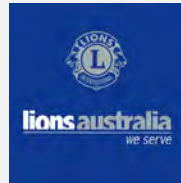




Lions Club

TOOWOOMBA WILSONTON INC.

Issue: September 2026



LCI Member Number 34881
Founded 1977

The Willie Whisperer

Khalsa Aid International awarded the prestigious 2026 Lions International Humanitarian Award



The award, which is the highest honour given by Lions International, was presented to Khalsa Aid's founder and CEO, **Ravi Singh**, at the 108th Lions International Convention held in **Hong Kong**. Along with the recognition, the award includes a **US\$500,000 grant** from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to directly fund Khalsa Aid's ongoing emergency and disaster relief programs worldwide.

Founded in 1999 and based out of Slough, UK, Khalsa Aid operates on the Sikh principle of *seva* (selfless service). Over the past 27 years, they have provided medical care, clean water, and emergency food to disaster and conflict zones across nearly 50 countries – exemplifying the exact mission behind the Lions' motto, "We Serve".

Serving A World In Need



Childhood
Cancer



Diabetes



Environment



Hunger



Disaster



Humanitarian

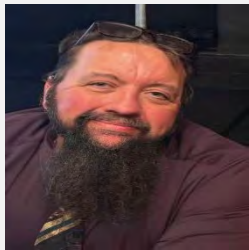


Youth



Vision

One Act Of Kindness At A Time



Presidents Report



Hi Lions, Partners and Friends,

September has been another good month for the Toowoomba Wilsonton Lions Club, with plenty of activities, community involvement and opportunities to support other Lions Clubs.

We started the month with the Bunnings Father's Day Community Evening at Bunnings North. The team tried a few different activities to get people involved, including a Dad Joke competition, Guess the Number of Screws in the Jar, and handing out little cards with a tea bag or coffee bag attached. It worked really well and was well received by the community. Thank you to Lion Ken, Chris, Elizabeth, Janelle and Michele for helping out on the evening.

Our monthly Harvey Norman BBQ was a little slow to start, but we eventually sold out at around 2:30 pm and began packing up. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success.

At our Social Meeting on 9 September, I had the pleasure of presenting service tabs to two members. Lion Merv Hensler received his 57-year tab, recognising an incredible 57 years of service to Lions, while Maria Hutchin received her 1-year tab. Congratulations to both of you.

A large contingent of our members also attended Club Toowoomba to help Lion Dan celebrate his 50th birthday with his family and friends. It was a great day and wonderful to see so many members supporting Dan. Congratulations, Dan, and here's to many more birthdays!

On Friday, 18 September, we held a Bunnings North BBQ. It was a little slow at times, but we still had to do a refill around lunchtime. We didn't sell out, but it was a great effort from everyone involved. Thank you to all the members who gave up their time to help.

On Saturday, 19 September, Lion Ken and Janelle helped Toowoomba Inc with a BBQ at Toowoomba East State School for the Clivia Show. Michele and I also helped Toowoomba Inc at an evening event at the Japanese Gardens. It was great to support another Club, to see how other Clubs operate their events, and lend a hand when they needed some extra help.

On Friday, 25 September, Lions Ken, Janelle, Ian and Chris attended Base Service to help prepare meals. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to support this important community service.





Hall Update

At the recent Board Meeting, the Board of Directors resolved to accept the quotes from Comtel (PA System) and Sub Zero (Air conditioning). The plans have now been passed on to Council for final approval.

The transformer at Newtown Hall will be upgraded and Ergon has advised that there will be a power outage on 13th October for 4 hours.

Many thanks to Lion Ken for his tireless, and often frustrating commitment to this project!

Our Dinner Meeting on 23 September was also our AGM. Everything went well, and I had

the pleasure of presenting Lion Sue with her 5-year tab. We also wished Sue all the best with her upcoming surgery and look forward to seeing her back with us.

At our Board Meeting on 20 September, we had a very busy afternoon. Lion Linda tendered her resignation as Minute Secretary and will be taking leave until the new year. We also had Lion Kylie take leave from her IT and Willie Whisperer roles. We wish both members all the best and hope to see them back with us soon.

We also made a decision on the venue for our Christmas Party, so plans are now starting to come together for that event.

On Saturday, 26 September, I attended the LEHP Community Screening Day at Laurel Bank Park Hall. Laurel Bank Lions opened their hall and provided a Devonshire Tea and Sausage Sizzle for the community.

On the day, Lion Chris and Lindsay Proudlock from Pittsworth Lions, along with Lion Andrew and Cathy Highet from Clifton Lions, carried out testing on 30 community members, including both adults and children. Some of the results were quite surprising and showed just how valuable these community screening days can be.

Looking Ahead

October is shaping up to be another busy month.

- Some of our members will be attending the District Convention at Bribie Island.
- We will welcome District Governor Stuart Matthews and his wife, Barbara, on 28 October.

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

Toowoomba Wilsonton Lions Inc.



We Serve



Thursday 3rd September – Fathers Day at Bunnings North

What a great night this was!
 Attended by hundreds of Dads for Fathers Day, Bunnings North held a Community fun night and invited our Club to come along and connect with the public with information, games and fun. We had information on display, including a great vertical hanging display, roaming Dad Jokes, a 'screws in the jar' guessing game for the Dads (the winner guessed EXACTLY!) and gave out paper Father Day mugs with an attached complimentary T-bag or coffee sachet!



Pictured: Top Left: President Brad with the winner of the screws in the jar guessing game, Middle: Lion Chris defected for a short time, Bottom: Lion Chris and Lion Ken bumped into Hope for our Children CEO Jules Davey

Saturday 5th September – Harvey Norman BBQ

Another successful BBQ was held at Harvey Norman on the 5th September. The weather was beautiful, sunny and a welcome change from the cold blowy days during the week previous. Some Lions even got sunburnt! It was Lion Michele's first official roster on, and doesn't she look impressed!



Pictured: Lion Sue (hard at work), Lion Janelle, and on the BBQ was Lion one-hand Dan (arm in sling due to a mishap with the bike) and Lion Ken. 2nd pic: Lion Michele bracing for the onslaught, Lion Chris and Lion Col on the BBQ.

BASE Service Day

Friday 25th September saw Lions Chris, Ken, Janelle & Ian volunteering at the BASE Service Soup Kitchen.

Great service work!

The Basement Soup Kitchen operates weekdays from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, offering anyone in need in our community a free nutritious lunchtime meal.



Friday 18th September – Bunnings North BBQ

We were lucky to be offered a Friday BBQ at Bunnings North.. thank you to the Lions who volunteered to set up, cook, and man the BBQ for the day!

Looks like a cheeky team that day!
Success, Success, Success!



Lion Janelle, Lion Chris, Lion Ian, and Lion Ken

Lion Ken keeping Lion Col entertained on the BBQ



Dan's 50th Birthday

Saturday 12th October saw many come together at Club Toowoomba to celebrate Lion Dan's 50th Birthday.

There was plenty of food, celebration and social fellowship throughout the event. It was great to see so many of our Lions Club members attend and have a great time!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAN!





Hope for Our Children



Jules Davey, CEO of Hope for Our Children, is one of our recent past guest speakers. You may remember that Jules gave us a passionate and heartfelt recap of her journey with Hope for Our Children, and highlighted her commitment and dedication to providing comfort and reassurance to children during challenging times. All Lions present were moved by Jules' recounting of children in crisis within our own community and were pleased to present Jules with a \$500 donation. On top of this, the decision was made to also donate Lions Club teddies to be included in 'Bags of Hope' provided to at risk and emergency crisis children.

Jules asked to return to visit us on a recent social dinner meeting, not as a CEO, but as a friend and Lions Club supporter. Jules expressed her heartfelt gratitude for our donation and told us of the incredible impact the teddies had on the children who received them. The teddies became instant symbols of hope, courage and something familiar for these children to hold onto while facing uncertain times in their lives.

We, as Lions, don't often see the direct result of our work and community donations. This was an opportunity to reinforce why we, as Lions, do what we do, and we are pleased to contribute to make a difference in the lives of children, young people and families in our community.



Pictured: President Brad Newton, Lion Janelle Bray, and Hope for our Children CEO Jules Davey.

Pictured: Donated Lions teddies with Hope for Our Children's Dog Ambassador.

Our Current Projects



Youth of the Year

Student Interviews on Saturday 7th November
Public Speaking and Announcement of Winner –
Wednesday 11th November

Refreshments for the Judges are required on Saturday 7th November.
Finger food will be required for the 11th of November at Newtown Hall for Youth of the Year.



Read Bears

Our Club has selected Read Bears as a Service Project, to begin next year. The Read Bears project is a community literacy program that pairs hand-knitted teddy bears with first-reader books for young school children.

If you can assist, please see Lion Janelle Bray



World Sight Day 2026 Participation

Our Club will donate \$4 per member to LEHP to be a Participating Club.



Lions Children of Courage Awards

A community-based program run by Lions Clubs International to honour children and young people who display extraordinary bravery, resilience, and strength.

Lion Bernadette has volunteered to Chair this Project, please make contact to be involved and offer assistance.,





Mabel's Stroller – Zone Project

As a Zone Project, an ALF Grant has been applied for and our club has agreed to act as the sponsor club, to collate funds as they are received.

Watch this space for updates on progress.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

LCIF Disaster Appeal for Nepal Flood

In response to the appeal sent out from LCIF, our club agreed to contribute a one off donation of \$500.



Sandwiches4Kids

With the help of our partners and dedicated volunteers, each week we make and deliver thousands of fresh sandwiches and donated snacks directly to schools for the 1 in 3 Aussie kids experiencing hunger.

**In Term 3 alone, our Club helped support hungry students at over
1300 schools across Australia delivering:**

- 481,420 Sandwiches
- 65,280 Chobani Yogurts
- 87,776 Fresh Fruit Pieces
- 18,612 Messy Monkeys Snacks
- 15,300 Arnott's crackers
- 12,360 Heinz Beanz cans
- 9,000 Yumi's hommus dips
- 7,392 SPC Fruit Cups

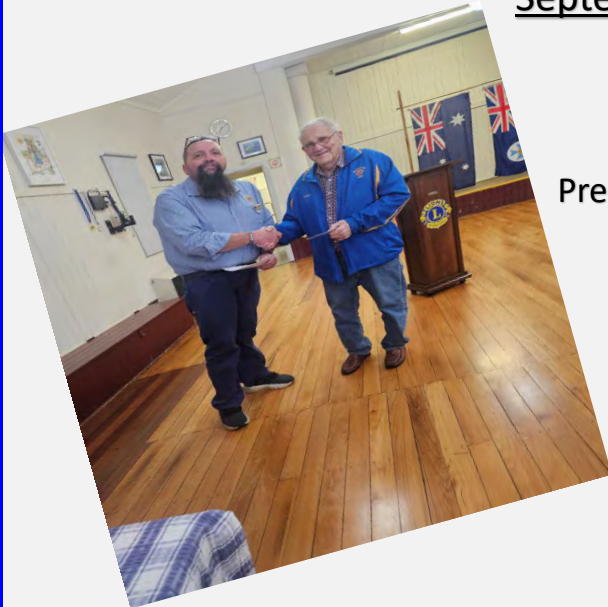
**“
Volunteers do not
necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.”**

Elizabeth Andrew





September 9th Meeting



President Brad presented Lion Merv Hensler with his 57-year Tab.

What an achievement!

**57
years!**



President Brad presented Lion Maria Hutchin with her 1-year Tab.



September 23rd Meeting



President Brad presented Lion Sue O'Neill with her 5-year Tab.



Q Districts Lions Club Members

You're invited

to attend LMRF's AGM & Research Fellows Event



Saturday, 21st November 2026 - 2 to 3pm

Annual General Meeting at Royal on the Park Hotel & Suites
152 Alice Street, Brisbane (opposite City Botanic Gardens)

Sunday, 22nd November 2026 – 10am to 12:30pm

at Translational Research Institute

Presentations by LMRF Research Fellows, George & Jean Higgs
Memorial Fund Recipients and SPARQ-ed, followed by a tour of
the Translational Research Institute

RSVP

Please RSVP by **Wednesday, 21 October** to executive@lmrf.org.au

How do we W?

START A NEW LIONS CLUB

WE KNOW WE NEED TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN MEMBERS FOR OUR EXISTING CLUBS. BUT YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN LIONS TELLS US THAT THE BEST PATHWAY TO GROWTH IS THROUGH NEW CLUBS.

EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A LIONS CLUB AND SOME NEED MORE THAN ONE.

WHY DO WE NEED MORE MEMBERS?

EVERY LION BRINGS WITH THEM SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, CREATIVITY AND COMMITMENT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND BUILD COMMUNITIES. IT'S PEOPLE THAT MAKE OUR ORGANISATION VALUABLE.

WE NEED MEMBERS TO CARRY THE TORCH INTO THE FUTURE.



IS THIS ACHIEVABLE?

ACROSS AUSTRALIA WE NEED TO GROW BY ABOUT 1,000 MEMBERS EACH YEAR.

OF COURSE, THIS MEANS:

- KEEPING OUR CURRENT MEMBERS HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE.
- REPLACING THOSE THAT LEAVE OUR ORGANISATION EACH YEAR.
- AND RECRUITING THAT EXTRA 1,000.

THIS IS NOT AN EASY GOAL BUT A WORTHWHILE ONE AND LIONS IN AUSTRALIA HAVE A PROUD RECORD OF SUCCESS WHEN WE PUT OUR MIND TO IT...

WE RAISED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO CURE PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS IN CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRST.

WE TOOK A GIANT LEAP IN CURING CHILDHOOD CANCER IN OUR GENOME PROJECT WITH THE GARVAN INSTITUTE.

WE RAISE MILLIONS EACH YEAR TO HELP AUSTRALIANS DURING DISASTERS.

WE IMPROVED THE ENVIRONMENT BY CREATING AND IMPROVING MORE THAN 100 GARDENS FOR OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY.

WE HELPED HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY TO EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH OUR CHILDREN'S MOBILITY FOUNDATION.



visit: lionsclubs.org.au/members/BAM



The Name Wasn't Just About the Animal
Did you know that "LIONS" is actually an acronym?
 While the lion symbolises strength and courage, the name
 officially stands for **Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety**

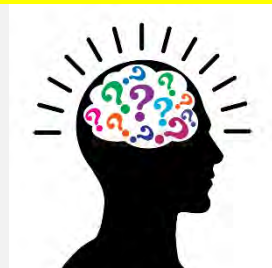


The British Royal Family

Did you know royalty actively serves in the club? Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh (wife of Prince Edward) is an active member of the Wokingham Lions Club in England. She also serves as the Royal Patron of the Lions Clubs of the British Isles.

Globally: 1.38 Million Members!	Globally: 50,531 Total Clubs!	Globally: \$14,992,676 in Donations in FY!	Globally: 62.4 Million people served!	
	In Australia: Over 25,000 Members!	In Australia: Over 1,200 Clubs!	In Australia: \$28,000,000 donated annually!	
			In Australia: 200 Million volunteer hours performed by Members annually!	

Did you



know?



Sir Edmund Hillary (The Pioneer)

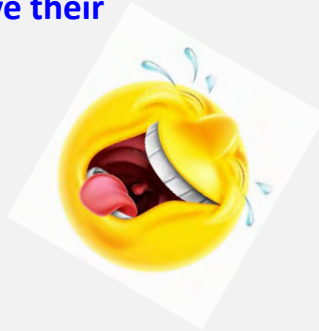
Did you know the first man to conquer Mt. Everest was a dedicated Lion? New Zealand explorer Sir Edmund Hillary was an active, long-time member of the Remuera Lions Club in New Zealand. Even after achieving global fame, he remained highly involved in local service projects.

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes.

That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

Which side of a turkey has the most feathers?

The outside.



What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

Same middle name.

Why does a chicken coop only have two doors?

Because if it had four, it'd be a chicken sedan.

Trivia Time

The purpose of trivia is to exercise the brain, spark curiosity, and bring people together through fun, low-stakes facts. See how many bits of trivia you can bring into your everyday conversations! Trivia is a fantastic ice-breaker too!

- The Biggest Book in the world – The certified largest book in the physical world is 'This the Prophet Mohamed' published by Mshahed International Group in Dubai, UAE. It is a massive volume measuring 16.4 by 26.44 feet and weighing about 3,306 pounds!
- Minnows (freshwater fish) have teeth in their throats.
- A Woodpecker can peck 20 times per second. And despite all that pecking, it never gets headaches thanks to air pockets in its skull that cushion its super small brain. (We all know someone like that!)
- Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth!
- A thunderstorm called Hector the Convectoid arrives every day at 3pm. Most thunderstorms are unpredictable, but not Hector. Thanks to a microclimate over the Tiwi Islands (off the coast of northern Australia), Hector arrives every day at 3pm, from September through to March. He's also huge, regularly reaching more than 19km (12 miles) high.



October Birthdays

2nd – Michele

22nd – Greg

29th - Nicole



"Happy Birthday! You've reached that elite Lions level where 'volunteering for a heavy-lifting project' means being the designated person who holds the clipboard and tells everyone else they're doing it wrong."



Reminders!

- *Wheelbarrow Christmas Hamper Raffle – Please bring along any donations for the Hamper to the next Dinner Meeting 14th October.*
- *Rosies on the Street – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – 15th October – Volunteers needed from 4.15pm*
- *Bunnings Community Night 29th October – Halloween theme – Come along in theme (PG rated) and connect with the public!*
- *Sandwiches4Kids – Next date is 12 October – Newtown Hall 9am.*
- *Christmas Cake sales begin 23rd November – Please see Lion Ian to volunteer - many timeslots available!*
- *Save the Date – Christmas Party Lunch 5th December – Urban Grounds (Details to be advised)*

This edition of the Willie Whisperer has been put together last minute with nothing but hope and good intentions!

Send me your comments, suggestions, and most importantly, your ideas!
toowoomba-wilson-ton-marketing@lionsq3.au
Lion Michele



Remember to check out our website

www.toowoombawilson-tonlions.com.au

and Facebook

Lions Club of Toowoomba Wilson-ton
for more news and events.



Lions Club Toowoomba Wilsonston Inc

Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Project / Event</u>	<u>Action</u>
Wednesday 14 th October	Club Social Meeting – 6.30pm	Newtown Hall
Thursday 15 th October	Rosies Friends On The Street – BBQ Dinner for their volunteers – volunteers from 4.15pm	Saint Thomas More Church, Centenary Heights
Monday 19 th October	Board Meeting – 7pm	Janelle & Kens' home
Wednesday 28 th October	Club Business Meeting **District Governor visit**	Newtown Hall
Thursday 29 th October	5pm - Bunnings North – Membership Promotion **Halloween theme** PG Rated	Bunnings North

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...
toowoomba-wilsonston-secretary@lionsq3.au



<u>Upcoming Dates to Remember</u>	
Saturday 7 th November	Harvey Norman BBQ
Saturday 7 th November	Youth of the Year - Interviews
Monday 9 th November	Sandwiches4kids – Newtown Hall
Wednesday 11 th November	Youth of the Year – Public speaking and announcement of winners – Newtown Hall
Sunday 15 th November	50 th Anniversary Meeting – Newtown Hall – 3pm
Monday 16 th November	BOARD Meeting – 7pm
Sunday 22 nd November	LMRF Tour – Woolloongabba
Monday 23 rd November	Christmas cake sales begin at Bunnings
Wednesday 25 th November	Club Business Meeting