

# Sydney News

**District Governor Mohan Nanayakkara 2025-26**

**Official Publication of District 201N5 - Sydney and Norfolk Island - March 2026**

Please send your contributions to Editor Roger Sherrington to [sydneynews@lions.sydney](mailto:sydneynews@lions.sydney) by 26th of month



## **DG Mohan's Message**

**“Growing Lions, Growing Service, Growing Legacy – One Connection at a Time”**

Dear Lions of District 201N5,

We are at our best when we work together and enjoy the journey. Service is expanding, clubs are welcoming new members, and community ties are strengthening.

Let's keep that energy alive and growing.

### **District Convention 2025**

In addition to the success of convention 2025, was the distribution of \$20,000 plus profit.

□ \$14,800 - Essential medical equipment for Exodus Foundation (Rev. Bill Crews)

□ \$5,000 – Paid to District

□ \$1,485 - Donated to Lions Assistance Dogs

My sincere thanks go to Convention Chair PDG Ron Gattone, Treasurer John Fernandes, and the entire Convention Team for an outstanding job.

### **District Website**

Our new District website is now live with few tweaks pending: <https://lions.sydney>. We have already received valuable feedback from District Officers and majority of the improvements implemented. In the month of March, we plan to start a limited Facebook campaign across selected areas in Sydney to generate interest from potential members. If any clubs wish to have an FB promotion in a particular area, please drop an email to [dg@lions.sydney](mailto:dg@lions.sydney) with a cc to [gmt@lions.sydney](mailto:gmt@lions.sydney) with club service activities and service photos, so that those can be shared during the promotion using Facebook with an action button directed to the district Website. Sincere thanks to IPDG Genevieve for her dedication and effort in getting the website completed.

### **“Retention Leaders” & “Growth Leaders” Awards is on....**

Retain all current members from January 2026 to 30 June 2026 to receive a Retention Leaders” Award.

If losses occur due to unavoidable reasons (e.g., passing of members), clubs must refill those positions.

Clubs that have already dropped more than 10% in the first half of the year will need to recover those numbers to qualify.

Clubs that successfully recruit new members during this period will be recognised as “Growth Leaders.”

### **Election of International Director – CA7**

Our Multiple District is conducting an online election to select the candidate who will stand for International Director at the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong. The successful candidate will represent Constitutional Area 7, which includes Australia, PNG, New Zealand, the Pacific, and Indonesia. Financial clubs should register delegates on the Lions International Portal before 6 th March 2026. Online voting will open on Friday 20 March 2026 at 5pm and close on Monday 30 March 2026 at 9am.

### **Guiding Lions Program - District will conduct a Guiding Lions Course on 14 April.**

I strongly encourage many Lions to participate. The Guiding Lion Program supports newly chartered, established, and rebuilding clubs. The skills gained can be used across many leadership roles within our District.

### **DG Appeals – Sri Lankan Disaster and Victorian Bushfires**

The appeal to support Sydney Sri Lankan Lions Club following the devastating cyclone closed in January ‘2026.

A new appeal has been launched to assist those affected by the Victorian bushfires and is currently open.

Information - [cabtreas@lions.sydney](mailto:cabtreas@lions.sydney).

**Grow stronger together** - in service, membership, leadership, and spirit - with purpose, joy, and fun. Let's continue moving forward by staying visible, inviting others, and celebrating our success. Every connection we make builds our legacy.

**Let's keep serving better - and growing stronger - one connection at a time.**

*Continued over page*

**Work Together and Have Fun**

## ...and Out and About



Seven Hills Toongabbie Youth of the Year. Congratulations to Ananya Karthok (Our Lady of Mercy College - Parramatta)



Welcome to Kings Langley



Manly 70th Charter Anniversary with President Caroline and Lion Elaine

## New Project Underway

# Domestic Violence Door Bell



Work Together and Have Fun

FULL STORY PAGE 10



## Lions Rally When the East Suffers



Eastern Australia is once again facing the kind of heartbreak that has become all too familiar - communities scorched by bushfires in one region while others are submerged under floodwaters.

In moments like these, the headlines often focus on the devastation. But just beneath the surface is another story, one that deserves equal attention: the extraordinary willingness of Aussies to step up. The Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) has launched an Emergency Disaster Appeal to support those caught in the crossfire of fire and flood.

The ALF has long been a quiet but powerful force in disaster relief. Their volunteers are often among the first on the ground and the last to leave, helping communities rebuild long after the news cameras have moved on. This new appeal continues that legacy, providing immediate assistance and offering Emergency and Disaster Relief grants to Lions clubs working directly with affected residents.

In a time when many feel powerless watching the destruction unfold, this appeal offers a clear path to action. Every contribution, no matter the size, becomes part of a larger effort to restore homes, livelihoods and hope.

Australia's landscape may be unpredictable, but our response to crisis never is. We rally. We rebuild. We refuse to let our neighbours face hardship alone. The ALF's appeal is a great way to assist.

For Club Donations: [Contribute via the ALF Ltd Emergency Disaster Appeals account:](#)

**BSB: 036-048    Account No.: 440704.**

Please use your club number as the reference and email [alf.treasurer@lions.org.au](mailto:alf.treasurer@lions.org.au) to advise your contribution

### **District Governor Appeal:**

#### **V1-4 Bushfire Recovery Effort**

The recent bushfires in Harcourt, Victoria have left a deep impact on local communities, prompting an urgent call for assistance. In response, District Governor Mohan Nanayakkara has received a formal request for support from District Governor Samantha Wu of District V1-4. Lions Clubs across our district now have an opportunity to stand together and provide meaningful help during this challenging time.

Clubs wishing to contribute to the V1-4 Bushfire Appeal are invited to make donations through the designated district account. All contributions will be collected by Cabinet Treasurer Stephen Holdstock, who will ensure that funds are forwarded directly to District V1-4 for distribution where they are needed most.

To support the appeal, please direct payments to:

**Account Name: Lions District 201N5 Activities Account (Bushfire Appeal)**

**BSB: 032-055    Account Number: 163233**

After making a contribution, clubs are asked to notify District Cabinet Treasurer Stephen Holdstock [cabtreas@lions.sydney](mailto:cabtreas@lions.sydney). This step ensures that every donation is properly recorded and acknowledged.

When depositing funds, please include:

- Your club number, and
- The reference “**BF**” (**Bushfire**)

**DIABETES**



**Lions Club of Sydney Indian  
&  
JET Australia Foundation**



**Presents**

# **DIABETES**

## **AWARENESS FORUM**



**22nd March 2026, Sunday**

**REG BYRNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, Corner of Fyall Av &  
Darcy Road, Wentworthville NSW 2145**

**1:30 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Expert Talks :**

**Diabetes Management- Dr. Mani Megalai**

**Healthy Lifestyle Tips- Ms. Rani Sundar**

**Q&A Session**

**Register Now For Free  
(Scan QR code)**



**Parking:**

**Onsite and Street parking is available**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Contacts:**

**Sanjeev (Lions Club) 0431 682 940**

**Mrinalini (JET Australia) 0414 773 115**

**Work Together and Have Fun**

# 201N5 DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISITATION SCHEDULE AND DIARY 2026

Note: If there's a problem with any of the information below, contact Cabinet Secretary Jen Touzel 0411 173 227

MARCH 2026	
6 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Sydney Wings of Fire Fundraising Gala Dinner (DG & VDG1-2)
6 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Club Delegate Registration for MD on the Lion Portal Closes
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Lions Safari Awareness Month
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Youth & Community Service Dinner – Blacktown Ponds (DG & VDG1-2)
8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cabinet Meeting – (Wenty Leagues)
8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	International Women's Day
8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Sydney Follow Your Dream International Women's Day (Year of the Horse) (DG & VDG2)
8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Sydney Concord & Sydney North West 2026 International Women's Day Charity Gala Dinner (DG & VDG1-2)
9 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Blacktown City (Chevron Presentations) VDG2
10 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Carlingford Dundas (Chevron Presentations) VDG2
11 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Visit (Box Hill Gables)
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Sydney Chinese Charity Ball
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	State Leo of the Year (Springwood RSL Club 83 Macquarie Rd, Springwood)
15 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Complete Regionals/Area YOTY

MARCH 2026	
	District Projects and Ordinary
15 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	DG Visit – Norfolk Island & Arthurs Vale (DG, 1VDG & 2VDG)
17 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	St Patrick's Day
20 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Electronic Voting Opens for Election of International Director at 5 pm
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cabinet Secretary & Cabinet Treasurer Training Best Western Airport Hotel & Convention Centre at Melbourne Airport
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun)	Sight & Health Foundation Meeting—Bankstown Sports Club
23 <sup>rd</sup> (Mon)	West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook
26 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	District GAT & GMA Meeting (Wenty Leagues 6.30 pm)
26 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
27 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Oatley Lions Golf Day
28 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Sydney Pacific 30th Anniversary (DG)
29 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	District Final YOTY (Wenty Leagues)
30 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Electronic Voting Closes for Election of International Director at 9 am

APRIL 2026	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Wed)	Successful Candidate for International Director Announced
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Thur)	Club Presidents Information (Google)
3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
TBA	WPH-Cherrybrook Anzac
9 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	Club Secretaries Information
14 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Certified Guiding Lion Training (Google)
16 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	Club Treasurer Information (Google)
18 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Environment Club Events
19 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Incoming Cabinet Officer Forum
23 <sup>rd</sup> (Thur)	Club Membership Information (Google)
24 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Nurses Scholarship Foundation
25 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Anzac Day Service
26 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
29 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	Club Service Chairs Information (Google)
30 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	District GAT & GMA Meeting (Wenty Leagues 6.30 pm)

## Welcome New Members

The strength of our organisation is in our members and in particular those new members who join us to inject vital new life, ideas and enthusiasm into our Association.

District Governor Mohan Nanayakkara and members of District 201N5 extend the hand of friendship and welcome the following new members into the fellowship of the family of Lions.

NEW MEMBER	CLUB	SPONSOR
Dorothy Del Villar	Blacktown City	Rebel Hanlon
Vikash Kumar Dubey	Blacktown Ponds	Paul McInnes
Sussie Lamadine	Blacktown Ponds	Victoria McInnes
Shweta Shukla	Blacktown Ponds	Victoria McInnes
Youssef Ali	Canterbury Bankstown	Charbel Tadros
Maria Falco-Davalos	Carlingford Dundas	David Evans
Jay Behera	Greenacre	Bimal Joshi
Vivienne Foster	Kings Langley	John Fernandes
Joanne Lowles	Kings Langley	Barbara Margerison
Nabil Chammas	Sydney Compassion	Allan Rennie
Lu Han	Sydney Concord	Meixi Yan
Amy Xia Zhang	Sydney Concord	Joyce Yang
Patrick Li	Sydney Concord	Joyce Yang
Kevin Lee	Sydney Host	Kim Ng
Yoko Lee	Sydney Host	Alan Chan
David Hai Chau	Sydney North West	William Chan
Shun Cheng Gao	Sydney North West	William Chan
Shang-Yi Lee	Sydney North West	William Chan
Tao Niu	Sydney North West	William Chan
Wenbi Sun	Sydney North West	William Chan
Zhijian Wei	Sydney North West	William Chan
Hoi Kwong Wong	Sydney North West	William Chan
Deli Yang	Sydney North West	William Chan
Liyan Yu	Sydney North West	William Chan
Xiaojun Zhang	Sydney North West	William Chan
Fiona C Rochester	Turrumurra	Tamara Wickremanayake

## Member Engagement & Retention Checklist for N5 Lions Clubs

.. **Retaining committed, enthusiastic members is essential to the strength and sustainability of every Lions club.** When Lions feel valued, purposeful, and connected, they stay - and thrive. Use this checklist to reflect on how your club supports a positive and fulfilling member experience.

### o **Club Meeting Experience**

**Offer flexible meeting formats** (e.g., face-to-face, online, or hybrid)

*Reason: Flexibility empowers members to stay engaged despite personal or professional demands.*

- **Provide a welcoming and appropriate venue.**

*Reason: People enjoy gathering in spaces that are comfortable and conducive to meaningful interaction.*

- **Circulate a clear agenda in advance before business meetings.**

*Reason: Promotes professionalism, clarity, and reduces unnecessary discussion.*

- **Start and finish meetings on time.**

*Reason: Respecting members' time builds trust and encourages continued participation.*

- **Treat all members with respect.**

*Reason: Courtesy fosters a positive club culture and strengthens a sense of belonging.*

- **Invite engaging and high quality guest speakers.**

*Reason: Interesting speakers enhance the value and enjoyment of meetings.*

### **Purposes & Engagement**

**Reinforce the meaningful purpose of Lions membership.**

*Reason: Members stay committed when they see the tangible impact of their service on their community.*

**"People join Lions to serve, but they stay when they feel they belong." – Lions Clubs International.**

**Offer a diverse range of service activities.**

*Reason: Members can choose and engage in causes that reflect their passions and interests.*

**Celebrate successful projects on Facebook, WhatsApp, or in Sydney News.**

*Reason: Recognition helps members feel appreciated and reinforces the idea that their contributions matter.*

**Encourage inclusive member decision-making.**

*Reason: Ownership strengthens engagement and retention particularly with new members.*

**Act on feedback from surveys and input sessions.**

*Reason: When members have input, they are more likely to support working towards the outcomes.*

**Host inclusive brainstorming sessions about your club's future.**

*Reason: Good leaders make people feel heard, building trust and unity.*

### **Membership Options and Support**

- **Ensure members understand the different membership categories of affiliate, family, associate, member at large (temporary absence) etc**

o *Reason: Flexibility appeals to a wider range of potential members, especially younger Lions.*

- **Recognise members' efforts consistently.** Phone calls to say thank you, acknowledgements at meetings, and recognition at changeover events all matter.

o *Reason: People stay where they feel valued.*

- **Follow up with members who miss meetings.**

*Reason: Absences may signal personal challenges. Support during illness, bereavement, or hardship reinforces the Lions family spirit.*

- **Celebrate significant life events - Birthdays, anniversaries, births, and other milestones.**

o *Reason: Personal recognition strengthens relationships and belonging.*



**Work Together and Have Fun**



## 2. Supporting New Members

- **Provide structured orientation programs.** ○  
*Reason: Informed members are confident and involved. Hairy pussies*
- **Assign a buddy in addition to a sponsor.** ○  
*Reason: Experienced guides offer crucial support during early months.*
- **Involve new members in projects immediately.** ○  
*Reason: Early engagement builds confidence and connection.*

## 3. Leadership & Club Governance

- **Offer leadership roles and development opportunities.**  
*Reason: Growth opportunities foster long-term commitment.*
- **Hold fair and democratic elections.**  
*Reason: Members are more supportive of leaders they helped elect.  
It also increases the opportunity of Lions to move into leadership positions and also lessens resentment.*
- **Ensure transparency about membership fees.**  
*Reason: Understanding fees helps members appreciate how Lions operates. Fees cover the running of our organisation, provide training, support and insurance.*
  - **“100% of public funds go back to the community - our administrative costs are covered by member dues.” – Lions International. This compared to 60 – 70% charged by other organisations.**
- **Carefully assess potential members before inviting them to join.**
  - *Reason: Alignment with club values promotes harmony and long-term satisfaction.*



This checklist is a living tool to help N5 Lions clubs reflect, adapt, and grow. Each point is rooted in the principle that **when Lions are respected, engaged, and given purpose - they stay**. As we serve our communities, let's also serve each other by making every club a place where Lions want to remain.

## **...and, another way to recognise your members, whilst supporting LCIF**

I am writing to encourage all clubs across District N5 to actively support and participate in the ongoing **Melvin Jones Birthday Fundraising Challenge**, which commenced on 13 January and will run through to 28 February. This is a valuable opportunity for us to promote LCIF within our clubs, honour the legacy of Melvin Jones, and further strengthen our culture of service and giving. As part of this challenge:

Districts achieving **15 new, full MJF/PMJF payments**, and Securing **25 new donors contributing US\$147 each** will receive exclusive recognition in honour of Melvin Jones's birthday. Individual donors will also receive a bespoke Melvin Jones birthday pin.

I encourage each club to consider how you can support this initiative by:

### **Promoting LCIF giving at club meetings**

### **Identifying potential new donors**

### **Encouraging members to consider MJF or other LCIF contributions**

Every donation helps LCIF continue its life-changing humanitarian work around the world.

If you need any support, promotional material, or ideas on how to engage your members, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued support of LCIF and your leadership within your clubs.

Together, let's see what District N5 can achieve.



## February Update

No more club visits on behalf of the District Governor. Too busy training, inviting members to be Cabinet and District Officers, and preparing for Information Days (yes ... not Training or Development ... Information)! District Governor Elect Training (International) – online sessions with District Governors from Australia and New Zealand every Sunday and Wednesday across February.

Convention 2026 – committee meeting.

International President – online catch-up, including the International Vice Presidents.

Harris Park – meeting with executive of new club.

District N4 – helping demonstrate running a Food Drive in Leura

Lugarno – Trivia Night.

District Executive – quarterly meeting



Inter District N5 support N4 for their first Food Drive and Membership Promotion in Leura



Bringing up my ton as part of Toongabbie Seven Hills Lions Club Blood Donation Project.



February focused on addressing club concerns with many club visits and celebrations completed. While there is a strong desire to serve the community, many clubs are struggling with member commitment and shortages. I personally visited five clubs this month to assist with areas such as membership growth to social media strategies. Working

alongside the district team, we remain committed to ensuring the long-term survival of these traditional clubs.

The Youth of the Year season is in full swing. As clubs finalise their local rounds, successful participants are now preparing for Area Finals. It is a privilege to watch these future leaders present such thought-provoking topics, and I wish all students the best of luck.

There have been many milestones and recognitions this past month.

Manly celebrated seven decades of service. Congratulations to PDG Nigel Jeny on his LCI Life Membership and PDG Genevieve on her progressive Melvin Jones Fellow award.



During my recent visits, I had the honour of presenting service chevrons and monarchs as well as inducting new members. The lifelong dedication of our members continues to inspire me and as we head into March, we remain focused on our mission of service.



Social visit to Richmond allowed me to present Service Chevrons to Roy McAlpine (10) Erika Schiller (30) & Roger Sherrington (55) another great night with the Club.

Another great night on a visit to the Combined Meeting with Berowra (President Bruce Andrews) and Hornsby (President Ted Henebery) Two proud Clubs serving their Community for over 110 years



**Work Together and Have Fun**

# GLT Offerings

Clipboard

Font

Paragraph

## April 2026

Thursday, April 2

### Club Presidents Information

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

All Club Presidents and members aspiring to the position.

Thursday, April 9

### Club Secretaries Information

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

All Club Secretaries and members aspiring to the position.

Tuesday, April 14

### Certified Guiding Lion Training

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

Members genuinely interested in being a Guiding Lion. Current and incoming Zone Chairs plus those needing recertification.

Thursday, April 16

### Club Treasurers Information

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

All Club Treasurers and members aspiring to the position.

Sunday, April 19

### District Officers Information

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Parramatta Lion's Den

Who should attend?

All Cabinet/District Officers.

## 2026

## District 201N5

# Training Calendar

*Important Dates & Details for Club & District Officers*

Thursday, April 23

### Club Membership Information

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

All Club Membership Chairs and members aspiring to the position.

Wednesday, April 29

### Club Service Chairs Information

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Who should attend?

All Club Service Chairs and members aspiring to the position.

## May 2026

Sunday, May 3

**Leading with Both Sides of the Brain**

### How to be an Effective Leader

Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Parramatta Lion's Den

Open to all members.

Limited to 30 people.

Thursday, May 7

### Lion Portal Effective Use

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

All interested members.

Thursday, May 14

### Compliance Rules

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and all interested members.

Saturday, May 16

### Social Media - AI & Gemini

Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Wentley Leagues

All interested members.

Wednesday, May 27

### How to Use Google Workspace: Calendar, Meet, Gmail

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

All interested members.

Friday, May 29

### How to Use Google Workspace: Sheets, Docs, Slides

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Google Meet

All interested members.

For further details contact the District Global Leadership Chair PDG Ron Gattone at [glt@lions.sydney](mailto:glt@lions.sydney)

**Work Together and Have Fun**

# Sydney Autism Community Lions Club was back at Mardi Gras Fair Day in February

As reported by President Tom Bozic



This time, we ran a sensory space!

Fair Day is an annual event that is part of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival. It has a carnival-like atmosphere, filled with performances, and hundreds of stalls from a vast array of food and craft retailers, and a broad spectrum of community groups.

This carnival-like atmosphere can be a challenge for some people, particularly those who are on the spectrum and who experience sensory overload. We saw a need, and so Lions Tom, Kate and Medha were there with the space! Our space was a particular hit with young children, although people of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to seek a brief, welcoming respite from the goings on, seeking shade from our gazebo, reclining on our bean bags, and playing with our vast array of stim toys, fidget spinners and play doh.

All in all, it was a successful day that far exceeded our expectations. Special thanks to Blacktown Ponds Lions Club



A blaze of colour greeted guests from the front of the stage at Strathfield Town Hall as the

## *Wings of Fire held its inaugural Gala Dinner*

The emphasis on the night was to raise money to support hunger projects. **Wings of Fire President, Sarath Pamidiparthi**, spoke eloquently on the food stress that people were facing at this time.

Our "Hunger Hero," our very own **Rebel Hanlon from Blacktown City** detailed some very alarming statistics concerning food poverty. He also stated that parents were going without meals in some parts of Sydney so that their children could be fed. His passion was infectious and both men's words encouraged the audience to donate generously to the hunger cause.

This vibrant, energetic club gained four new members to assist them in the great work that they are doing. When people feel passion, things happen. The night was not only about important formalities. Guests enjoyed a variety of entertainment from Chinese and Indian Dance Groups.



As the night drew to a close guests were encouraged to engage in a little Indian Dancing themselves. It involved a lot of laughter and very awkward movements.



Congratulations Wings of Fire for an engaging, fun filled night. Looking forward to your

**Work Together and Have Fun**



# Upcoming Events

## Win Big for Just \$1 - LAST CHANCE

Following last month's announcement, *the Lions NSW-ACT Sight & Health Foundation* has been receiving excellent feedback, and numerous clubs are taking part in an incredible opportunity. **With tickets priced at just \$1**, the Foundation is giving the community a chance to win big while supporting a great cause. Each ticket offers the chance to walk away with fantastic prizes while directly supporting vital sight and health programs across NSW, Norfolk Island and ACT.

### What You Could Win

- **1st Prize:** A brand-new Chery Tiggo 4, a stylish and compact SUV auto valued at \$24,500
- **2nd Prize:** An OPSM Gift Voucher worth \$1,000
- **3rd Prize:** A Jaycar Gift Voucher valued at \$500

**The raffle will be drawn on Sunday, 29th March, 2026 at Bankstown Sports Club at 11.30 am.**

**Why Your Ticket Matters:** Every ticket purchased helps the Lions NSW-ACT Sight & Health Foundation continue its mission to improve sight and health initiatives across NSW, Norfolk Island and ACT. From supporting eye care programs to contributing to essential medical research and services, your \$1 does far more than give you a chance to win - it helps create a healthier future for countless individuals.

### Get Your Tickets

Clubs wishing to participate can contact Director PCC Warren Latham directly on 0451 081 490 to secure their raffle books.

## Richmond Lions Markets

**SATURDAY 14th  
MARCH**

**CLARENDON SHOWGROUND  
from 7.30**

**FREE PARKING ONSITE**

**Book a stall - FREE for Lions  
are**

**Call Stephen 0415 647 226**



**ALWF AWARDS**

*Wellbeing*

## Recognise a Community Wellbeing Leader

The Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation awards recognising individuals who are health & wellbeing leaders.

**James McLardie Award**  
In recognition of outstanding service to the community.

**Dr Harry Jenkins Fellowship Award**  
Recognising the value of service given to Lions Clubs International or wellbeing promotion.

**LEO Wellbeing Award** NEW  
Recognising the dedication and passion of Leos who have made a meaningful impact in their communities and/or contributed to improving the wellbeing of others.

Lion Caroline Holdstock awarded the ALWF Dr Harry Jenkins Fellowship Award for her role in reigniting Manly Lions club's Youth of the Year program.

**APPLY AT ALWF.ORG.AU**

**Work Together and Have Fun**

# District Happenings

## Lions District N5 201 Launch District-Wide Project to Support Domestic Violence Victims



**Lions Clubs across our District** have formally launched a new district-wide initiative aimed at strengthening community safety and providing practical support to victims of domestic violence, following approval from the New South Wales Police Force.

The first batch of donated doorbell cameras has now arrived at Riverstone Police Station, marking the operational commencement of the program.

**The project has been led by Richmond Lion Scott Hinks**. The initiative establishes a direct partnership between Lions Clubs across the district and NSW Police Local Area Command (LAC) Domestic Violence Units to deliver frontline support to families experiencing domestic violence.

Under the program, we purchase approved doorbell camera devices and donate them, on request, to NSW Police for operational deployment.

When attending incidents, officers may provide a doorbell camera to victims to install at their residence. The devices enable victims to securely record any unauthorised return by an offender. Captured footage can then be provided to

police to assist with investigations and, where necessary, court proceedings.

Scott said the project reflects Lions' commitment to delivering practical, measurable support where it is most needed.

*"This initiative demonstrates how Lions and police can work together in a structured and accountable way to protect vulnerable members of our community,*

*Domestic violence is not just a policing issue it is a community issue. As Lions, we are in a position to provide tangible tools that enhance victim safety and strengthen evidence collection.*

*He said the use of accessible technology can play a critical role in both deterrence and accountability.*

*A doorbell camera may seem like a simple device, but for someone living in fear, it can provide reassurance, documentation, and a stronger voice in the justice process.*

*If an offender returns without consent, that footage can make the difference between suspicion and proof."*

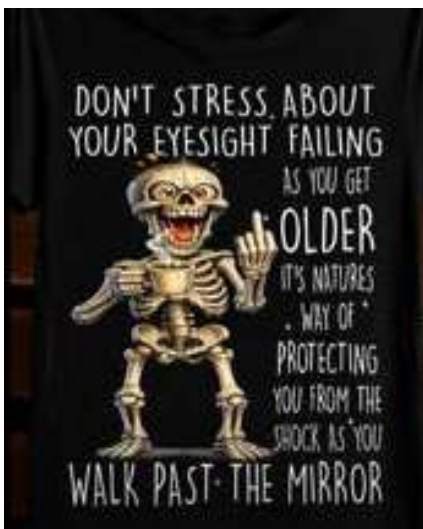
To ensure governance and transparency, NSW Police will maintain a comprehensive register of all donated devices, including tracking, deployment and audit records.

Scott also thanked Lions Clubs throughout the District for their swift support of the initiative. "I want to sincerely thank the Lions Clubs across District N5 201 for taking up this project so quickly. The strong and immediate response from our clubs demonstrates the depth of our commitment to community safety. When there is a need, Lions step forward - and together we are making a real and measurable difference for victims of domestic violence."

Supporting Clubs, so far, are Castle Hill, Cronulla, Nepean, Richmond, St Ives, Sydney Ceylon, Toongabbie Seven Hills, West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook.

Public support, Bligh Park Tavern, & Bridging the Gap. Each unit costs \$74 and Richmond have committed to supplying Lions Comfort Bears for their LAC.

Banking details for support is Community Solutions One BSB 032 272 a/c# 370 589 Please indicate Name and Club for acknowledgement.



**Work Together and Have Fun**

# A heartfelt recognition

Life IS THE REASON



## The Lifeblood Nurse Stepping Up to Lead

One of Australian Red Cross Lifeblood's staff values is to 'step up'. To see it embodied, look no further than Justine O'Donovan. Justine is the National Clinical Research Nurse Manager in Lifeblood's Research team, and has been awarded funding by the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation (NSW/ACT) from the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association to attend the 2026 International Society of Blood Transfusion meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Opportunities for nurses to attend transfusion conferences can be quite limited. But Justine is not one to stay in her comfort zone and wait to be handed things. Instead, she took the initiative to apply for this competitively assessed bursary, putting together a compelling application. The abstract title, *Donor Voices, Future Choices: Understanding Willingness for Leukapheresis Donation in Australia*, speaks to Justine's core passion: advocacy for donors and empowering them with knowledge to ensure Lifeblood's developments are informed by donor insights. The abstract shares results from Lifeblood's Leukapheresis Donor Acceptability Survey, a.k.a. LEAD.

Justine plans to use the scholarship towards attendance at ISBT Malaysia if the abstract is accepted into the scientific program. At the meeting, she'll further her specialisation in transfusion medicine and clinical nursing. It's a boost for Lifeblood too, with Justine able to gather cutting-edge insights into transfusion science, plus share her expertise acquired over 34 years as a registered nurse with other ISBT attendees.

Please join us in congratulating Justine for her scholarship, and for being a living embodiment of Lifeblood's values!

## Burwood Strathfield present *SAMHITA*

A kaleidoscope of colour and music awaited Lions and friends as they experienced an entertaining concert at the Bryan Brown Theatre at Bankstown last Saturday evening.

Burwood Strathfield Lions really outdid themselves with a well organised and well supported event. The thoroughly professional performances of Samhita by the Shivan School of Dance were really enjoyed by those members of Cabinet present.



The MC told us the story behind each of the dances. This gave us a fascinating glimpse into another culture. The evening concluded with a light supper featuring vegetarian food. A great night was had by all.



**Work Together and Have Fun**

# Club Competitions

## Epping Eastwood



February 22, 2026 and our Club Final for Youth of the year has been completed. We were privileged to hear four amazing students - Phoebe Ng from Cheltenham Girls High, Santana Satheesh Kumar from Girraween High, Udeпта Sarker from Epping Boys High and .Rehan Rasul from Marist College Eastwood. Thank you to our Judges, for giving us their precious time over two weekends and thank you so much to the many friends and family and Lions Club Members who came to support the students.

## Richmond



Sunday March 1 we hosted, yet again, four incredible young people who never cease to amaze.

Hudsor Fraser Windsor High, Mcakenzie Payne Richmond High Ruben Zaayman and Matilda Maunder both from Kuyper Christian. Great Judges: Cassie, Last year's N5 and State Public Speaking winner, Rod, Past President Richmond Rotary and Karen a prominent Business Owner. Just a Great Day.



Public Speaking and Overall Winner Matilda Maunder

## Penrith



## Berowra



**Word of Advice for all Young people, and not so Young - Be Smart, not Bullet Proof**



**Work Together and Have Fun**

**SEE YOUTH OF THE YEAR IN ACTION**

*Thinking about it? Come and watch.*



Clubs considering Youth of the Year are warmly invited to attend an **Area Final** or the **N5 District Final** and see firsthand the confidence, insight and leadership this program draws out in our young people.

*It may be exactly the inspiration your club is looking for.*



***The Lions Club of Richmond***

**Invites you to the**

**2025-2026 District 201N5 Final**

**Of the Youth of the Year**

**Public Speaking Function**

**Sunday 29th March, 2026**

**1.30pm for 2.00 pm**

**Wenty Leagues, 50 Smith Street,  
Wentworthville**

**Cost \$25 (Afternoon tea provided)**

**RSVP Friday 20th March**

**Email: [youthyear@lions.sydney](mailto:youthyear@lions.sydney)**

**PRE-PAYMENT OPTION(PREFERRED):**

**Direct Deposit to: Richmond Lions Activities Account**

**BSB: 032-272**

**Account: 581052**

**Reference: Name & Club**

**Please email payment advice to the treasurer: [Richmond\\_treasurer@lions.sydney](mailto:Richmond_treasurer@lions.sydney)**

**Dress Code: Neat casual or Lions uniform**

**Students – School Uniform**



***Work Together and Have Fun***

# Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation

## VISIT TO COOPER to receive his NEW TRIKE

Cooper is a bright, bubbly, and determined five-year-old boy whose infectious smile lights up every room he enters. Recently, Cooper received a specially designed **Theraplay Trike**, valued at \$7,345.00 - a life-changing piece of equipment that will open new doors for both him and his family. Cooper lives with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare and complex genetic condition that affects growth, development, and muscle strength. He experiences low muscle tone and reduced cardiovascular endurance, which makes everyday activities and community outings challenging. Simple family moments many take for granted - like visiting the park - have often been difficult. **Cooper's parents, Amber and Cameron**, have long wished to enjoy outings where Cooper could play alongside his older sister Kaylee and his two-year-old brother Jack. Due to significant gross motor delays, Cooper currently requires one to two people providing maximum assistance to access playground equipment, limiting his independence and participation.



*Thanks to the incredible generosity of Sydney Lions Clubs, that is now changing.*

On 11 February, Cooper proudly received his new tricycle at The Hills Physio, Rouse Hill. Sharing in this special occasion were Cooper's parents Amber and Cameron, physiotherapist Alexandra, Leon Gibb - Rehabilitation Equipment Consultant from Dejay Medical and Scientific Pty Ltd - and Chair Greg English. The atmosphere was filled with excitement, smiles, and heartfelt emotion as Cooper experienced his new trike for the very first time.

For Cooper and his family, this tricycle is far more than just a bike - it represents inclusion, freedom, and possibility. It will allow Cooper to participate more fully in community life, engage with friends at daycare, and most importantly, experience the joy of independent movement. Amber and Cameron expressed their deep gratitude to the Lions for their kindness and unwavering support, sharing how this gift will help Cooper ride alongside his family, build confidence, and embrace childhood with newfound independence and joy. Moments like these truly demonstrate how Lions change lives - one child, one family, and one smile at a time.

## YOUR OLD STAMP COLLECTIONS - CAN ASSIST

**EVERY STAMP COUNTS - STOP** hoarding those stamp collections that were going to be for the Kids, Grandkids, who didn't really show an interest. Richmond Lions and the International Stamp Club DO. Richmond Lions Receive, Sort, Clip and pack every stamp received. They then go to Auction or Private Sale with all monies received going to ALCMF.

**Last financial year raised \$35,000; this year so far \$53,000  
NOW totalling over \$456,000**

**to purchase walking aids for disadvantaged kids.**

**Contact Roger - 0420 987 842**

**PO Box 193 Windsor NSW 2756**

**Email: richmondstampdepot@gmail.com**

**EVERY STAMP COUNTS**

*Work Together and Have Fun*