

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 201 N3



LIONS INFORMATION BOOKLET

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS

<http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n3>

FOREWORD

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

This booklet is designed to assist you to become familiar with the traditions and functions of your Club and to help you to better serve your Club and the community.

The Things We Do

We, as Lions should be very proud of the accomplishments of our International Association.

Lions Clubs International membership currently stands at 1.36 million in 45,500 clubs in approximately 205 countries. During the year, individual Lions Clubs perform over 1,500 services each day in their local areas, bringing the association to a level of service never before known.

You name any humanitarian cause and you can be sure, somewhere in Australia, or somewhere on this planet, Lions are doing it!

So my fellow Lions, next time somebody asks you “What do Lions do?” proudly tell them:

“We do more than just serve. We are part of the greatest humanitarian service force that has ever existed.”



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The History of Lions Clubs International

Abbreviated History at a Glance:

- 1917: Association founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA on June 17 by businessman Melvin Jones.
- 1920: Association became International with the formation of the first club in Canada.
- 1925: Helen Keller challenges Lions to become her “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.”
- 1931: First Club in Latin America chartered.
- 1945: Association helps form the Non-Government Organisations section of the United Nations.
- 1947: First Club in Australia chartered. (Lions Club of Lismore (NSW))
- 1948: First Club in Europe chartered.
- 1953: First Clubs in Asia and Africa chartered.
- 1954: “We Serve” is established as the motto for Lions Clubs International.
- 1987: First International Service Organization to admit female members
- 1989: Inaugural year of the Peace Poster contest.
- 1990: Campaign Sight First launched, and still provides funding for preventative blindness programs to millions world- wide through LCIF, (Lions Clubs International Foundation).
- 2005: Campaign Sight First II launched.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION'S NAME:

The official name of the Association is “The International Association of Lions Clubs” or simply “Lions Clubs International”

MISSION STATEMENT:

To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation.

MOTTO:

The Lions motto is “We Serve”. It was adopted at the 1954 International Convention, after being selected from more than 6,000 suggestions from members worldwide.

SLOGAN:

Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety. It was adopted at the 1919 International Convention.

OFFICIAL COLOURS:

Purple and gold were chosen when the association was founded in 1917. The purple represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart. It is the colour of strength, courage and dedication to a cause. Gold symbolises sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgement, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and commitment to mankind.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING:

It may appear that the language barrier may make this almost impossible. International understanding and friendship is a matter of spirit rather than language. Lions throughout the world communicate with one another through club activities that create and foster a spirit of understanding between peoples of the world and share the fellowship of the pin of service they all wear.

OFFICIAL EMBLEM:

The current lion emblem logo was adopted in 1919. Today, Lions worldwide are recognised by it. It consists of a gold letter “L” on a circular purple (or blue) field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with 2 Lion profiles facing away from the centre. The Lions face both past and future - showing both pride of heritage and confidence in the future. The word “Lions” appears at the top and “International” at the bottom. Always wear your Lions emblem pin proudly and remember, since it is a registered trademark in most countries, it may never be used for commercial or fundraising purposes without prior permission from the legal division at International Headquarters.



The **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES** are a guide for the conduct of clubs. The **LIONS CODE OF ETHICS** is a guide for the conduct of Lions Members, and provides us with a reminder of our obligations to each other and to our fellow citizens.



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES

(Australian Version)

TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding amongst the peoples of the world.

TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship.

TO FUND and otherwise serve the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community.

TO ASSIST financially, culturally, socially and morally the disabled, disadvantaged and infirm of the community both directly and also indirectly.

TO UNITE the clubs in the bond of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.

TO PROVIDE a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

TO ENCOURAGE service minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.

LIONS CODE OF ETHICS

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost, because of unfair advantage taken, or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my own business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.

TO AID others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

TO BE CAREFUL with my criticism and liberal with my praise, to build up and not destroy.

Lions Clubs International



Structure



 **Lions Clubs International Structure**

- Take a good look at the target on the screen.



 **Lions Clubs International Structure**

- Take a good look at the target on the screen. Imagine you are holding a bow and arrow. Take aim at the target. Where are you aiming?



 **Lions Clubs International Structure**

- Most likely at the **center**



- This target represents the structure of Lions clubs international. To begin our discussion we'll focus on the center of our target.

 **Lions Members**

- The Lions club member is at the center of the Lions clubs International organization.



 **Lions Members**

- The Lions club member is at the center of the Lions clubs International organization.



- Lions members begin the chain of service that permeates the organization's structure.

 **Lions Members**

- Currently there are over 1.3 million Lions members.



Lions Club

- Together Lions members make up the Lions club.



45,000

- There are currently over 45,000 clubs within the association.

Lions Club

- Club members elect club officers
 - Club officers include:
 - President
 - Vice Presidents
 - Treasurer
 - Other Elected Directors
 - Tail Twister
 - Lion Tamer
 - Membership Director
 - Secretary
 - Immediate Past President



Lions Club

- Lion tamers are responsible for the property and paraphernalia of the club such as:
 - Flags
 - Banners
 - Gavels, etc.




Lions Club

- Some clubs also elect a tail twister, who is responsible for promoting:
 - Harmony
 - Good fellowship
 - Positive Energy
 - Enthusiasm



Lions Zone

- The next ring of the Lions structure is the zone.
- Zones consist of 4-8 Lions clubs within a geographical area.
 - Delegates of the clubs within the zone may elect a zone chairperson
 - More typically the zone chairperson is appointed by the district governor



Lions Zone

- Zone chairpersons:
 - Act as advisors
 - Help identify opportunities for their clubs
 - Help solve problems
 - Play an active role in organizing new clubs



Lions Zone

- Zone chairperson activities are coordinated at the regional level.
- The region chairperson is responsible for:
 - Leadership in the region
 - Providing guidance to zone chairpersons in their efforts



Lions District

- Region chairpersons also assist in the next ring of the association - the district level.
- Our association is divided into approximately 745 districts.
- Districts are typically made up of at least 25 clubs and 1,250 Lions members.




Lions District

- The governor leads the district cabinet, which includes:
 - the immediate past district governor
 - the first and second vice district governors
 - a cabinet secretary and treasurer
 - the zone and region chairpersons



Lions Multiple District

- The next ring of support for the Lions member is the multiple district.
- Multiple districts are formed by two or more districts within a territory defined by the International Board of Directors.



Lions Multiple District

- Currently Lions Clubs International has 109 multiple districts.




Lions Multiple District

- Districts within multiple districts are usually referred to as sub-districts.
- Stand-alone districts are generally called single districts.
 - Examples:

Poland is

Single District 121



Poland


Lions Multiple District

- Districts within multiple districts are usually referred to as sub-districts.
- Stand-alone districts are generally called single districts.
 - Examples:

France is

Multiple District 103

Comprised of 15 sub-districts



Lions District

- Annual district and multiple district conventions allow Lions to:
 - Elect officers
 - Share best practices
 - such as successful service projects
 - Emphasize fellowship
 - Recognize achievements
 - Sharpen leadership skills




Lions Clubs International

- Lions Clubs International is organized into seven constitutional areas including:



Constitutional Areas

I. United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda & The Bahamas



Constitutional Areas

II. Canada



Constitutional Areas

III. South America, Central America, Mexico & Islands of the Caribbean Sea



Constitutional Areas

IV. Europe

Constitutional Areas

V. Orient & Southeast Asia

Constitutional Areas

VI. South Asia, Africa and The Middle East

Constitutional Areas

VII. Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia & Islands of the South Pacific Ocean

Lions International Headquarters

- At the Lions Clubs International Headquarters in Oak Brook Illinois, staff work to support Lions from around the world.

Lions International Board of Directors

The outer ring of the Lions Clubs International structure is the International Board of Directors

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LION

Lions are men and women dedicated, volunteers who are serving those in need, whether in their own community or around the world. Membership provides an opportunity to meet and work with other individuals in a spirit of fellowship, striving toward a common goal of helping those in need.

Our organisation has attracted to it many people with talent, energy, enthusiasm, goodwill, understanding, vision and determination - Lions who love liberty and are committed to its use. Through their mutual concern for others, members have the opportunity to improve both their local and world communities, and to develop valuable personal and professional skills.

Lionism embodies within its Code of Ethics, in its Objects and its Emblem, the basic essentials of good citizenship. They should be studied and understood. We should all endeavour to practise these principles in our daily living.

Since it has been demonstrated many times that we receive back from others the attitude of mind which we ourselves sent out, we find that to extend goodwill brings goodwill in return. This makes for mutual faith and understanding, and is the basis for good fellowship. With goodwill and recognition that the other is acting in good faith, we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable.

Leaders with conviction can use these qualities to demonstrate Lionism as the great potential force that it is. If the true Spirit of Lionism can be brought into being in the hearts of those who are attracted to it, and practise it in their daily lives, we will be demonstrating that we have in our hands an instrument of unsurpassed power of "International Goodwill".



LIONESS CLUBS

Prior to 1975 almost all Lions Clubs enlisted the support of their Lions Ladies in the form of auxiliaries. These groups of ladies assisted their partners on Lions projects and raised funds with other activities to support the Lions Club. They could not however, have sole control over those funds, and they could not invite any other citizens to join them.

Lioness Clubs were introduced as a project of their sponsoring Lions Club, and are able to invite other persons to join them. They are also able to run their own Administration and Activities bank accounts and disperse those funds to needy causes of their choosing. They must operate under the Constitution of Lions Clubs International. Their motto, "We Serve Too".



LEO CLUBS

Leo Clubs are a project of a sponsoring Lions Club and provide an opportunity for young people between the ages of 15 and 28 to become better citizens, to run projects and activities for community service and to build their character through fellowship and social gatherings. Their meetings and activities are supervised by their sponsor club.

LEO stands for Leadership, Experience and Opportunity. They may be formed in the Community, Secondary Schools, Colleges, Church groups etc. Some Leos go on to become Lions.

LIONS DISTRICT 201N3

Our own Lions District is designated 201N3:

- 201 is our Multiple District: Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Norfolk Island.
- N is for NSW.
- 3 is number 3 of 5 districts in the state.

The district comprises all Lion, Lioness and Leo Clubs in the area which extends from the Woy Woy Peninsula in the South, to Bulahdelah in the North, to Scone in the North West and out to Mudgee and Mendooran in the West. The District includes the entire Hunter Central Coast regions.

Though numbers vary constantly, at the moment this district has 62 Lions Clubs with approximately 1400, members and 12 Lioness Clubs and with approximately 240 members.

WHERE DOES MY MEMBERSHIP DOLLAR GO?

Membership in a Lions club is not expensive when compared to other groups, sporting clubs, and the like, but this will vary depending on the structure of your club.

When a member first joins a club there is a joining fee set by the club to cover the Lions Clubs International fee for new members, new member kit and dinner badge. The amount of the joining fee will vary between Clubs.

Yearly dues will also vary between clubs. These are broken into International dues, Multiple District dues and District dues.

Multiple District dues which include personal and public liability insurance, Australian Lion magazine subscription, Multiple District Directory, Youth Exchange Administration, Public Relations Fund, Multiple District Convention fund, Multiple District Projects fund, Multiple District Office expenses, and Directory charge.

District dues include administration expenses, District Newsletter, District Administration, district awards and gifts, District Cabinet Meetings, District Convention, and District training and development.

Each club is billed for these dues according to the number of members in the club, on a per capita basis. In other words, the more members, the cheaper the dues for each. ***Lets all find more members to keep our dues down!***

CONVENTIONS

THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

District 201N3 holds its annual Convention in late October or early November. All Lions, Lionesses and Leos may attend Convention. While all members may take part in the Convention, including the debates, only the Club's official delegates can actually vote on resolutions, or in elections.

Convention format usually starts Friday evening with the official opening and a welcome by local dignitaries, followed by a Flag Ceremony presenting national and other flags significant to Lions. A Remembrance Ceremony is held to honour those in the family of Lions who have died during the past twelve months. A keynote Guest Speaker gives an address, and the evening concludes with an informal reception where everybody meets and makes new friends.

Saturday usually starts with a combined breakfast and sometimes a Tail twisting session/competition. At the first Business Session, Notices of Motion are debated, project updates are given by various Chairmen and Guest Speakers heard. After the District Governor's luncheon, the afternoon often takes the form of several forums on Lionism or other matters of interest. An outing is usually arranged for conventioners' partners during the afternoon. Saturday evening is the Convention highlight- usually a dinner-dance or cabaret

Sunday sees the final business session including any elections eg that of the incoming District Governor, and Vice District Governor. There will be a keynote Guest Speaker and finally the Closing Ceremony. After this, a picnic or barbeque lunch is always a fitting finale.

THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 201 CONVENTION

National (Multiple District) Conventions are great institutions. They allow all members to come together, once a year, to renew old friendships and make new friends, to participate in debate and the decision-making process of our Multiple District, hear reports and guest speakers and, in particular enjoy the hospitality of the host area.

They are generally held in the month of May, over 4 days, in a Capital City or major provincial city in Australia. The venue is chosen at the MD Convention three years in advance. The Change over of District Governors and the election of the Council Chairman take place during this event.

The Convention is chaired by the Council Chairman and runs for 3-4 days. It includes ceremonial, business and social sessions.

Beginning with registrations, the opening ceremony, informal reception, through business sessions and social functions to the closing ceremony and Ball on the final night, the Convention offers a meaningful and rewarding experience.

FOUNDATIONS

Foundations, of which there are several in Lions, are public, non-profit, and tax exempt. Funding is generally comes from gifts by clubs, zones, districts and individuals, interest earned on account balances and bequests. Funds are also derived when clubs, districts or whatever, purchase awards. For example, a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award gives LCIF US \$1,000.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)

The LCIF mission is to support the efforts of Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian service, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programs. LCIF Grants programs include:

MAJOR CATASTROPHE / EMERGENCY GRANTS

To relieve suffering caused by catastrophes of national or international impact. Grants of recent times have been made to assist in tragedies such as bushfires and floods in Australia, earthquakes in New Zealand, and earthquakes and sunamis in parts of Asia.

SIGHTFIRST GRANTS

To attempt to curb the rapid growth of preventable and reversible blindness throughout the world, eg cataract, river blindness and glaucoma.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Fund projects that improve the quality of life through primary health care, food self-sufficiency, environmental protection, and literacy.

MD 201 FOUNDATIONS

A number of financially self-supporting Foundations exist within the District.

AUSTRALIAN LIONS FOUNDATION (ALF)

ALF provides help and assistance in all forms for Public Relief, Emergency Aid and Community Welfare for persons in needy circumstances anywhere in the world.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to submit applications to the Foundation for assistance with intended projects of any size.

AUSTRALIAN LIONS DRUG AWARENESS FOUNDATION (ALDAF)

The objectives of ALDAF include promoting awareness of alcohol and drug abuse, develop education and prevention activities, and to actively promote and support counselling and rehabilitation programs.

MD201 AUSTRALIAN LIONS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FOUNDATION

The Foundation supports research work in the field of MS.

AUSTRALIAN LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SAVE SIGHT FOUNDATION

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN LIONS CHILDREN'S MOBILITY FOUNDATION

A fund to provide walking aids for disabled children, funded by club donations bequests and special projects.

DISTRICT N3 FOUNDATIONS

DIABETES FOUNDATION

OTHER FOUNDATIONS

There are other foundations managed by other districts:

LIONS CORD BLOOD FOUNDATION

LIONS SPINAL CORD FELLOWSHIP

LIONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

NURSES SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY SERVICES

LIONS HEARING DOGS INC.

Lions Hearing Dogs is a not-for-profit organisation that provides hearing dogs and training in their use to hearing impaired adults who live alone throughout Australia. Dogs and follow-up support are provided free of charge. We've supplied nearly 500 dogs Australia-wide since 1982.

Hearing dogs alert their owners to sounds in the home by touching the owner with a paw—things like knocks on the door, a baby crying or the phone ringing. Most importantly, hearing dogs alert their owners to life-saving sounds like smoke alarms.

To assist children, a **CLASSROOM SOUND SYSTEM** has been developed. They keep noise levels down as all children can hear the teacher regardless of what children are doing beside and around them. Even noises from outside don't affect the children inside the room as much.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR QUEST

The Quest is a prestigious event for young people, providing an unequalled opportunity to experience an interview situation - in a friendly atmosphere - and a change to practice your public speaking skills.

PEACE POSTER

Each year, Lions clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups. This Contest encourages young people worldwide to artistically express their visions of peace. During the last 20 years, more than four million children from nearly 100 countries have participated in the contest.

CAMP KOOKABURRA - LIONS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

This is a District 201N3 initiative which brings young people of different countries into meaningful contact with each other. They learn to share ideals and cultural viewpoints, promote international understanding and goodwill, develop leadership skills and work towards the goals of world peace and human understanding.

Some well known fund-raisers are through the sale of:

LIONS CHRISTMAS CAKES

and

LIONS MINTS

INITIALS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following acronyms are often used by Lions and are found in many internal Lions publications and reports. They can be confusing to new Lions.

ACRONYM	MEANING
ALF	Australian Lions Foundation
MD201	Multiple District of Australia
ALCMF	Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation,
LDAF	Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation,
CAB SEC	Cabinet Secretary
CC	Council Chairman (Multiple District)
DC	District Chairman
DG	District Governor
ID	International Director
IPDG	Immediate Past District Governor
LCI	Lions Clubs International
LCIF	Lions Clubs International Foundation
LEHP	Lions Eye Health Project
MD	Multiple District
WMMR	Web Monthly Membership Report
MAR	Monthly Activities Report
MJF	Melvin Jones Fellow
PCC	Past Council Chairman
PDG	Past District Governor
PID	Past International Director
DISTRICTS	C - Sth Aust; N - NSW; Q - Qld; T - Tas; V - Vic; W - WA
VDG	Vice District Governor
VGE	Vice Governor Elect
YOY	Youth of the Year
ZC	Zone Chairman
GLT	Global Leadership Team
GMT	Global Membership Team

There may be other acronyms applied to projects, activities, or Officers in your particular District. If in doubt please ask your President or Secretary.

USEFUL INFORMATION

(and where to find it)

There are many avenues for you to get information about Lions and listed below are some of them.

Websites:

LCI	http://www.lionsclubs.org
MD201	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au
District 201N3	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n3
ALDAF	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/aldaf
ALF	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/alf
Hearing Dogs	http://www.hearingdogs.asn.au/
LEOS	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/leos
Lions Quest	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/lions-quest
Mobility Found:	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/alcmf
Youth Exchange	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye
Youth of the Year	http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty

Multiple District 201 Australian Lions Directory. Issued to all Lions from their Club. Available in hard copy or CD ROM and paid for from your annual dues. Lists all Australian Clubs, where and when they meet and contact details. Lists District and Multiple District Officers and contacts.

MD201 Club Administration Manual is available for downloading from this website.

“Look Forward with Pride.” (50 years of Lions in Australia) Hard cover book by Past International President, Judge Brian Stevenson, available from Newcastle Office.

Brochures, posters and information on all of the various Multiple District projects and activities of Lions are available from Newcastle Office and your District Chairmen. They are only a phone call or email away and are very willing to assist with any queries.

We Serve

LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 201

