



Lions Club

TOOWOOMBA WILSONTON INC.

*LCI Member Number 34881
Founded 1977*

The Willie Whisperer

EDITION ~ JULY 26

WORLD LION DAY

August 10th is a day for people to come together from across the world to pay tribute to the mighty lion in as many ways as possible. This celebration of the animal kingdom's most beautiful and fearsome creature was founded by Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to big cats. The number of lions in the wild has dropped dramatically, and this trend is continuing. The population of African lions, for example, has dropped by 43% since 2001. Without our help, lion populations may never recover. Lions are social animals and they are able to empathise with other members of their pride. For example, they experience contagious yawning just like humans. Like many other animals, lions are able to solve puzzles to obtain food. Unusually, they can also learn how to solve a puzzle simply by watching another lion solve it first. This shows a higher level of intelligence and social connection than most other animals.



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 Wilsonton



Serving a World in Need

One act of kindness at a time

President's Report

Hi Fellow Lions and Friends,

What a busy first month of the new Lions year!

I would like to thank everyone who helped with setting up and packing away after our Changeover Lunch. Without the support of our fellow members, the day would not have been the success it was.

Our first weekend of July (4th & 5th) was certainly a busy one. On Saturday, we held our regular Harvey Norman BBQ, which was extremely well supported. We set a new club record by selling 12 trays of sausages! The day started off quite cool, but once the sun came out and the morning breeze eased, it turned into beautiful weather.

On Sunday, we were at Bunnings North for another BBQ. Despite a couple of members being unavailable due to illness and work commitments, Kathy Gleeson and Michele Newton stepped in to help, ensuring we had enough volunteers. It was another very busy day, with demand so high that we had to make a lunchtime shopping run to replenish our supplies. Overall, it was a fantastic weekend and raised an excellent profit for the club.

At our first Social Meeting of the year, we welcomed guest speaker Cassandra Thomas-Ryland from LifeFlight Darling Downs. Cassandra gave an informative presentation on the important work LifeFlight performs and showed an excellent video highlighting their lifesaving services. Lion Linda also shared her personal experience of using the service earlier this year, making the presentation even more meaningful.

During the evening, we also recognised several members for their outstanding years of service:

Janelle – 29 Years

Ron – 32 Years

Barry – 40 Years

John W – 41 Years

Ken – 51 Years

Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your dedication and service to Lions.

As it was also State of Origin decider night, many members came dressed in their team colours. Even our loyal Blues supporters joined in the fun!

On 11th July, the Catering Committee held a working bee at the hall. Members cleaned and reorganised the back storage room, repaired the gazebos and BBQs, and identified surplus items for disposal. A list of these items has since been presented to the Board for consideration.

On 13th July, we held our regular Sandwich Day. Our 13 dedicated volunteers prepared and delivered an incredible 830 sandwiches. A fantastic effort by everyone involved—well done!

Our first 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting was held on 19th July. It was a productive meeting where members began sharing ideas and planning for this important milestone. Congratulations to Linda on accepting the role of Chairperson. If anyone has stories, photographs, memorabilia, or ideas they would like considered, please pass them on to Linda so they can be discussed at the next committee meeting.

On 25th July, several members travelled to the District Changeover held at Redcliffe Leagues Club, representing our club at this important district event.

Hall Update

Work is continuing on improvements to the hall. We are progressing with the installation of air conditioning, however we are currently awaiting Ergon Energy. We have been advised that work is expected to commence in October.

We are also obtaining quotes to upgrade the hall's audio-visual system, which will further improve the facilities available for both our members and community groups.

Looking Ahead

August is shaping up to be a little quieter, although we still have our usual Harvey Norman BBQ on the first weekend of the month.

For further details on upcoming events and activities, please refer to the meeting minutes and our monthly newsletter.

Until next month, thank you to everyone for your continued support, service, and fellowship.

**-Lion Brad Newton
President**



A HELPING VISITOR

Our club welcomed an additional helper at the monthly BBQ at Harvey Norman on Saturday 1st August.

Jason from Shendong Province, China has been visiting Toowoomba and staying with Helen, his former foreign teacher.

(Helen's father is a cousin of PDG Bill Lane).

Jason is now a teacher himself and has visited Australia a number of times. This time he wanted to do some volunteer work within the community and mix in with the local populace, rather than just the usual sight-seeing. Helen approached Lion Ian Chase via Lions Partner Margaret Lane, and Jason was invited to attend the BBQ.

Jason enjoyed his time helping and chatting with other club volunteers at Harvey Norman. He looks forward to joining us in more community work on future visits to Toowoomba.

- Lion Ian



A LIFEFLIGHT VISITOR

Cassandra from LifeFlight gave a very informative and interesting presentation at our social meeting. Our meeting had an early start so members could go home to watch State of Origin.

- Lion Bernie



STATE OF ORIGIN SOCIAL MEETING NIGHT



ROAR FOR WELLBEING IS BACK

— OCTOBER 2026

Building on our incredible 2025 campaign, join Lions Clubs across Australia in making October 2026 a month of connection, compassion and community action.

Wellbeing touches all parts of our life, and it's as important for communities, our Clubs and our members as individuals.

This year can your Club promote wellbeing across all 3 areas?



1. Community Wellbeing
An event or activity that raises awareness in your broader community



2. Club Wellbeing
Internal activities that boost the wellbeing of your Club culture



3. Club Member Wellbeing
Activities that improve the mental health and wellbeing of your Club members

Get Involved



JOIN US FOR HOMELESS FOR A NIGHT
August 3rd, 2026
Raising funds for the Basement Soup Kitchen
Sign up or donate at: www.homelessforanight.com.au

base SERVICES



This year, we are proud to celebrate 10 years of the 2nd Shot Program—a decade of providing people facing homelessness, hardship, and disadvantage with opportunities to rebuild their lives through support, training, employment pathways, and community connection.

To mark this milestone, we would love you to join us for our Homeless for a Night Breakfast, a special morning of inspiration, celebration, and impact.

Homeless for a Night Breakfast – Celebrating 10 Years of 2nd Shot

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

6:30 am – 8:15 am

OAKS Toowoomba, 25 Annand Street

Hear firsthand from people whose lives have been transformed through the 2nd Shot Program and discover the difference that a second chance can make. From gaining employment and stable housing to rebuilding confidence and reconnecting with community, these stories are a powerful reminder that hope changes lives.

The breakfast will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past ten years and hear about the vision for the future of BASE Services as we continue supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Breakfast Tickets: \$65 per person

Book here:

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/1w8qc5>

Homeless for a Night

We also encourage you to consider taking part in Homeless for a Night the evening before.

By spending one night sleeping rough, participants help raise awareness and vital funds to support people experiencing homelessness and hardship. While one night cannot truly replicate the experience of homelessness, it offers a meaningful opportunity to better understand the challenges many people in our community face every day.

Monday, 3 August 2026

7:00pm

Toowoomba CBD

Register or donate at:

www.homelessforanight.com.au

Participants in the sleepout receive a complimentary ticket to the breakfast.

Every ticket purchased, dollar raised, and conversation shared helps BASE Services continue providing meals, outreach, emergency relief, employment pathways, training opportunities, and practical support to those doing it tough.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you can join us as we celebrate 10 years of 2nd Shot, honour the lives that have been transformed, and help create opportunities for many more people in the years ahead.

Warm regards,

Nat and Tiffany Spary

Coordinators | BASE SERVICES Inc.

BASE SERVICES INVITES YOU TO

HELP US CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF 2ND SHOT







TICKETS \$65 PER PERSON

BOOK NOW:
[HTTPS://WWW.STICKYTICKETS.COM.AU/1W8QC5](https://www.stickytickets.com.au/1w8qc5)

For more details contact 0437 454 352 or hello@baseservices.com.au

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

6:30am – 8:15am

OAKS Toowoomba
25 Annand Street, Toowoomba



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE



Ken – 51 Years



Ron – 32 Years



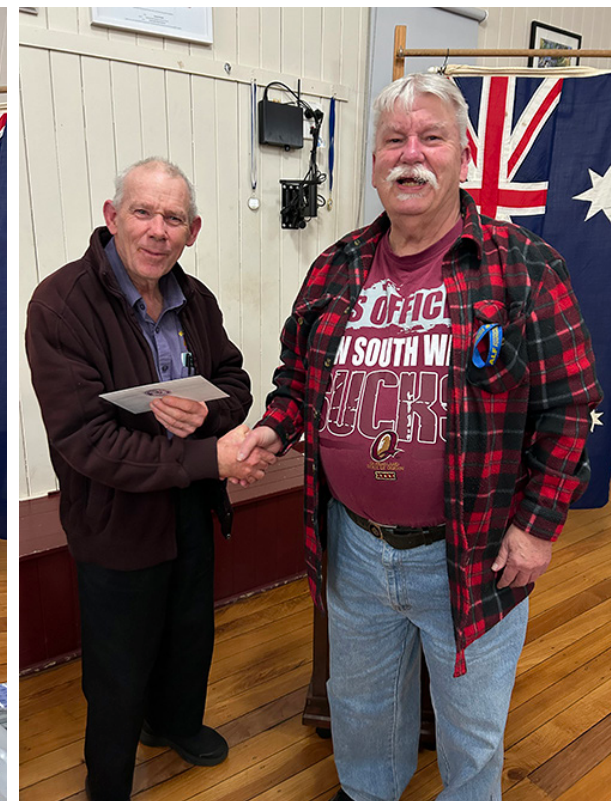
Janelle – 29 Years



John W – 41 Years



Barry – 40 Years



Greg – 40 Years

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED THANKS

Good Evening Fellow Lions

I would like to thank those that came on Saturday to the working bee at the Hall, we had a very productive day cleaning up the Back Room and sorting out Catering Equipment we also Repaired both Gazebos, Cleaned and Tightened up the BBQ's and finished the Asset Register, We stopped for a BBQ Lunch and a chat and then cleaned up, We started about 9am and finished at about 3pm I would like to thank the following members who came and helped out, We also have a list of Catering items and other equipment for disposal to be discussed at the next Board Meeting

Gazebo Repair Ken, Col and Lari

Cleaning and Sorting out the Back Room Asset Register - Linda, Janelle, Lari, Chris and Michele (BBQ Cook)

- Lion Brad

DISTRICT CHANGEOVER



Out & About

ASSISTANCE DOG DAY

Assistance Dog Day is celebrated every August 4, recognizing the profound impact these highly trained canines have on the lives of individuals with disabilities. From guiding the visually impaired to alerting to medical emergencies, these dogs perform essential tasks that foster independence and companionship. Learn about their dedication and find ways to support their training and placement.

Lap the Map continues in its third year as a national fundraising initiative supporting the Lions Assistance Dogs Diabetic Alert Dog Program. The event brings together clubs and communities across Australia to raise funds while collectively walking, running, and moving towards a shared goal — helping provide life-changing Diabetic Alert Dogs for people living with type 1 diabetes.

These specially trained dogs can detect dangerous changes in blood glucose levels and provide early warning to prevent serious medical emergencies. Each dog costs over \$40,000 to raise and train, funded entirely through community support.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in sharing this initiative with Lions Club and the community in your area.

Clubs are encouraged to register early to begin planning local activities, participate at their own pace, and make the most of the lead-up period.

Register here: www.lapthemap.com.au

We will continue to share updates, resources, and participation opportunities in the coming weeks.

For support, please contact: lapthemap@lionsassistedogs.com.au



BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Sandra - 4th
John - 15th
Royce - 27th
Andy - 28th
Sue - 30th



MEMBER WELFARE

Pat Eagle is back in hospital.
Ron McGuire will be discharged from hospital tomorrow (Thursday) and then receive “hospital in the home”
Bill Lane has had downstairs house renovations to accommodate his needs. Margaret Lane had a fall but is okay; and Greg Lane is very involved in assisting Bill with his day-to-day needs.
Royce Thornton is happily settled into his new surrounds at Allora and Ken and Janelle have visited.
Debbie Krause has reported that Ray would welcome a visit from members, and some more books.

DID YOU KNOW

Acronyms of the Month

ALWF

– Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation

DISTRICT (201Q3)

RC

– Region Chair

Remember
to check out our website
www.toowoombawilsontonlions.com.au
and facebook
Lions Club of Toowoomba Wilsonton
for more news & events

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

AUGUST 2026			
Wednesday	12 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall- Social Night
Wednesday	19 th	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Newtown Hall - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Wednesday	26 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”
– Sherry Anderson

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

MEETINGS NEXT MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2026			
Wednesday	9 th	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting
Sunday	20 th	3pm	Board Meeting - Newtown Hall - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Wednesday	23 rd	6:30pm	Dinner Meeting - Newtown Hall