgon!**



**Saturday,
20 June 2026**

start 6:00pm

Dust off your flares, polka dots and peace signs! Enjoy a fantastic night of live entertainment featuring all your favourite hits from the 60s.



Where

Morwell Bowling Club
52 Hazelwood Road, Morwell VIC

Cost

\$60 per person



LIONS ASSISTANCE DOGS RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week is 18th – 24th of May this year. Get involved and celebrate those who sacrifice their time for causes greater than them!

Lions Assistance Dogs recognises the importance of celebrating National Volunteer Week. It recognises the contribution of millions of volunteers across the country and invites everyone to discover how giving their time and talents can create connection, purpose, and stronger communities. Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, from Puppy Carers, BnB carers, Guardian Carers, and Fire Evacuation Volunteers, to Lions Clubs across the country who support with placements and accreditations. We say thankyou and celebrate all of you.

2027 Calendars and New Stock!

We also have new stock in our online shop. Pictured you can see Dougie sitting alongside our new 2027 calendar and our newest tea towel design. Head to our website to purchase some of our new merch, and stayed tuned for more new items coming to the shop soon.

As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs, how to get involved or support us, please contact us at:
development@lionsassistedogs.com.au

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



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