



201W2
DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

WE SERVE

DECEMBER 2009

FROM THE DG's DESK:

What comes first?

MERRY Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year to all Lions members, their families and loved ones.

Dot and I wish all the Lions (and anyone else) who read this bulletin a safe and happy Christmas.

May your wishes come true and you find peace and satisfaction with life during this time of celebration.

I know many of you spend hours devoting your time to Lions activities, functions, fund raising, administration etc.

Please remember while we feel there is always more to be done for us to serve our communities, as Lions we should also plan to have some fun. As the younger generation will tell us we need to "chill out."

When we are asked to join Lions we are often told our lives should be **Family First, Job Second and Lions Third**. How many of us can look at our lives at present and say "Yes that is how I am living."? Many of us will find Lions can, and will, take over. Nothing wrong with that some of you will say, and while I agree, I still believe we should look to our families and friends and sometimes step back and reassess our priorities.

We should also remember the Lion member who can only give 1 hour a month is still as valuable as the member who devotes many hours of service to their community.

Let us not lose Lions members because of over work, too many projects, and too many demands on their time.

Let us look at how the first six months have progressed in our District.

1. We lost one club, Williams, due to lack of interest in the community in keeping the club

viable. A big disappointment to me and my MERL Team.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS

2. Our overall membership is showing a positive growth with more new members than drops. Well done, keep up the good work and make sure the new members have fun.

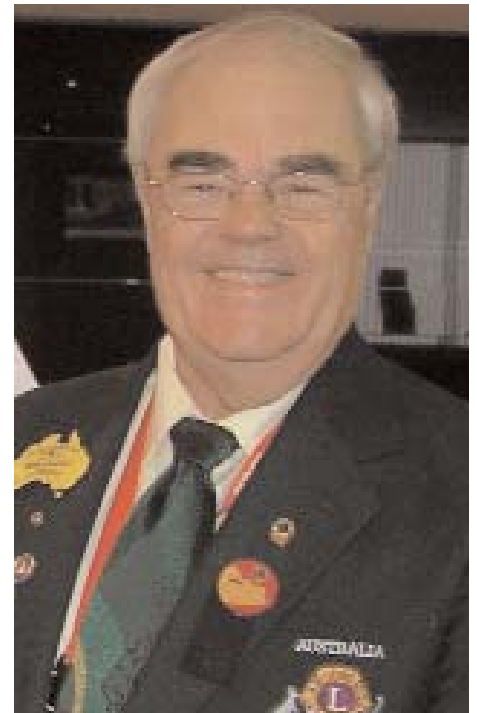
3. Women members in clubs have also shown a positive increase. This is an excellent result and puts our District in the top 10 in Australia at number 8 with 28% of our membership being women. W1 District is the number one with a 38% result.

4. Family memberships have remained static. Don't forget to ask the Club Secretary about Family Memberships. It will save you fees.

5. Our total Christmas cake sales are up on last year as are our Lions Mints sales. Great result and well done to Cake and Mint Chairman Jane Oversby.

6. Congratulations to the following clubs for being involved in having arranged, through the Lions Hearing Dogs, for the provision of 'Sound Field Systems' into their local Primary Schools. Canning Vale, Manjimup, Jandakot Lakes and Capel. Also well done to Dalyellup and Boyanup District for sponsoring Lions Hearing Dogs for local people. District Hearing Chairman Wendy Masters is only too happy to hear from your club and assist in any way she can. Thanks Wendy.

7. Peace Poster Chairman, Marcia Nicholls, with lots of help from husband Bob, have done a great job getting the entries judged and off for National judging on time. Marcia will be reporting on the winner and the sponsoring club. Well done Marcia and Bob. They are now gearing up for Children of Courage, please give



Neil Saunders.

them as much support as you can.

Remember you are only half way through your year as Club Presidents, or other officers, and although you will be starting to plan for nominations and election of officers early in the New Year, there is still a long way to go to achieve your goals that were set six months ago.

We are definitely not on the 'down hill run' just yet.

Remember Family First, and keep having fun as Lions.

My sincere best wishes for the Festive Season and may your dreams be fulfilled.

-Neil Saunders, DG District 201W2

DG Neil's visitation list

January 9: Boyanup District, Capel and Dalyellup

January 11: Leeuwin

January 15-17 MD Council Meeting

January 23: Albany 45th Anniversary

January 24: Jerramungup

January 27 Mt Barker and Rocky Gully

February 2: Mandurah Leos

February 8: Kwinana

February 16: Greenfields (Lunch)

February 16: Pinjarra (Evening)

February 24: Merredin

March 4: Hyden, Naremben, Kondinin and Kulin (Joint)

March 7: Manjimup

March 8: Donnybrook

March 9: Mandurah

March 11: Baldvis and Serpentine-

Jarrahdale (Joint)

March 15: Nannup

March 16: West Arthur

March 23: Fremantle

March 24: Northam

April 8: Dunsborough

April 12: Rockingham

April 13: Port Kennedy

April 21: Busselton

April 22: Cowaramup and

Margaret River (Joint)

April 27, 29 MD Council Meeting

April 30-May 3: MD Convention Mildura

June 19: Awards Night Mandurah

June 20: W2 Cabinet Meeting Mandurah

June 27-July 2: Internatinal Convention

Sydney

Official Publication of the Lions
in District 201W2

District Coordinator:
201W2

KAREN MOLCHER

23 Rise Court, Mt Richton WA 6112
(M) 0412 532 427 (H) (08) 9399 3828
e-mail: lionsw2.publications@gmail.com

West Lion

NEXT EDITION: FEBRUARY, 2010

COPY DEADLINE:

JANUARY 10, 2010

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

NEXT EDITION: JANUARY 2010

COPY DEADLINE: DECEMBER 10, 2009

District website address:

www.lionsdistrict201w2.mysouthwest.com.au

The following is a document (see below) sent to members of Cabinet by a Lion who attended the District Convention in Albany this year. I want to share it with all the members of the District, including my comments which will appear next to the paragraphs in italic print. (Just like this.) I have left out club and individual names as I do not want there to be any bias when you read what this Lion has to say. I appreciate the comments from this Lions member. It shows he is trying to improve our approach to Lions and membership.

Regards, Neil Saunders, DG, District 201W2.

"To communicate with potential members, first learn the language"

The average age in my club is 69 years. Next year it will be 70 years and it will still average 70 years even if 4 members who are on leave of absence or have poor attendance, because of sickness, leave the club. If we don't get some younger members we are headed for extinction.

DG: I agree.

I have heard lots of reasons why we can't attract younger members. Nowadays Mum and Dad go out to work, they are too busy. Jobs are no longer nine to five jobs; they have to work longer hours.

DG: Again I agree and aren't these the reasons why Lions have become more flexible in their approach to how clubs are run? No longer do clubs have to have two dinner meetings a month, no longer do they have to meet face to face, no longer do they have to follow the age old 'structured' approach.

At the Lions District Convention the hall seemed to be full of Past District Governors. Where were their children? Well my own children have told me that they have often thought about joining Lions, but it is an old man's club isn't it? Well my clubs average age is 69 and next year it will be 70.

DG: A Lions Club is not an Old Man's Club. It may have elderly people as members but how old were they when they joined? I was 36 and many of the older members in my club were in their early 30s when they joined. Perhaps the younger people who think about joining Lions should go ahead and do it instead of finding reasons not to?

At the Convention I got bored with the proceedings. It was pointed out that the chair only recognised Past District Governors, possible because they knew each other and it was easier than trying to identify some unknown, first time, Club Presidents or aren't there any? So I spent a lot of time around the back where we were supposed to have presentations by youth, but they never happened. Still I was able to talk to some youth(s). It was more interesting than what was going on in the hall even although the computers were not connection(ed) to the internet.

DG: My first reaction when I read this was one of anger. Many people worked very hard over a two year period to make the Convention as interesting, informative and streamlined as they possibly could, and now a person who had no input, is complaining of being bored.

I re-read this paragraph several times and do realise that perhaps the Business Session can be boring. We need to remember that as an Incorporated body we are required, under law, to hold an Annual General Meeting every year. We, as Lions, need to remember that this is the start of the

democratic process where motions moved at club level are debated and voted on. A motion moved by a club must pass through the District Convention to be able to go on to the Multiple District Convention and possibly to the International Convention. Boring, perhaps, but an important part of our Democratic procedure for which we must remain ever grateful. Past District Governors realise the importance of attendance at Conventions, plus in our District a Past District Governor is entitled to a vote over and above his club's delegate allowance. Most important if a club is supporting, or voting against, a Notice of Motion.

Two of the Convention guest speakers were International Leos of the Year. Surely an endorsement of the skill and ability of our younger generation? Past International Director Cliff Heywood. Was his presentation boring? Hardly.

I discovered that the kids and Leos communicated with each other via the Internet and on Facebook, My Space and Twitter. You could leave messages and comments on the wall. I knew what the wall was as I was forced into Facebook by my Youth Exchange Students from Indonesia so that we could exchange photographs, dozens of them, get to know their friends and family and so that they could get information about me, helping us to get to know each other, weeks before we actually met. The Leos can organise and plan a working bee without ever meeting each other until they met for the project, as explained again at our Zone meeting.

DG: This is great initiative by the Leos and others. I have no objection as to how people, young or old, communicate with each other, provided all the members of the group are included. Our District uses the District Web Site, Cabinet Mail Outs, District Newsletters, email, ordinary mail, SMS messaging and the phone to communicate between cabinet members, clubs and other organisations. If people want to use another method to pass information on within their group, no problem, but does everyone have to change?

I thought about publicising my club on the web. Several clubs, and even District have web sites but these sites are dull and never change. I thought that I might plan a web site (organised to attract search engines) which was more dynamic: a picture of people queuing at a sausage sizzle, an action picture of Lions serving, or people chatting around the stall, somebody calling "House!" at our bingo session. Change the photos every month, making it a public Club Bulletin. Some members in my old men's club thought that it wasn't a good idea because nobody looks at the web. But they are wrong,

because we are getting one new member in our club and he might become the youngest member. He found his Lions contact through the web! *DG: Go ahead and do it, then show the doubting members how good it is. Log on to the Australian Multiple District web site and follow a link to a Queensland Club that will design a Club Web Site free of charge. The Lions International web site is being constantly updated and was redesigned this year, as was the Australian Multiple District web site. Our own District web site is frequently updated. I might point out that if Clubs don't send information to the web master, nothing will change.*

I discussed this with one of my kids, now in his forties, who is CEO of a Perth radio station. He explained that in to-day's world he is no longer simply running a radio station, he has Facebook, Twitter and a Web Site and Pod Casting, to maintain in order to keep in contact with his customers and audience. I realised that my children and grandchildren organised their friends to go to a cinema together, without meeting until they get to the cinema, restaurant or whatever else they have organised.

DG: I assume the CEO has paid staff to assist with maintaining all these communications systems? I, as an individual, struggle at times to keep up with the emails, phone calls and written correspondence that I am responsible for. If I start adding more communications methods to my life I am certain I will upset someone by not answering them.

Now I think I know why I can't get youth into my old men's club. It is because we don't talk their language. So when is District going to organise some lessons in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language for better web sites) and the uses of Facebook, My Space and Twitter in the interests of Lions Membership. If District got some young Leos to teach us, they must understand that although we are old, we are not stupid and if they take it slowly and go easy on the jargon, we might understand. THX KK (Thanks and OK with easier key strokes).

DG: District will organise training if and when there is a demand. This is the first, and only, request I have received for this type of training. Try logging on to the Lions International Website: www.lionsclubs.org or use the links from the District or Multiple District web sites and check out the home page. There is a link to LQ, the Lions Quarterly Video Magazine, there are links to: YouTube, Twitter, My Space, FaceBook, Flickr and LinkedIn. The Australian Multiple District web site has a link to Club Web Sites, World Wide. How many more do we need? I am sure there are others that I am not aware of.

Walk for Sight for scenic walkers



LEEUEWIN Lions Save Sight coordinator Ross Fimister pictured above with Augusta Primary School students Holly Webb, Cory Walker, Brayden Brearley-Passi and Paris Woodward do a practice walk before the annual Walk for Sight that was held in Augusta on November 15.

The Leeuwin club raised more than \$3,000 in last years

walk.

The five kilometre walk takes in some exciting views of Flinders Bay. And when the walk finished walkers were offered a free sausage sizzle.

All funds raised go to Lions Save Sight Foundation. Picture: Courtesy Augusta Margaret River Times.

Fifty bucks for a red and white cap, you have to be joking

THIS story begins in Lake Grace, a South West farming community in West Australia. It is also 'Ford Country'.

During my District Governor's visit to the Lions Club of Lake Grace, combined with the Lions Club of Pingrup and it was here that Pingrup Lion John McDougall offered one of Holden's red promotional caps for auction, declaring funds raised would go to the Heart Foundation. This was an opportune time to "stir" the local Ford dealer, Nick.

Bidding was slow with the local Ford dealer, Lake Grace Lion, Nick, offering \$5. The Holden supporters pushed Nick to about \$15 when someone asked; "Hey Nick, what do you want a Holden cap for, you're the Ford man?" Nick's reply was short. "I am going to throw it in the bin," he said.

This got a laugh from the 30 plus people in the room and it also started a bidding war for the Holden cap.

Soon the price tagged \$17 . . . \$20 . . . \$25 and upwards to \$42. The bid was with the Ford dealer, Nick, the auctioneer was working the crowd, no one wanted to save the Holden cap from the bin.

Suddenly Lion Dot, my wife, took \$50 from my wallet, jumped to her feet, and in a loud voice said, "I bid \$50 of Neil's money, for the Holden cap."

Down came the hammer, people laughed and clapped, Nick the Ford dealer was happy, I was \$50 poorer, and Lion Dot was the proud owner of brand new Holden cap.

She was heard to comment, "It will match my Holden lanyard on my camera."

-DG Neil Saunders.



Popular Baby Picture project supports Busselton hospital wards



Carol Madigan from Mandurah is pictured with Iris Baptiste from Penang, Malaysia viewing the pictures at a Busselton Shopping Centre.

THE Busselton Lions Popular Baby Picture Project has run by the club for over 40 years.

Each year local parents are invited to participate in the project by providing a picture of a child that will be displayed at two shopping centres in Busselton.

Each picture board has 24 pictures on display with money jars attached in order to entice funds from supporters of their favourite child. All children must be under three years of age at close of project.

And the good news is that all photographs are taken by Busselton Kodak Express photographer in their studio free of charge. This means no costs to parents of entrants, hopefully the photographer can sell extra pictures to parents and grandparents to cover his costs. The sponsor also has his own sign on picture board. Pictures are placed on ply-wood backing in groups of four or eight so each group can be moved up one shelf each time money jars are emptied over 10 to 14 days. The bottom lines are harder to see.

Moneys collected are recorded against child's name in a book. Three names to a page allows for about five to six entries. Money jars are behind perspex for security. Shops display the board sat convenient positions suitable for public viewing.

Over the last five years Busselton Lions have collected about \$15,400 which has been donated to the Busselton Hospital's maternity ward and children's ward.

"Oh and one more thing, I forgot to say it takes about three hours to count the money, it weighs in at up to 15kg," project chairman Ken Barrington said.

Lions clubs support Rotary's Bowlsan awareness program

JEFF Cairns is the WA Coordinator for Rotary Bowlsan an awareness program for Colorectal or Bowel Cancer. Rotary is campaigning to inform communities of the 13,000 cases each year and the 4,200 deaths from this disease, and to promote testing for symptoms of Bowel Cancer by Faecal Occult Blood Tests.

Having promoted these tests Rotary feels it is necessary to ensure that these tests are readily available and market FOBT's at minimal cost through 220 Pharmacies, the testing of the samples are conducted by Western Diagnostic Pathology at no cost as a community service and all the marketing is by Marketforce also at no direct cost to the program.

In 2010 the project will cover most of the State from Esperance to Kununurra and many towns in between. Lions clubs are encouraged to engage local pharmacies to deliver stock and pick up returns to be sent to pathology. Clubs are also requested to organise local publicity, Rotary will cover all expenses and supply all materials.

In 2009 Rotary received a request from three Lions clubs to let them take Bowlsan to their communities and of course they were delighted and duly supplied all necessary material. They also received requests from several towns not serviced by Rotary clubs but may have Lions clubs. I believe the Lions and Rotary both have similar community concerns so my request to you is that where we have requests from the public in towns supported by Lions clubs that we offer Bowlsan to that club.

—Jeff Cairns, Rotary Bowlsan WA Coordinator.

Mobile: 0417 989 729. website: www.catchcancer.org.au

MOBILITY & SPINAL CORD MERCHANDISE SALE

Leftover items taken to the last two W2 District conventions and are now taking up much needed space. A lot of Lions would not have been able to attend the conventions, so I thought a advert in the District Newsletter would help. Items include caps, stubby holders, badges, T-shirts and collared shirts.

STUBBY HOLDERS: Blue with yellow insignia \$5ea. **BADGES:** Triangular & red \$5ea. **WHITE SHIRTS:** Collared with insignia lge 6, med 4 small \$15ea **MOBILITY** (Walk for an Aussie Kid) **PEAK CAPS:** Maroon colour (One size fits all) \$5ea. **T-SHIRTS:** White with

insignia, child size \$5ea. Adult size and small \$10ea. Medium, large, ex-large, XX-large. Apply to . . . BEVERLEY HAWKINS, District Chairman, Mobility-Spinal Cord-Stem Cell. Email: albev@aapt.net.au Mob: 0400 637 435. FAX: 9312 4701 (work)

Royal Flying Doctor Service benefits from Bull Creek Golf competition



THE Lions Club of Bull Creek conducted a Lions Charity Golf Day on October 30, 2009 at Glen Iris Golf Club in Jandakot. The beneficiaries of the event were the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Lions Cancer Institute "On the road cancer screening program".

Ninety six players teed off to start an enjoyable terrific day's golf, social outing, awards presentation and dinner.

The aim of the day was to raise \$10,000 to assist the RFDS and Lions Cancer Institute Cancer Screening programme which is being conducted in Regional Western Australia

As a result of the support from sponsors and other members of the community community service golf days are worthwhile and very successful, the entire money raised goes to community projects, it has been decided by the club that another Lions Charity Golf Day will be held in 2010

One of the highlights of the day was a sponsored \$10,000 hole in one, this was not won on the day but thanks to Lion Peter Lamb of Ausure Insurance, we hope it will be available again next year.

Any members who would like to play in the golf day are very welcome and any sponsor who would like to assist would be greatly appreciated, at this early stage the proceeds of the proposed 2010 day have not been decided.

I would like to thank members of Lions clubs who attended for their support, our sponsors and especially the members of the Lions Club of Bull Creek for an outstanding effort.

–PDG Bill Robertson, Lions Club of Bull Creek Golf

A view of all golfers and volunteers at the big golf day out and below the winning foursome from Westate Finance Group.



Don't fall for false website promotions

LIONS Clubs may have received an offer for 'free' websites by the company "Orgnition". Please note that these websites are not part of the Multiple District or LCI project to roll out websites to clubs. The company is not licensed by LCI.

I, and our web team, have discussed the Orgnition offer with the company owners and rejected it. As to the progress of our own project.

We are only weeks away from launching high quality, integrated and simple websites to Lions clubs as part of the Lions Australia web project. These websites have been developed by Australian Lions for Lions and will offer a high degree of functionality.

They will include . . .

- Links between District, Club and National website.
- Consistent branding

- Integration with our membership database.
- A calendar of events, news items, links to sponsors.

· A simple to use editing system that will enable any club member who can type and use the internet, to maintain the site.

The launch of the new Multiple District website and District websites will follow the launch of the club websites.

The system is optional for clubs, and free. Best of all, the system is owned and hosted by Lions Australia.

There will be an announcement about the project in the next edition of the Lion, and the launch will be communicated on our website.

Please contact me if you would like further details and feel free to circulate this e-mail.

**–Rob Oerlemans,
Executive Officer, Lions Australia.**

Suicide Support Services accepts Australind Lions \$10,000 donation

DISTRICT V5 and ex-Australind Lion Jerry Farsoun handed over a cheque for \$11,000 Doctor Nick Foster of the Suicide Support Services in Melbourne recently.

Jerry Farsoun was adopted into Lions by members of the Australind Lions Club after he gave a heart-warming speech at the 2008 Bunbury convention on suicide and depression.

The Australind club took on the Jerry's Over Down Under project and with support of many W2 District clubs they raised the \$11,000 and handed it to Jerry at the clubs annual changeover in June this year. Jerry took the cheque to Melbourne and the rest is history.



MD convention on the "Edge of the Outback"

**Lions Australia 58th National Convention
Mildura 30th April – 3rd May 2010**

CONVENTION UPDATE

JUST 6 Months TO GO!

REGISTRATION FORM NOW

AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE.

Have you sent in your registration yet?

If not, why not give this your attention now. Your attention to this will certainly help in the planning process and will be of great assistance to the COC.

And your name will go into the Early Bird Registration Draw for a wonderful Prize.

CONVENTION PROGRAM:

Now available on Website.

LIONESS DINNER:

This annual gathering of Lioness' from all

around the country will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 7.00pm. At the EDGE Hotel/Motel partners and friends of Lioness' are invited, as are in fact all conventioners, to join with the Lioness'. The Edge Hotel/ Motel is just across the Bridge from the Mildura CBD.

AUSTRALIAN PIN TRADERS:

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will also be held on Thursday, April 29 at a venue to be announced.

LIONS EYE GLASSES RECYCLING:

PDG Ken Leonard has advised that this wonderful facility will be mounting a display at the Mildura Convention and has advised that clubs are encouraged to bring their supply of used spectacles, including sun glasses, to the convention and deliver them to this stand. And we

feel sure that Lion Sue Johnson, president of the Lions International Stamp Club (Chapter 10 – Australia) would welcome any used stamps.

TRANSPORTATION:

To respond to requests about the provision of a bus transport service for conventioners, Convention Chairman Laurie advises that there will be no special service available. Mildura boasts of a good taxi service and also public transport. Unlike previous venues, nothing is too far away. There will be limited transport available from the airport.

More info COC Chairman Lion Laurie Phillips

Ph. (03) 5024 2315. (M) 0428 147 168.

E-mail: lauriephil3@hotmail.net.au

International convention team pass final inspection

SYDNEY has passed the final site Inspection in October with flying colours.

The Lions Clubs International Convention team (LCI) have just completed their final inspection and were very happy with the state of readiness that we are at.

The parade will now go down Macquarie Street (after assembling in College Street) to the Opera House. From the Opera House, ferries and buses will take the delegates back to the Convention Centre or they can stay and see the Opera House and the Rocks.

The International Show will be on at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on the Tuesday night. Plenary sessions will be over the next three days (Wed to Fri) at the entertainment centre with the closing ceremony on the Friday and the final party at the "Overseas passenger terminal" on the same night.

The Sydney Exhibition Centre will contain all the Displays and Registration and accreditation.

VOLUNTEERS

If you have not registered as a volunteer yet you should do so soon. We need to organise uniforms for you and need three month lead in time. If you can't work the numbers of shifts required then just say so on the application form. This is a once in a life time experience for the Sydney Lions to take part in a convention in your own city and meet the Lions from around the World.

It's something that you won't forget for a long time. There are many areas to volunteer in.

The DGE School, the parade, at hotels on transport etc are all popular areas for Volunteers to assist. Australia will be last this year in the parade, so you can see all the delegations and then join in the Australia Delegation, as it passes by.

Register your interest on www.lions2010.com and receive a Volunteer Application Pack.

REGISTRATION

While the Australian dollar is close to the US

Dollar and the fee is \$100 up until 31/12/09 you should go online and register NOW..... www.lionsclubs.org After that, it goes to US\$150.

You will be asked the hotel you are staying at. If you choose to stay at the Australian delegation hotel it is the Novotel Rockford at the Entertainment Centre. If not, you can leave it blank and not nominate a hotel.

If you have trouble filling out the form online simple download and then fax the form after you have filled it out.

If you want to see more information go onto the Host Committee Web Site www.lions2010.com This was updated again at the end of November.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the Lions of Australia to participate and enjoy our International Convention.

**-PID Barry Palmer AM,
Host Committee Chairman.**