



Lions Club

TOOWOOMBA WILSONTON INC.

*LCI Member Number 34881
Founded 1977*

The Willie Whisperer

EDITION ~ APRIL 26

MOTHER'S DAY

The second Sunday of May is a special day to honor mothers and mother figures with brunches, gifts, love, acknowledgment and quality time.



DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK
18TH MAY - 24TH MAY 2026

Dementia Action Week 18 - 24th May is a key time of action. It's time to step up your game on behalf of those who live with the disease.

This event means different things while being significant to many different people. But one thing about it is the same — it should bring us all increased understanding, greater awareness, and active support for families who are coping with a loved one's diagnosis.

Dementia can affect anyone. Contrary to popular belief, it is not just the elderly who receive the diagnosis. Use Dementia Action Week to learn about the different types of dementia.

Important Note... Dinner Policy

Apologies (for non-attendance of a dinner meeting) must be given to the Club Secretary by 9am via text or email on the Monday prior to the meeting for normal Dinner meeting. Secretary email... lionsclubofwilsontoninc@gmail.com



PO Box 128 Drayton North Qld 4350
www.toowoombawilsontonlions.com.au
Facebook
Lions Club of Toowoomba Wiltonton



Serving a World in Need

One act of kindness at a time

President's Report

Hi all, Another busy month with activities and projects.

At our first dinner meeting, we had a guest speaker, Liam Walsh from QAS, Officer in Charge of Fairview Station (Ambulance Centre on Bridge Street). Liam gave a refresher course on the use of the defibrillator machine. As you know, we have machines located at Newtown Hall, Groom Park Hall, and Laurel Bank Park Hall, all donated by our Club. I also presented a donation to Liam for the Local Ambulance Committee, a volunteer group supporting QAS.

We also obtained members' names to volunteer at Farm Fest on 2/6/26, which have been passed on to Lion Marshall Cox of the Toowoomba West Club.

Board positions for 2026/27 were confirmed, with members duly elected as outlined in the 8 April dinner meeting minutes.

On 16 April, Lions Ian Chase and I attended Base Services Kitchen and assisted in preparing lunch for people experiencing homelessness. Lion Elizabeth was scheduled to attend but attended on the wrong days. she will be fined in due course (sorry, Elizabeth!).

On 17 April, Lion Ian and I attended the opening of Base Services' new kitchen in Bellevue Street. The event was attended by various community and government representatives. The kitchen is expected to be operational by the end of the year—well done to Nat, Tiffany, and all involved. I also spoke with Councilor Rebecca von Hoff and invited her to attend a future Sandwich Day, which she was pleased to accept. Lion Ian is coordinating a suitable date with her office.

On 18 April, several members attended the District Youth of the Year Quest at Pittsworth Motel. We travelled by minibus, driven by PDG Robbie Craig—thank you, Robbie. Our student, Mariam Nabizafa, won the event. Five other students also competed—well done to all for an excellent evening.

Mariam will now represent us at the State Youth of the Year Quest in Bundaberg on 1–2 May. Lion Bernie has again organized transport, with PDG Robbie Craig driving. Safe travels and good luck, Mariam.

Further volunteers were sought for the "Gunfire Breakfast" on Anzac Day, with several of our members attending.

We also held our usual Harvey Norman BBQ and Bunnings West BBQ, both well supported, with a tidy profit achieved at Bunnings.

On Monday 27th, we held our regular Sandwich Day, which was a special occasion as District Governor Narelle Gluer attended and assisted with sandwich preparation. She also presented Cathy McNickle with the DG Community Service Excellence Award for her outstanding volunteer work, despite not being a member.

Regarding our halls, Groom Park Hall was handed back to Council at the end of March, and Laurel Bank Park Hall is being transferred to Clifton Lions (expected 1 May). We now retain Newtown Hall. Concerning air conditioning at Newtown Hall, we are awaiting a transformer report from Ergon. Once received, we can proceed with installation.

We have several events in May, including the Billy Cart Race on 3 May at Gatton. Your support in cheering on our cart and driver Dan would be greatly appreciated.

Further details of upcoming events can be found in the meeting minutes. Be safe and be well.

C.N. Dalgleish
President



BILLIE CART DERBY RACES

Out & About



Just a brief report on the race, Dan was our rider again and the race began and at the end of first race, Dan had a quick turn at the end and bent both left tyres (s per photos sent to you). Twba West also had a problem with the wheels and brakes on there chariot. It was decided that we would race in 2 similar carts that belonged to the Derby Club. We lost the 2nd race, close one it was, 3rd one we well and truly won.

We thought we had the trophy in our hands. End of the race we all sat around waiting for the winners of various races to get there trophies. By this time, Twba West had all left.

Then they made the announcement that Toowoomba West had won?? No Toowoomba west members around... I questioned the decision and I was told it was not placings BUT TIMES, but the time sheets are missing. I questioned how they decided that Twba West won!! without the time sheets!!!

Anyway, to cut things short, I made some inquiries with Toowoomba West and the final decision was made that WE HAD WON the trophy. Also making me, Ken and Dan happy. This was also stated on Toowoomba West's Facebook page.

Ken and I going down to Gatton Tuesday to pick up the trophy's and get some pics.

President Chris



Congratulations Mariam Nabizada

Lions District 201Q3 -Youth of the Year 2026 - District Finalist

Excited and nervous ... this is how each of the six students described their feelings before they entered their Interviews, and prior to the Public Speaking at Lions Youth of the Year Program on 18th April. Students, parents, Lions and supporters travelled from throughout our District with 70 people being in attendance.

The 201Q3 District Final was hosted by the Lions Club of Pittsworth, and in their usual manner, the proceedings for the daytime and evening were impeccable.

Our Finalists were

Clayton Sternes -Representing the Dalby State High School and the Lions Club of Dalby

Mariam Nabizada – Representing Fairholme College and Lions Club of Toowoomba Wilsonton

Alexandra (Lexi) Winks – Representing Corinda State High School and Lions Club of Brisbane Oxley Sherwood

Sarah Chew – Representing Mt Alvernia College and Lions Club of Brisbane Inner North

Madison (Madi) Churchill–Representing Mary McKillop College and Lions Club of Albany Creek

Elizabeth Hunt –Representing Meridan State College and Lions Club of Lake Currimundi Kawana

Having completed their interviews, each finalist was relaxed and far more comfortable having been put “at ease” by the warmth of the judges.

As we know, the majority of points scored is during the interview process, and the public speaking, which is heard by the audience, is just a small portion of the judging. The replies to the Impromptu Questions is always interesting as we hear each finalists point of view on the same subject. It is not an easy task - but each equipped themselves admirably. The Prepared Speeches included a variety of topics which gave us food for thought.

The judges adjudication was not easy as the calibre of student knowledge, school and community involvement, and social aspects were so high. The Winner of the Public Speaking was announced and a very excited Sarah Chew came forward to accept acknowledgment. The topic of Sarah’s speech was “Valuing the Small Connections”.

Next came the announcement of the Winner of the District Final who is Mariam Nabizada. A very thrilled Mariam will represent our District at the State Final to be held in Bundaberg on 01st and 02nd May. Mariam is not taking her responsibility of District Finalist lightly ... her aim is to represent Queensland at the National Finals.

Congratulations must go to each of the District Finalists and their sponsoring Lions Clubs. Lions Youth of the Year Program is a very rewarding youth program for clubs, throughout which the growth of students is evidenced.

Pictured is District Governor and District Youth of the Year Chair, Lion Narelle Gluer with...

Back row: Judges – Helen Everingham (Chair), Gabrielle Weier, Scott McKenzie, Hon. Pat Weir, Tony Dever, Inayat Pandher (Reserve Judge).

Front Row: Elizabeth Hunt, Sarah Chew, Mariam Nabizada, Clayton Sternes, Lexi Winks, Madi Churchill.



**Mariam Nabizada
District 201Q3
Winner**



**Sarah Chew
Public Speaking Winner**



DISTRICT YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINAL

Youth of the Year



Lions and guests travel to Pittsworth for District Youth of the Year Final.



WHY LIONS WEAR A YELLOW VEST

A Tradition Worth Knowing

If you've ever wondered why Lions around the world proudly wear the yellow (gold) service vest, the story goes deeper than just a uniform — it's a symbol of identity, visibility, and unity.

From the earliest days of Lions Clubs International, the official colors were purple and gold, chosen in 1917 to represent loyalty, integrity, sincerity, and generosity. Over time, Lions' branding materials shifted toward blue and gold for a more modern, consistent look — but the meaning behind the colors never changed.

Gold naturally became the color most associated with service, and the gold vest emerged as the universal identifier for Lions at projects, fundraisers, and community events. Members often describe it as something that instantly tells the public: "A Lion is here to help."

As Lions Clubs grew worldwide, the vest became a practical way to create a consistent, recognizable look across thousands of clubs. It also evolved into a walking scrapbook, with pins representing years of service, conventions, achievements, and club pride.

Whether your vest is simple or covered in decades of memories, it stands for the same thing: Service. Community. Pride. And the shared mission of Lions everywhere — We Serve.



CONGRATS IAN



Lion Ian receiving his Key badge for sponsoring 2 new members.



President Chris presenting a cheque at the Last Social night we had, to Liam Walsh from Queensland Ambulance Service, who gave everyone a refresher on using an AED that we have in the hall, and a CPR updated and a lively round of Questions from the members.



BUNNINGS WEST BBQ

CONGRATULATIONS CATHY

District Governor Narelle Gluer visited our club on Wednesday 25th March and made presentations of various awards.

We nominated Cathy McNickle to receive the Excellence in Community Service Award, as Cathy regularly helps out with our school sandwich making as part of the Eat Up Australia project. Cathy also helps out with other charitable services around Toowoomba.

However Cathy was unable to attend our meeting on the occasion of the DG visit.

So, I invited DG Narelle along to our recent sandwich making session on Monday 27th April where she was not only able to present the award to Cathy in person, but also give us a hand with the sandwiches (which was greatly appreciated, as we were down in numbers of volunteers due to illness and travel).

Lion Ian Chase



A huge thank you to Bidfood Australia for being a cornerstone of the Eat Up mission!

Bidfood is a vitally important partner whose support is truly a game-changer for us.

As a major supporter, they provide the essential cold storage space we need across the country and, over the past year alone, have generously donated over 670,000 slices of cheese. Without their national network, logistics expertise, and incredible generosity, we simply wouldn't have the capacity to reach the thousands of students who rely on us every day.



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The things you can come up with to help get through your day - some useful some maybe not!



WORLD DAY

The 2026 theme from the International Council of Nurses (ICN) is "Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care" (or "Empowered Nurses Save Lives" in some contexts), focusing on structural changes, empowering the workforce, and recognizing nurses' value.



International Nurses Day (IND) 2026 is celebrated on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, marking the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.



Thanks to all nurses who are angles helping to save lives!

CROQUET AFTERNOON

NEWTOWN COURTS

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

NEWTOWN LIONS INVITE YOU TO AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
NEWTOWN CROQUET COURTS TAYLOR ST

2.00PM TO 5.00PM

BRING A PLATE (SWEET OR SAVOURY)

AND DRINKS OF YOUR CHOICE

FOR AFTERNOON TEA.

2 OR 3 COURTS WILL BE SET UP

MALLETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

CROQUET MEMBERS WILL ASSIST US.

TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED

A SAMPLE BAG FOR EVERYONE.

NO COST TO MEMBERS

LIONS WILL PAY FOR OUR AFTERNOON.



BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

Christine - 8th

Bill - 16th

Elizabeth - 26th



HAPPENING THIS MONTH

MAY 2026

Friday	1 st		State finals for Youth of the Year, Bundaberg
Saturday	2 nd		State finals for Youth of the Year, Bundaberg
Sunday	3 rd	10:00am	Billie Cart Race - Apex Park Gatton
Monday	4 th	8:00am	BBQ - Bunnings North
Saturday	9 th	8:00am	BBQ - Harvey Norman
Wednesday	13 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Election Night
Saturday	16 th	2:00pm	Club Social Croquet Afternoon - Taylor St Courts
Monday	18 th	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Newtown Hall
Wednesday	25 th	9:00am	School Sandwiches
Wednesday	27 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall



Board Meetings

3rd Monday of the Month

Dinner Meetings

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

7:00pm for 7:30pm

Newtown Hall @ 49 Rome Street Newtown

COMING UP

JUNE 2026

Tuesday	2 nd		Farmfest
Wednesday	3 rd		Farmfest
Thursday	4 th		Farmfest
Wednesday	10 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall
Saturday	13 th	8:00am	BBQ - Harvey Norman
Saturday	13 th		Club Officer Training - Dalby
Sunday	14 th		Club Officer Training - Fernvale
Monday	15 th	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Newtown Hall
Saturday	20 th	12:00pm	Club Changeover Dinner
Monday	25 th	9:00am	School Sandwiches
Wednesday	24 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall
Saturday	27 th		Toowoomba West Lions Changeover

Dates to Remember

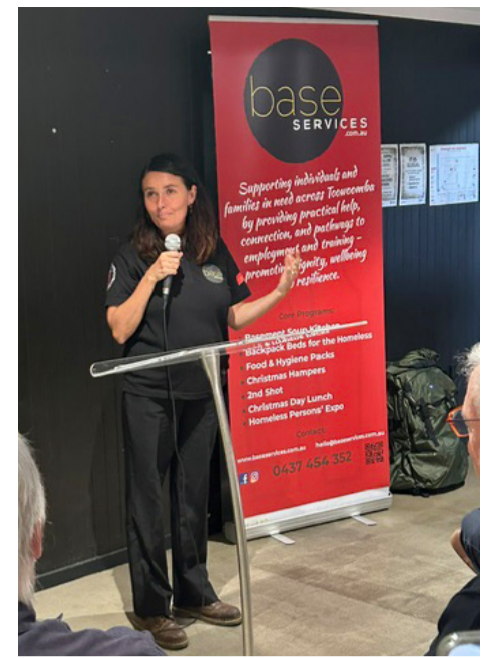
BASE SERVICES NEW PREMISES

As we launch The Big Move, we want to acknowledge the incredible role local service clubs such as the Lions Club of Toowoomba Wilsonton have played in making this milestone possible.

Big moments like this don't happen without strong community backing, and your support truly helped set the tone for what this move represents - community coming together to create better outcomes for people who need it most.

Thank you for standing with BASE Services, for believing in the vision of The Big Move, and for continuing to invest in our community in such practical and generous ways.

We are grateful to be moving forward with supporters like you by our side.



ALCCRF RAFFLE

Peter Rabbit Quilt

205 - 170 cm

Tickets \$5.00 each (5 for \$20.00)

(Approved by the Convention Organising Committee for sale at the MD Convention)



To purchase tickets make payment direct to the Foundation's NAB account -
 A/c Name: Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF)
 BSB: 085-397 A/c No: 94-294-7951 Reference: Raffle - "Your Surname"
 Forward a copy of your bank lodgement advice to Trustee Gilbert Teitzel
 mobile: 0428 737 343 email: g.teitzel@millarteitzel.com.au - provide your email address

DID YOU KNOW

Acronyms of the Month

LCIF

- Lions Clubs INTERNATIONAL Foundation

DISTRICT (201Q3)

ZC

- Zone Chair

Remember

to check out our website
www.toowoombawilsontonlions.com.au
 and facebook

Lions Club of Toowoomba Wilsonton
 for more news & events



A copy of this edition of The Willie Whisperer has been printed, for historical purposes, courtesy of the Office of Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North.